

Brain imaging in ADHD: disorder-specificity, medication effects & clinical translation

Prof Katya Rubia

Dep Child & Adol Psychiatry

Brain deficits



ADHD have cognitive domain-specific functional deficits
in several fronto-striato-cerebellar networks &
problems with switching off DMN \leftrightarrow both of deficits
Most prominent abnormality is dHIC
Cerebral ganglia, anterior insula, cerebellum
Delay in PFC cortical thickness
development

Specificity



ADHD have disorder-specific abnormality in structure &
function (inhibition) of PFC/STN relative to OCD & ASD (B & C)
PFC dysfunction is dissociated b/w ADHD (-) & ASD (-)
Putamen & AI/STN reduction is disorder-dissociated
b/w ADHD (-) & OCD (+)
C: GM is smaller in ADHD vs ASD

Translation



Diagnosis/
prognosis?

Neuroimaging



Medication



Long-term stimulant medication \leftrightarrow more normal structure (B
has level) of the frontal ganglia (not replicated in recent studies)
but with abnormally high striatal (AI) levels
Meta-analysis (MRI) acute treatment consistently
decreases PFC/STN & AI & increases DMN
LDT & Reserpine also modulate PFC/STN



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ESCAP June 2015

Brain imaging in ADHD: disorder-specificity, medication effects & clinical translation

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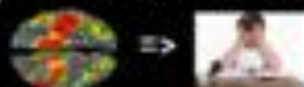
Dep Child & Adol Psychiatry

Brain deficits



ADHD have cognitive domain-specific functional deficits
in several fronto-striato-cerebellar networks, &
problems with switching off DMN => both IF deficits
Most prominent abnormality in SMR
if basal ganglia, anterior insula, cerebellum
Delay in R/TL cortical thickness
Development

Translation



Diagnosis/
prognosis?



Neurotherapy



Specificity



ADHD have disorder specific abnormality in structure &
function [inhibition] of FC/ACC relative to OCD & ASD [a GM]
FC dysfunction is dissociated b/w ADHD (-) & ASD (-)
Putamen & ACC GM reduction is disorder dissociated
b/w ADHD (-) & OCD (-)
D-GM is smaller in ADHD vs ASD

Medication



Long term stimulant medication => more normal structure (&
function) of the basal ganglia (not replicated in recent studies)
but with abnormally high striatal D2 levels
Meta analysis MMR acute stimulants consistently
upregulate FC/ACC & BG & deactivate DMN
[ADHD & Fluoxetine also modulate FC/ACC]

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ESCAP June 2015

Disclosures

Grant by Lilly for another project.

Speaker's honoraria from Lilly, Shire & Medice

Brain deficits



ADHD have cognitive domain-specific functional deficits
in several fronto-striato-cerebellar networks &
problems with switching off DMN => both EF deficits

Most prominent abnormality in sMRI:

R basal ganglia, anterior insula, cerebellum

Delay in FL-TL cortical thickness
development



Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder

Clinical manifestation

Age-inappropriate:

- Inattention
- Motor hyperactivity
- Impulsivity



Prevalence: 5% worldwide (Polanczik et al. 2007)

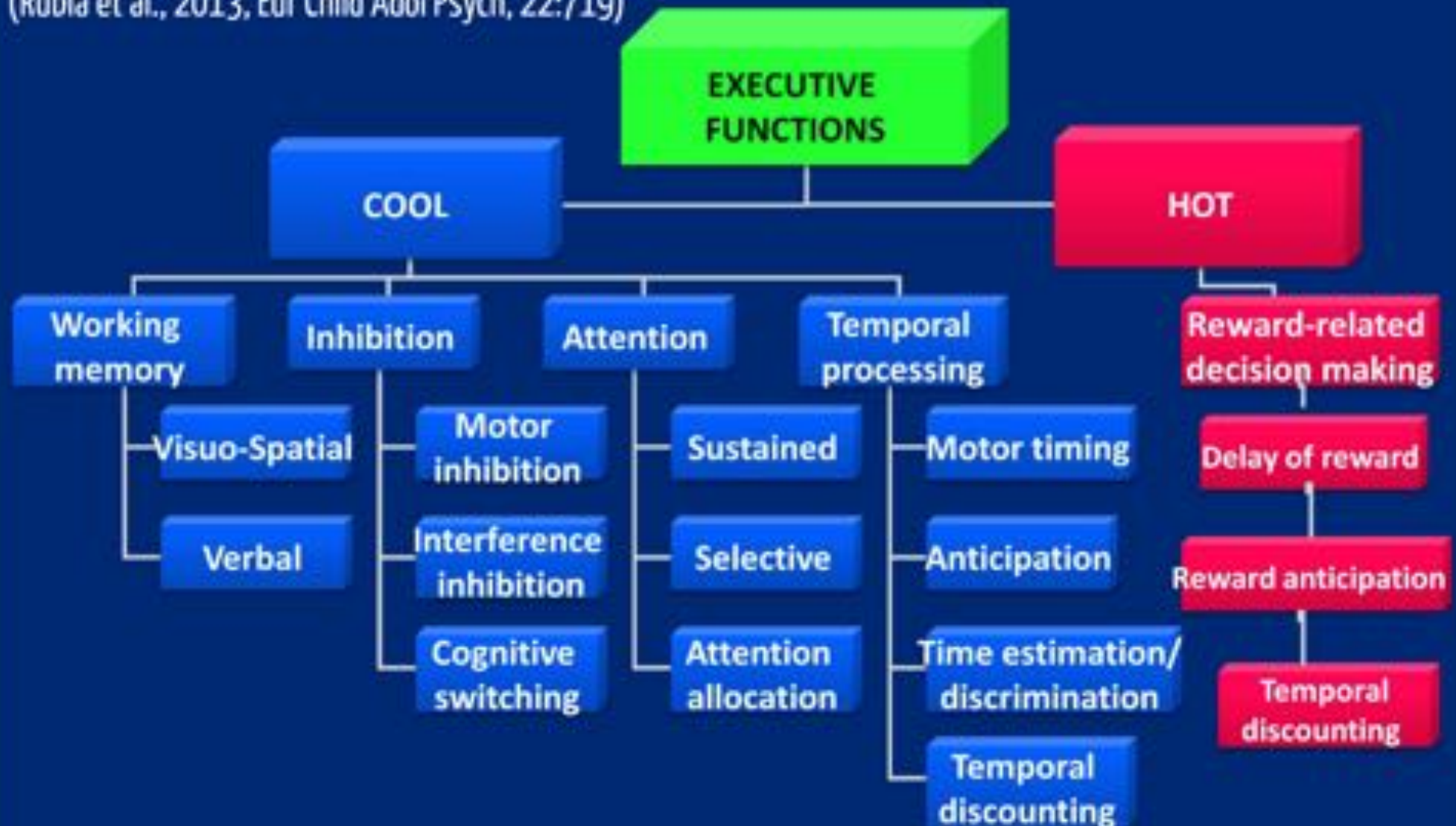
Persistence into adulthood: 15-65%

Ratio: Male/Female: 6:1

Treatment: once diagnosed – 70% of severe cases treated with psychostimulants (Methylphenidate)

Neuropsychological deficits in ADHD

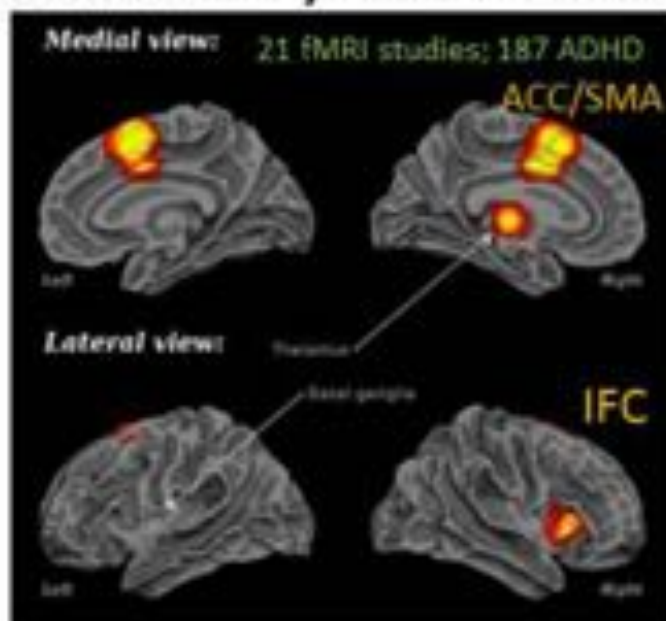
Mediated by late developing fronto-striatal networks that develop progressively btw childhood & adulthood
(Rubia et al., 2013, Eur Child Adol Psych, 22:719)



Rubia et al., 2011, Biol Psych 15 69 (12): e69-87

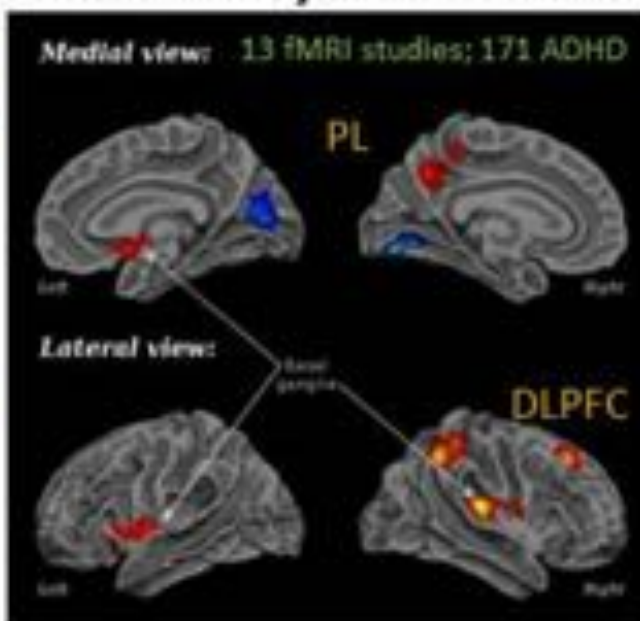
Meta-analyses of whole brain fMRI studies in ADHD

A. Meta-analysis of inhibition

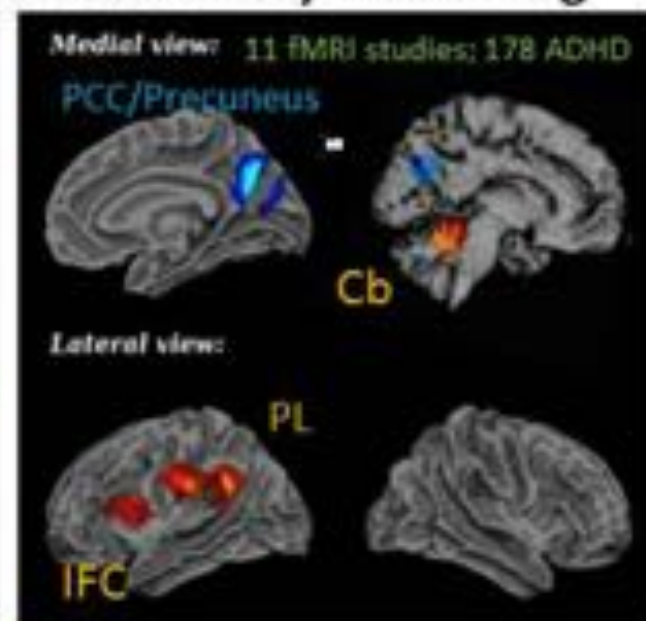


Hart, Radua, Mataix, Rubia, 2013
JAMA Psychiatry 70: 185.

B. Meta-analysis of attention



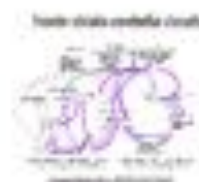
C. Meta-analysis of timing



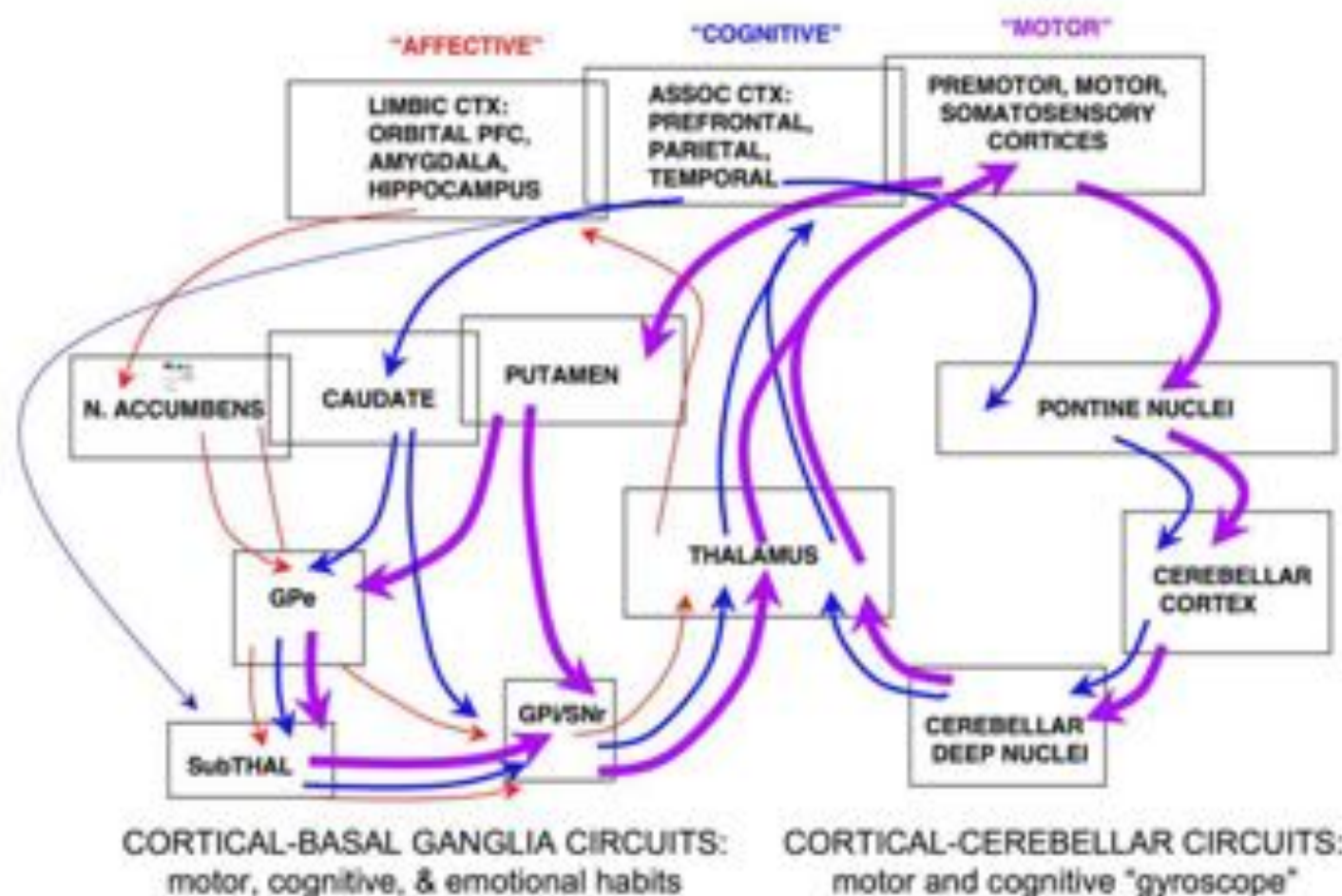
Hart et al., Neurosci Behavi Brain Res 36:2248.

Domain-specific functional deficits in different fronto-striatal & fronto-cerebellar circuits

Rubia et al., 2014, Exp Rev Neurother, 14:519-38



Fronto-striato-cerebellar circuits



Arnstén & Rubia 2012; JAACAP, 51(4):356-67

Meta-analysis of ROI studies of reward anticipation

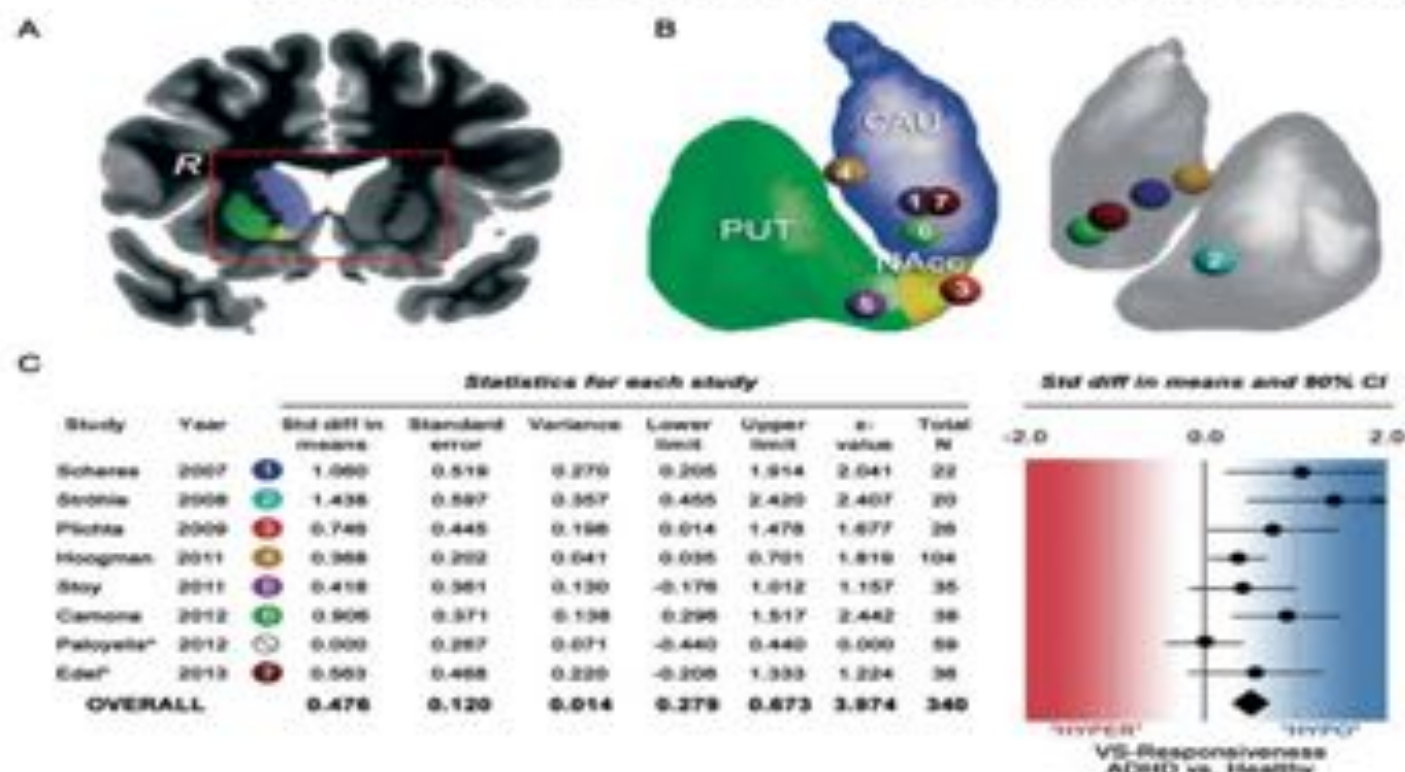


Fig. 1 Panel A shows the anatomical area of interest, i.e. the ventral-striatum (VS) including nucleus caudate (CAU), putamen (PUT) and the nucleus accumbens (NAcc). The right hemisphere is indicated by an "R". Panel B is a 3-D representation of the striat...

Michael M. Plichta, Anouk Scheres

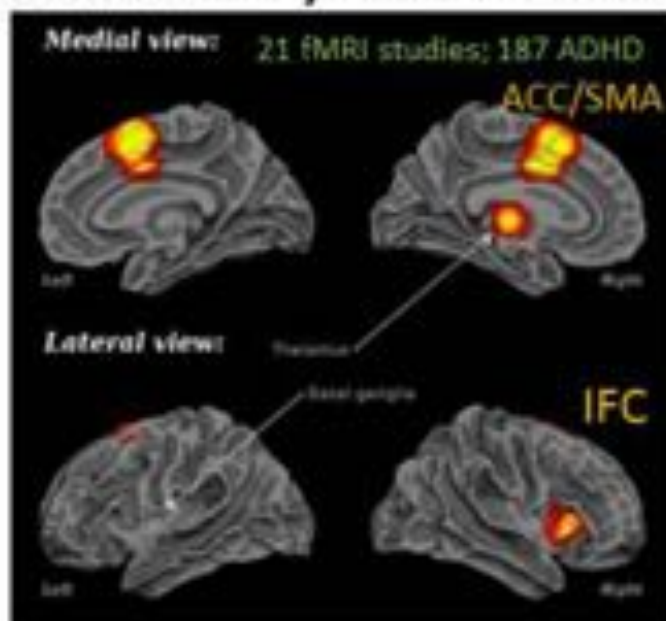
Ventral-striatal responsiveness during reward anticipation in ADHD and its relation to trait impulsivity in the healthy population: A meta-analytic review of the fMRI literature

Neuroscience & Biobehavioral Reviews null 2013 null

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.neubiorev.2013.07.012>

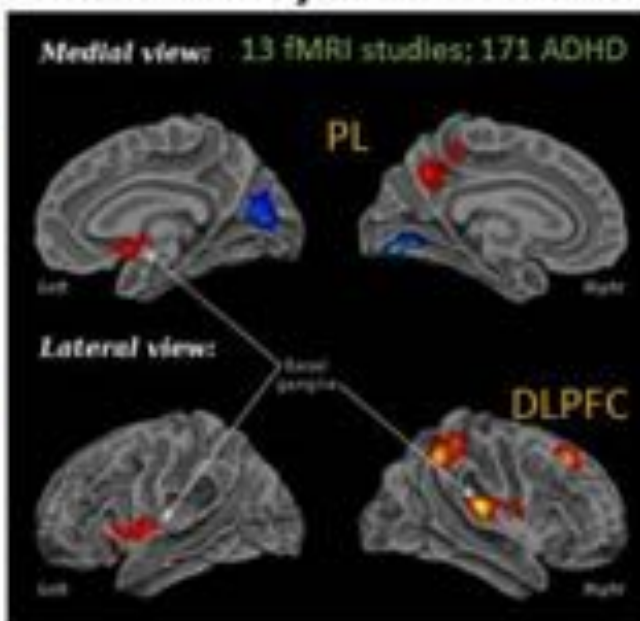
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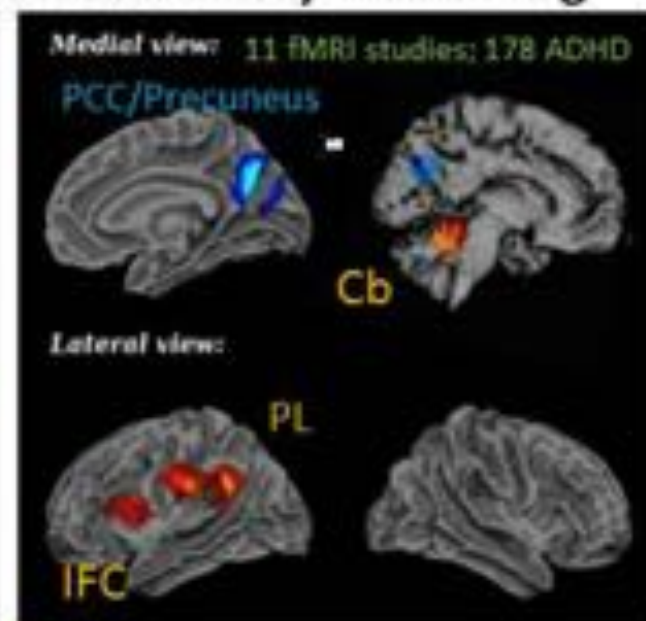


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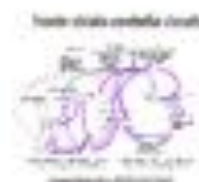
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Hart et al., Neurosci Behavi Brain Res 36:2248.

Domain-specific functional deficits in different fronto-striatal & fronto-cerebellar circuits

Rubia et al., 2014, Exp Rev Neurother, 14:519-38



Reduced deactivation of the default mode network

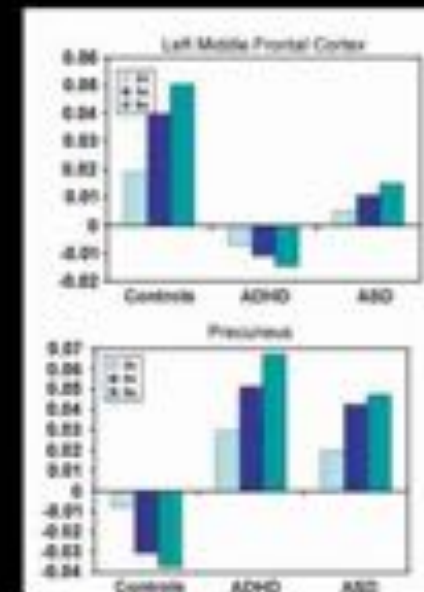
Parametric sustained attention task:
3 difficult levels

C > ADHD

10



40

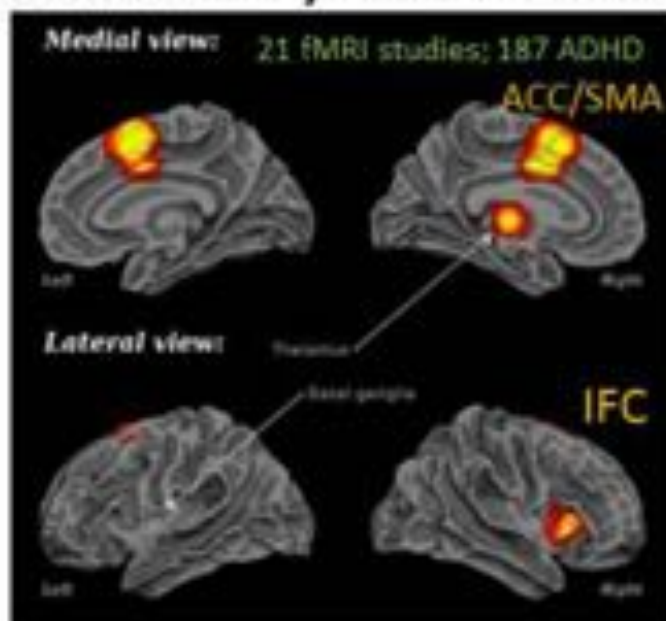


- Performance: ADHD impaired in response variability => poor concentration
- With progressive attention load, PFC > activated in controls, not ADHD
- With progressive attention load, DMN > deactivated in controls not ADHD
- DMN anti-correlated with PFC activation

Christakou, Murphy, Chantiluke, Rubia, Molecular Psychiatry, 2013; 18(2):236-44

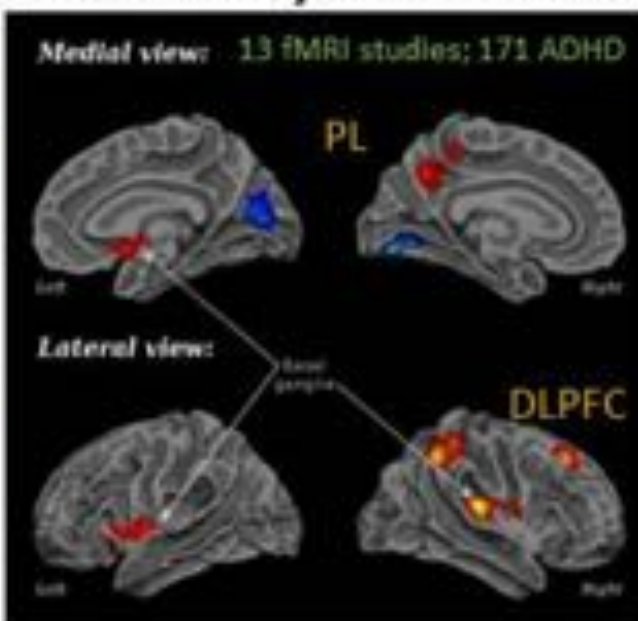
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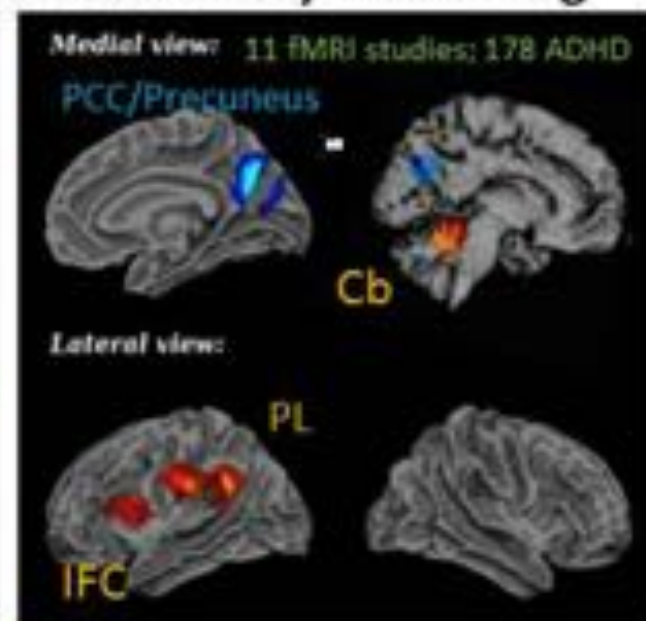


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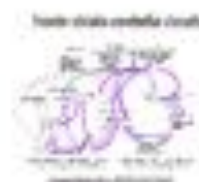
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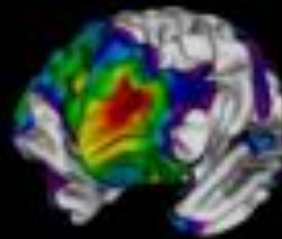
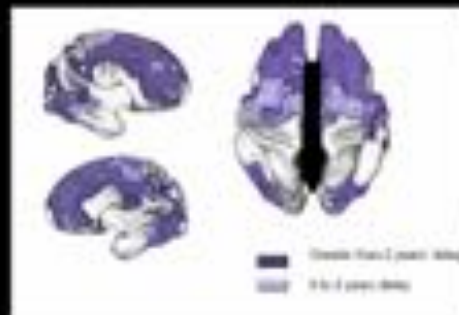
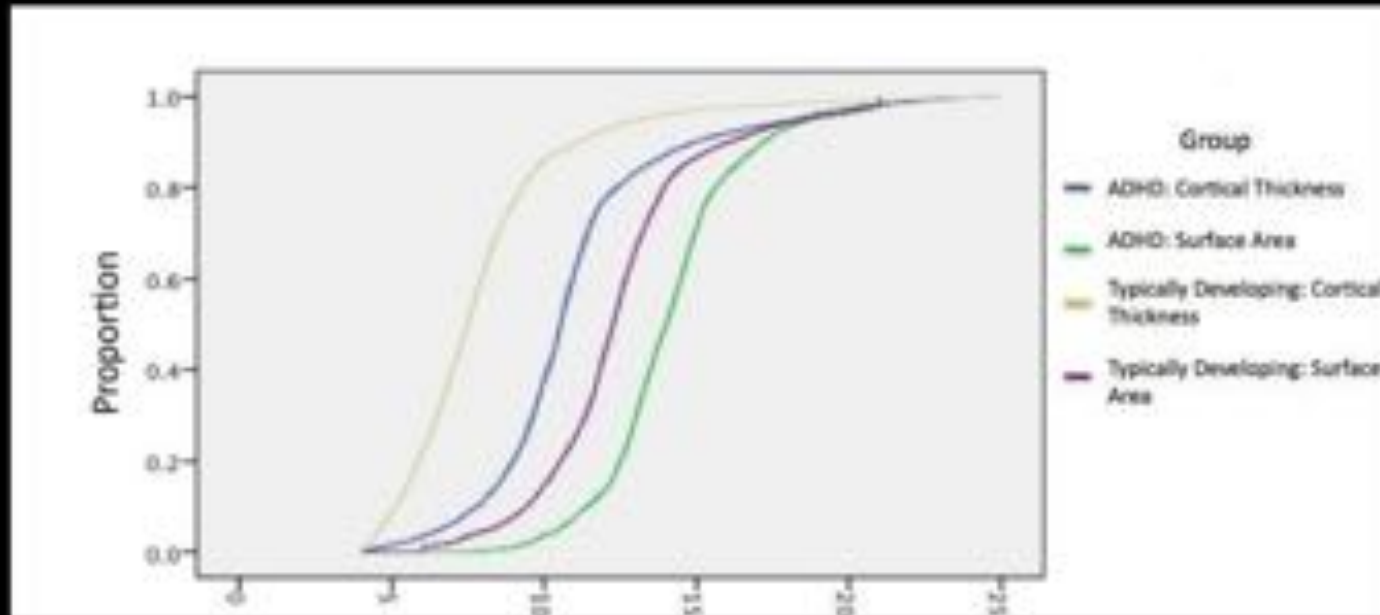
Hart et al., Neurosci Behavi Brain Res 36:2248.

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Delay of structural development



Peak of cortical thickness delayed
in FL up to 5 yrs

in TL (sup & middle) by 4 yrs

N = 223

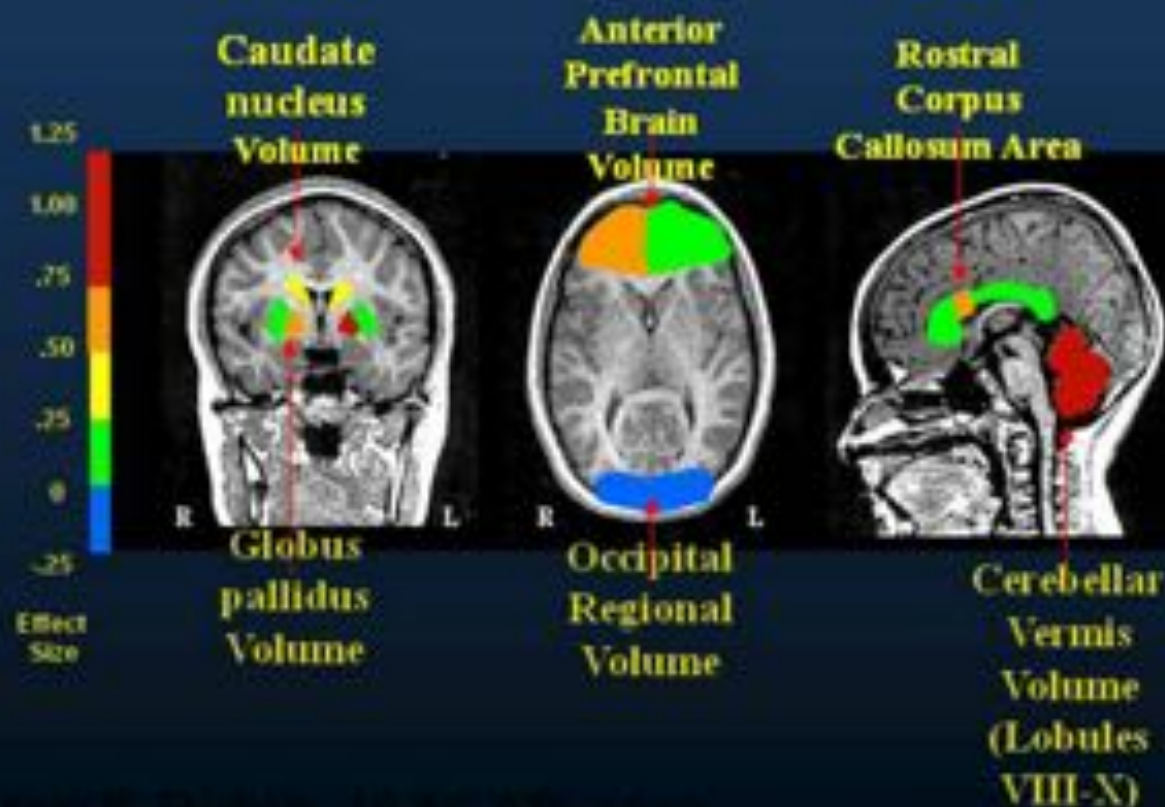
Peak of surface area delayed by up to 2 years
in FL, up to 1 year in PL, TL

Shaw et al., 2007, PNAS

Shaw et al., 2012, Biol Psych

Meta-analysis of structural MRI

Regions of interest meta-analysis



Effect sizes of MRI studies of ADHD Brain Morphometry (Swanson et al., 2004, in Posner, Cogn Neurosci of attention, NY, Guilford Press, p 430-445)

(Region of interest meta-analysis: Valera et al., Biol Psych 2007; 61: 1361-1369)

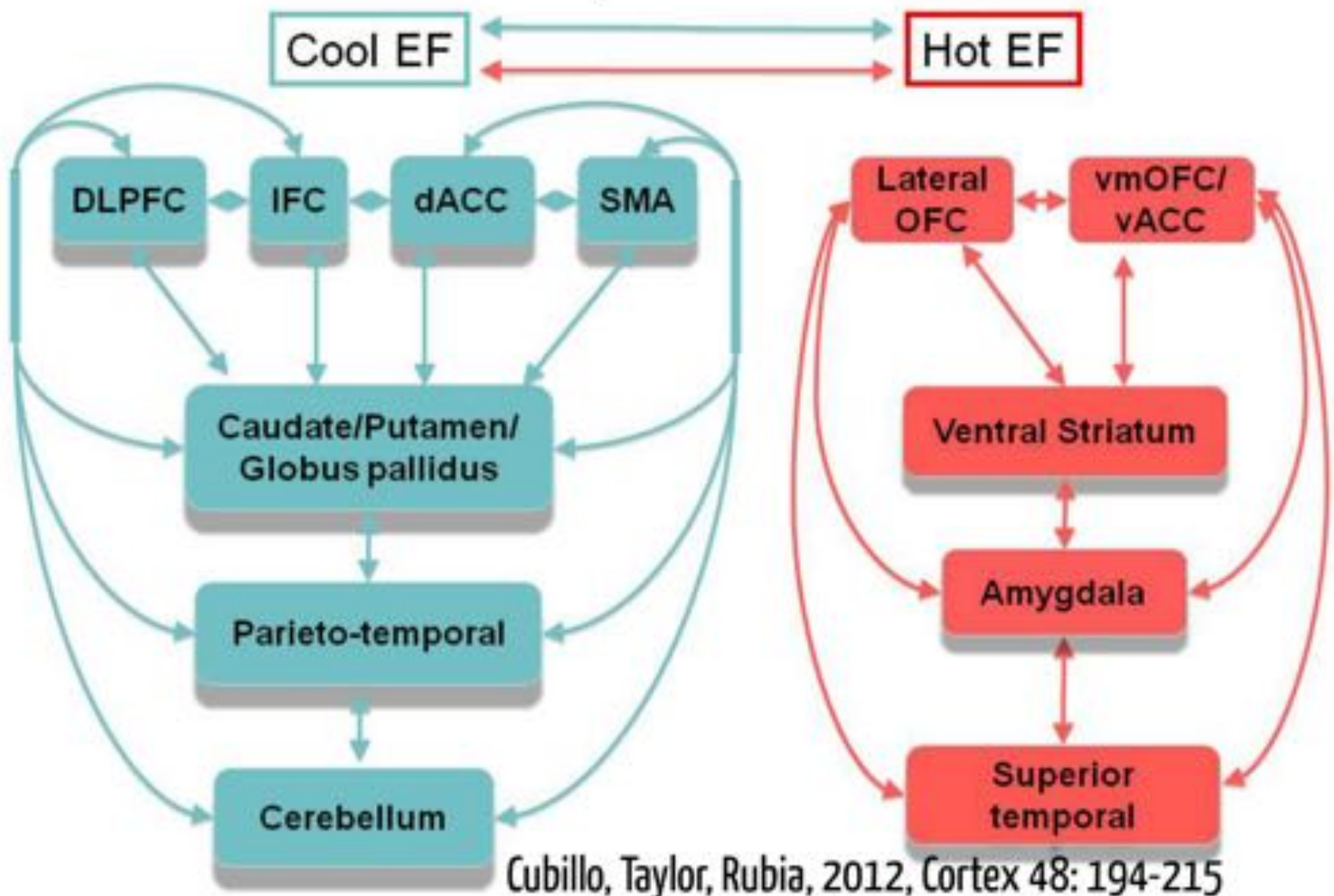
Meta-analysis of 14 whole-brain MRI studies

- 14 studies (5 adults; 9 children)
- N combined: 347 ADHD, 313 Controls
- Reduction of global volume
- Reduction of GM in right
 - caudate, putamen, globus pallidus
- Enhanced GM in left posterior cingulate/precuneus

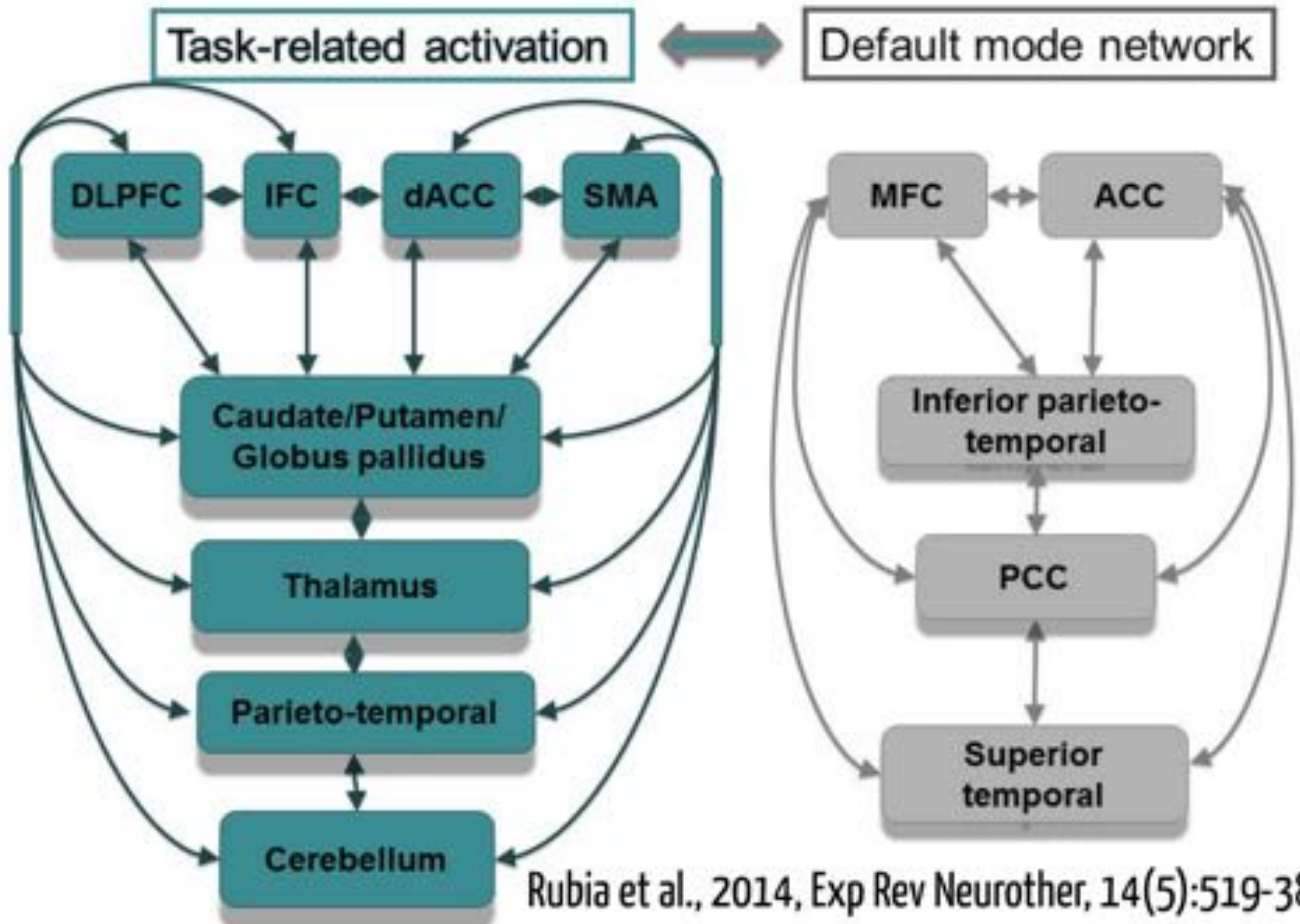


Nakao, Radua, Rubia, Mataix 2011, American J Psychiatry 8:1154-1163

Brain abnormalities in ADHD patients in cool & hot EF networks



Most consistent brain abnormalities in ADHD



Brain deficits



ADHD have cognitive domain-specific functional deficits
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problems with switching off DMN => both EF deficits

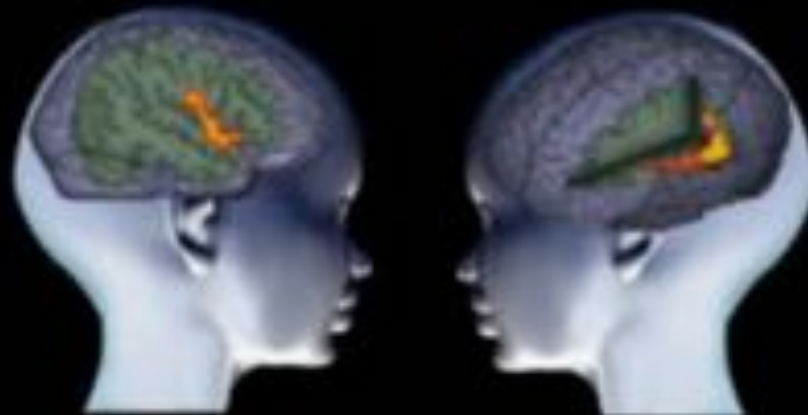
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R basal ganglia, anterior insula, cerebellum

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Specificity



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IFC dysfunction is dissociated btw ADHD (<) & ASD (>)

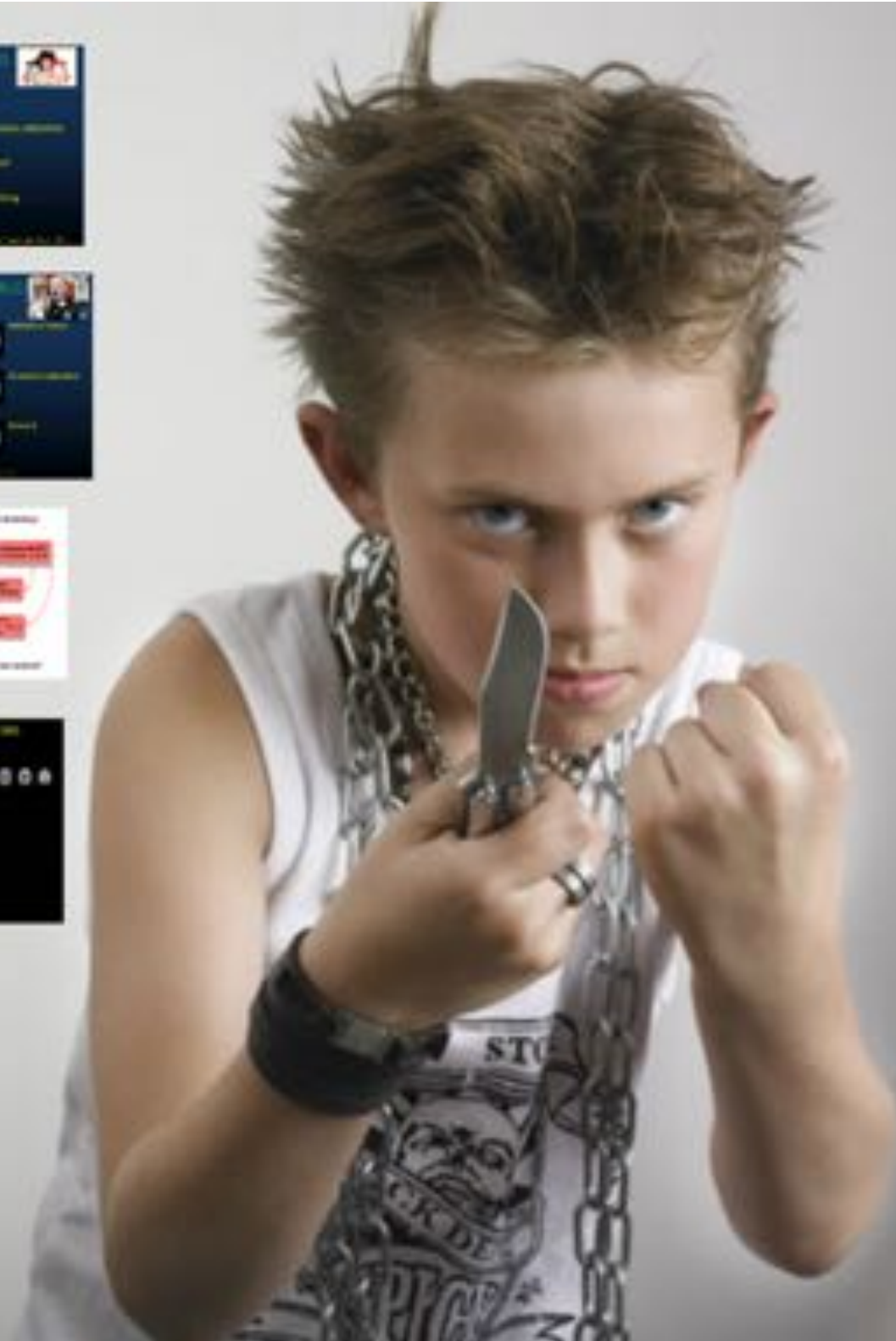
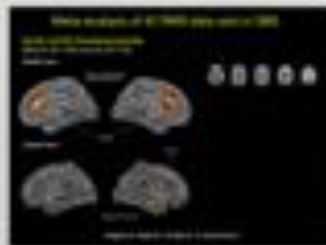
Putamen & AI GM reduction is disorder-dissociated
btw ADHD (<) & OCD (>)

Cb GM is smaller in ADHD vs ASD

Comparisons with related disorders

- CD (Conduct disorder) (comorbidity 50-80%)
 - Shared deficits in EF, attention, motivation control
 - Deficits in paralimbic system (different from ADHD)
- OCD (Obsessive-compulsive disorder) (~30% comorbidity)
 - Shared deficits in tasks of inhibitory control
 - Deficits in inhibitory fronto-striatal networks
- ASD (Autism spectrum disorder) (~30% comorbidity)
 - Shared deficits in EF (inhibition); attention
 - Deficits in fronto-striatal, parietal, temporal, & cerebellar areas





Dysfunctions specific to ADHD (CD; C)

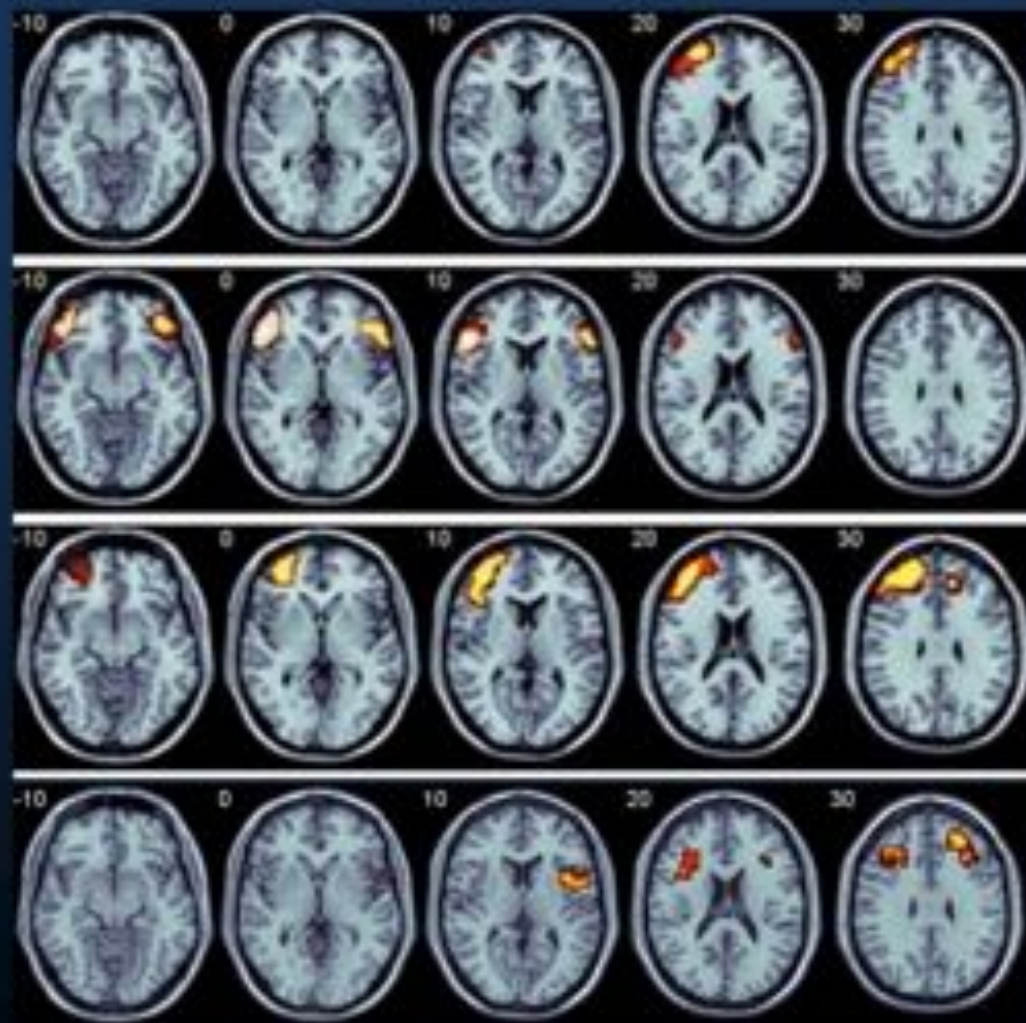


Stop

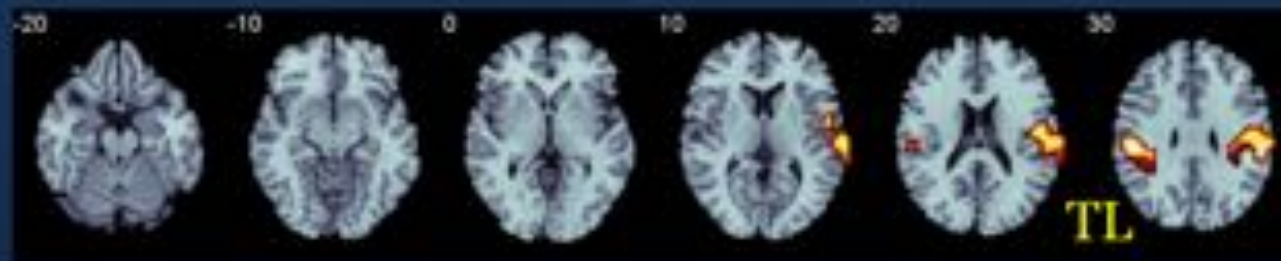
Sustained attention

Oddball

Switching



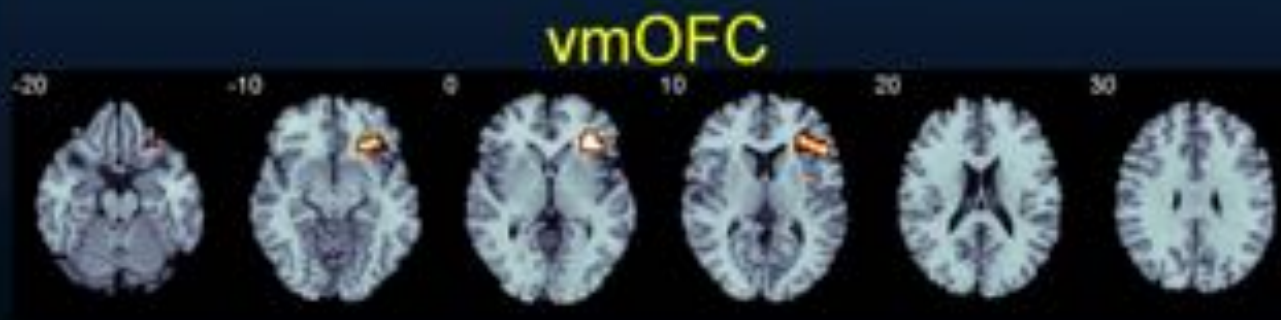
Dysfunctions specific to CD (ADHD; C)



Inhibition failure



Sustained attention

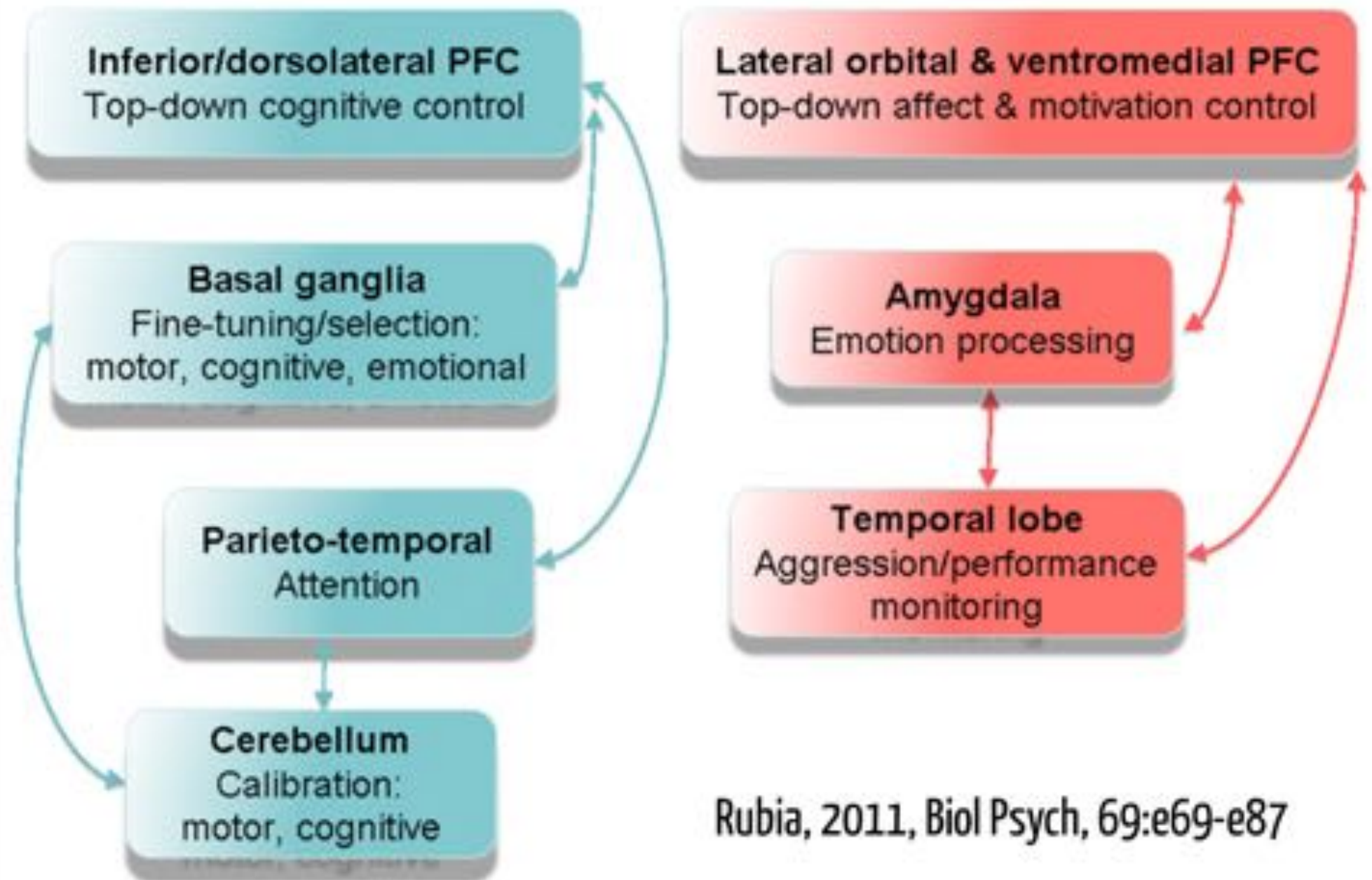


Reward

ADHD pathophysiology



CD pathophysiology

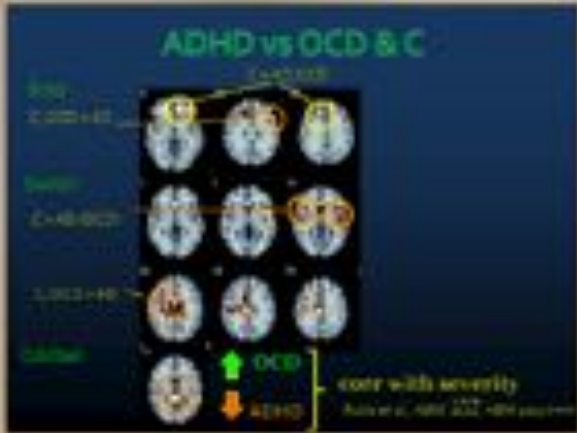


Rubia, 2011, Biol Psych, 69:e69-e87

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ADHD vs OCD & C

Stop

C, OCD > AD

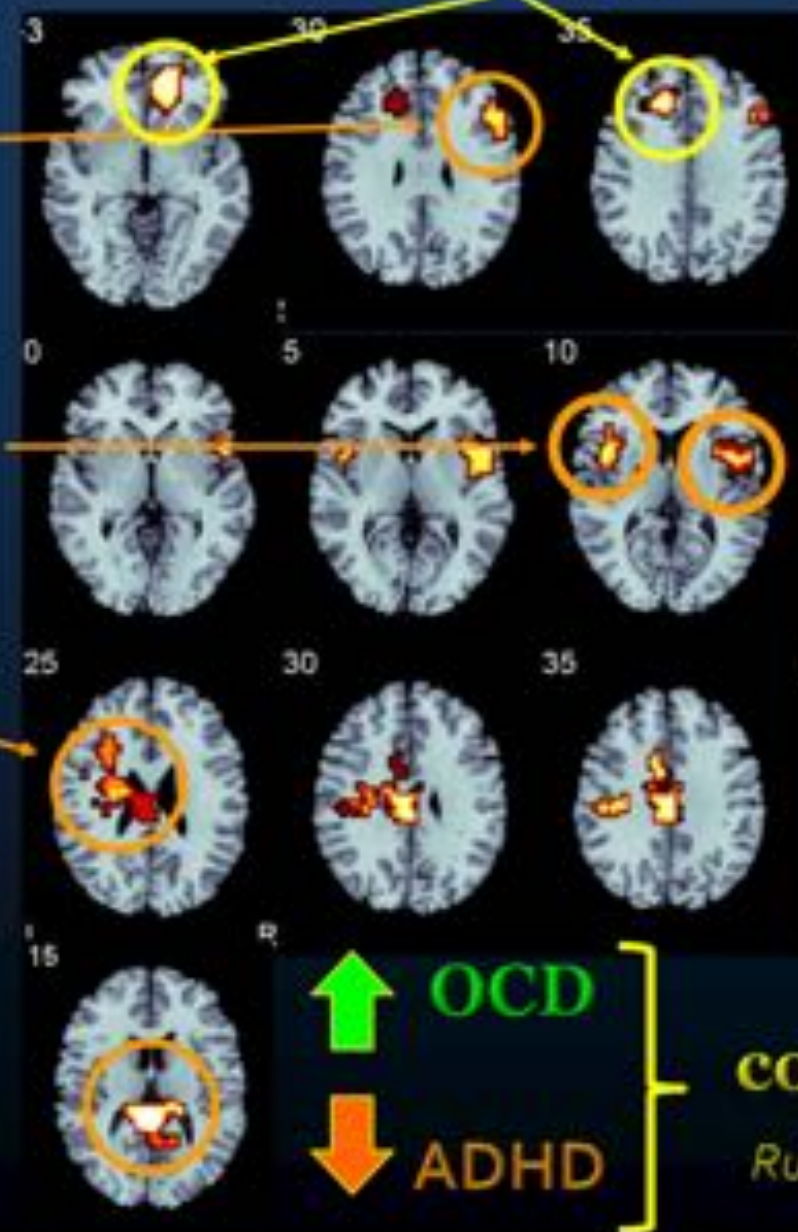
C > AD, OCD

Switch

C > AD (OCD)

C, OCD > AD

Oddball



corr with severity

Rubia et al., HBM, 2010, HBM 2011 11:287-290 12:601-611

Comparisons with related disorders

- CD (Conduct disorder) (comorbidity 50-80%)
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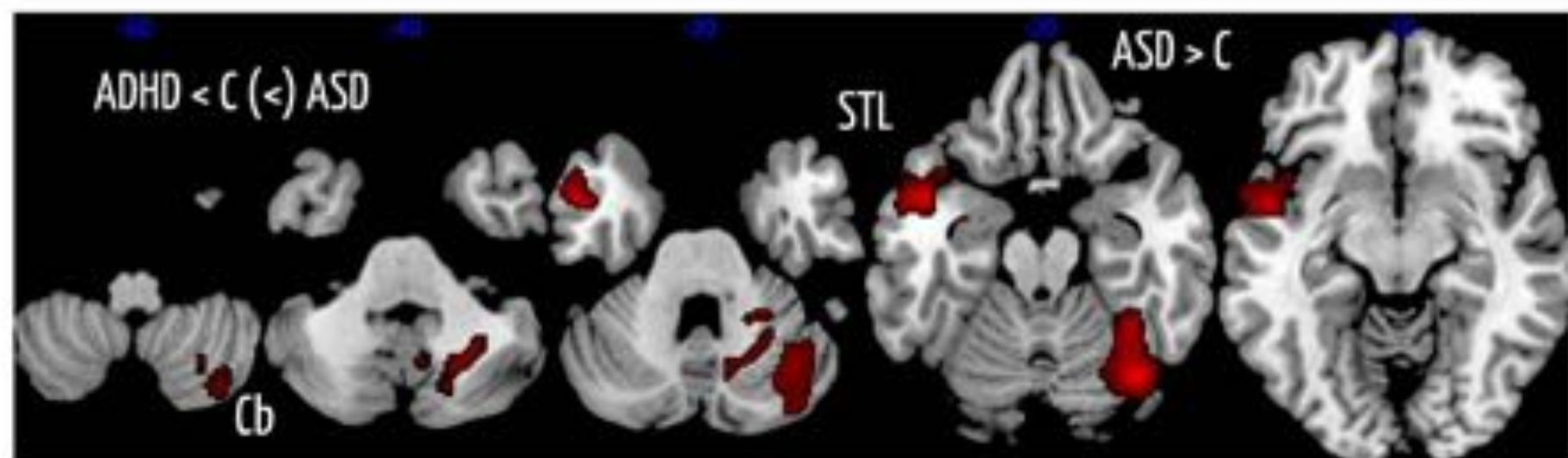


S



Specificity of brain structure: ADHD & ASD

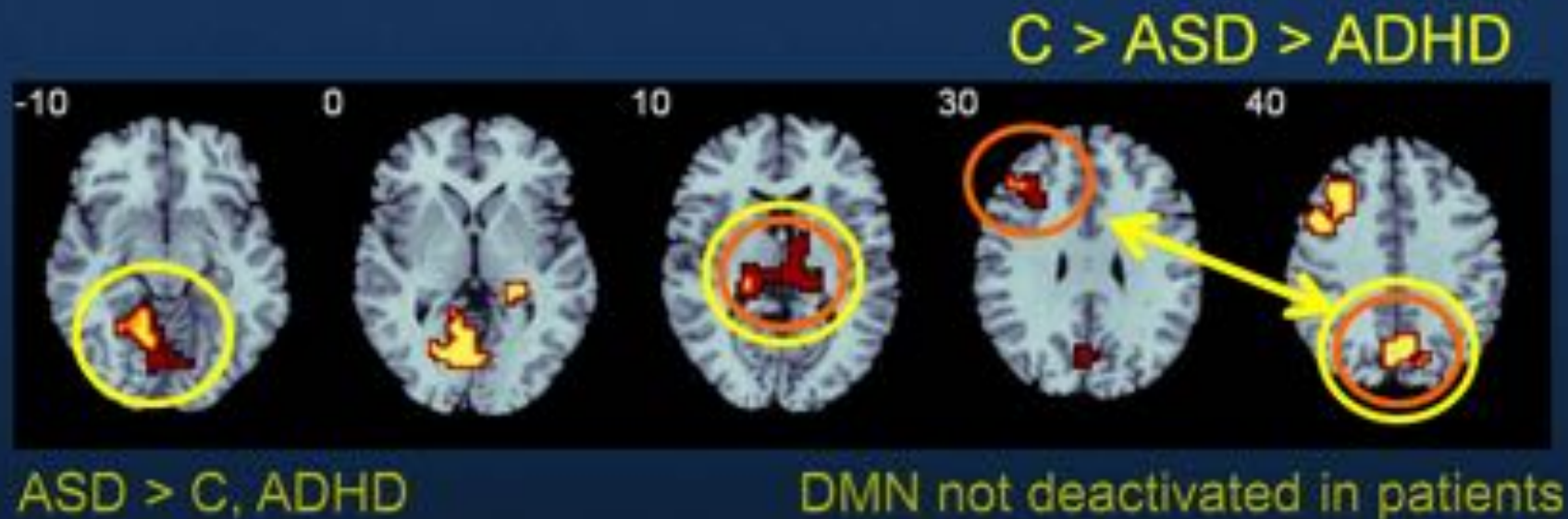
N: ADHD: 44, Controls: 33, ASD: 19



Lim, Chantiluke, Cubillo, Smith, Mehta, Rubia, Psychol Medicine 45(5):965-76.

ADHD vs ASD & controls

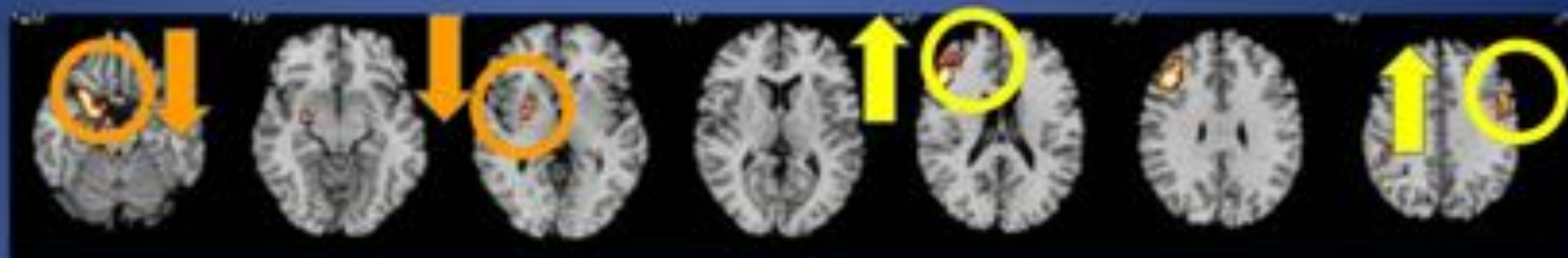
Parametric sustained attention



- Performance: Only ADHD impaired in response variability
- Left DLPFC deficit more pronounced in ADHD
- Disorder-specific fronto-cerebellar dysregulation in ASD

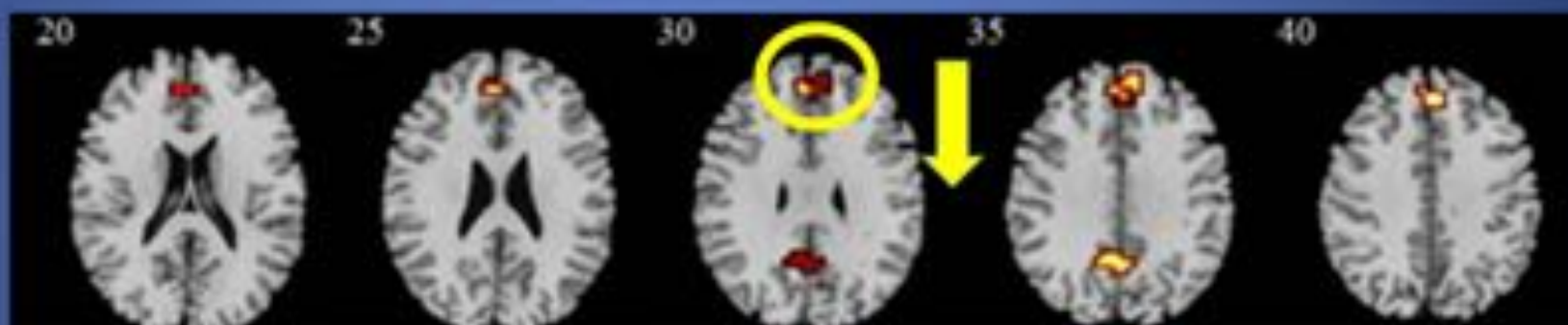
ADHD vs ASD

STOP task



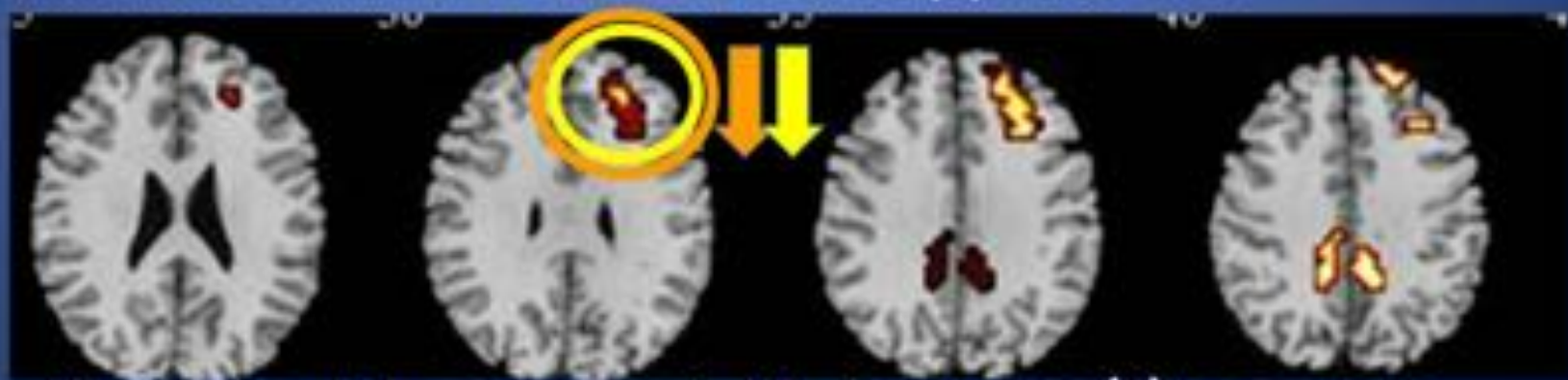
Chantiluke et al., Psychopharmacology 2015; 232(12):2071-82.

Reversal task



Chantiluke et al., Cereb Cortex. 2015; 25(7):1757-70.

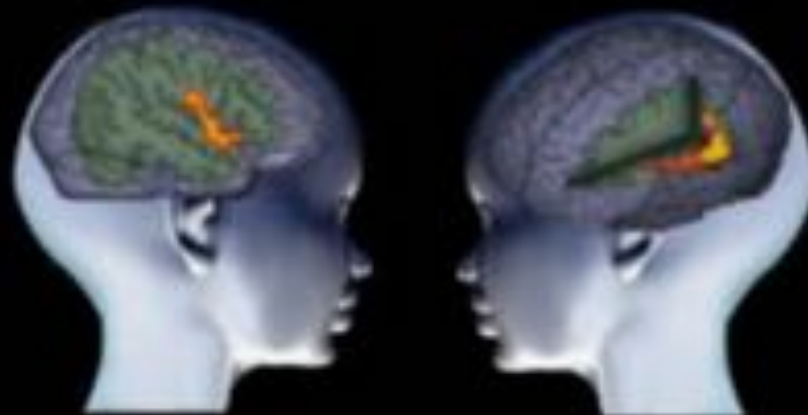
WM task



Chantiluke et al., 2015, Psychol Med. 2015; 45(6):1195-205.

Chantiluke et al., 2014, Cerebral Cortex, in press; Chantiluke et al., in submission

Specificity



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IFC dysfunction is dissociated btw ADHD (<) & ASD (>)

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Cb GM is smaller in ADHD vs ASD

Medication

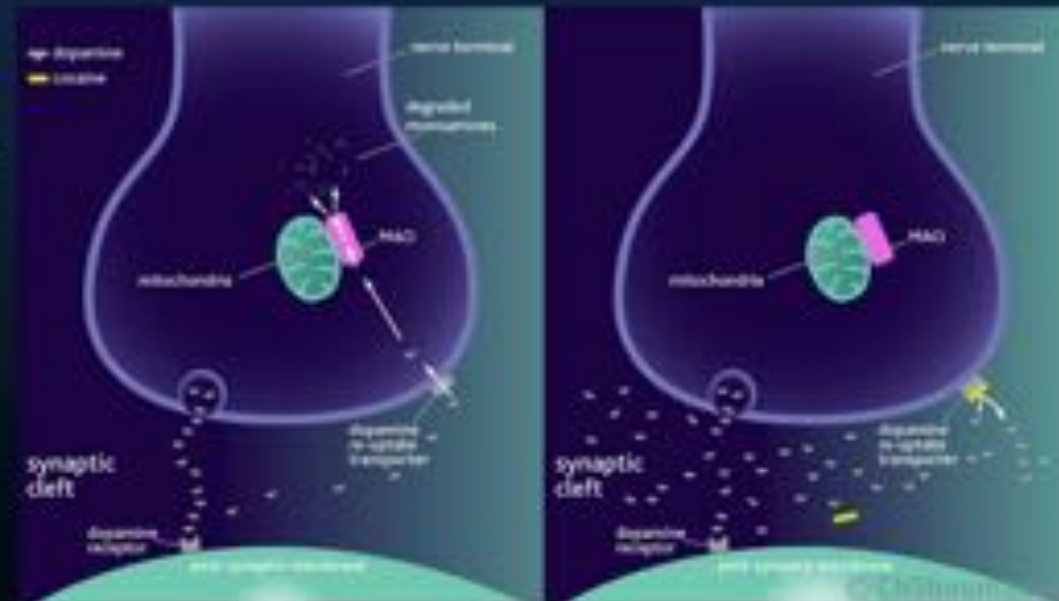


Long-term stimulant medication => more normal structure (& function) of the basal ganglia (not replicated in recent studies) but with abnormally high striatal DAT levels.
Meta-analysis fMRI: acute stimulants consistently upregulate R IFC/AI & BG & deactivate DMN
[ATX & Fluoxetine also modulate R IFG/AI]

Methylphenidate

- Stimulant medication “gold-standard” ADHD
- Effective in 70-80% of patients
- In UK, once diagnosed 80% receive MPH
- Blocks DAT & NET inhibitor (50% DAT in BG):
 - in BG mostly DAT => enhances DA availability (also PCC)
 - in PFC mostly NET => enhances both DA & NE
- Disadvantages
 - Heart rate & blood pressure
 - problematic for Tics?
 - addictive potential?
 - appears to stunt growth
 - appetite
 - sleep problems

flomoxetine blocks NET



PET



PET studies of normal LNC tumor growth

- [Schmidt et al., 1998](#)
- [Schmidt et al., 1999](#)
- [Schmidt et al., 2000](#)
- [Schmidt et al., 2001](#)
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- [Schmidt et al., 2020](#)
- [Schmidt et al., 2021](#)
- [Schmidt et al., 2022](#)
- [Schmidt et al., 2023](#)
- [Schmidt et al., 2024](#)
- [Schmidt et al., 2025](#)



PET studies of striatal DAT levels in ADHD

- ↑ 70% Dougherty et al., 1999
- ↑ 16% Krause et al. 2000/2002
- ↑ 30% Cheon et al., 2003 children
- ↑ 34 % Spencer et al., 2005
- ↑ 15% Spencer et al., 2007
- ↑ 17% Dresel et al., 2000
- ↑ 5% Larisch et al., 2006
- ↑ 15% responders, non-responders, LaFougere 2006
- = van Dyck et al., 2002
- = Jucaite et al., 2005
- ↓ 23 % Hesse et al., 2006/2009
- ↓ 13 % Volkow et al., 2007, 2009



Striatal Dopamine Transporter Alterations in ADHD: Pathophysiology or Adaptation to Psychostimulants? A Meta-Analysis

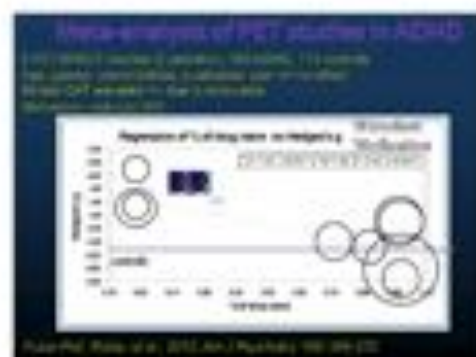
Paolo Fusar-Poli, Ph.D.

Katya Rubia, Ph.D.

Giorgio Rossi, M.D.

Giuseppe Sartori, Ph.D.

Umberto Balottin, M.D., Ph.D.



Background: Striatal dopamine transporter abnormalities are thought to underlie the pathophysiology and psychostimulant treatment of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). However, individual studies using single photon emission tomography (SPECT) or positron emission tomography (PET) have yielded inconsistent results, i.e., both high and low striatal dopamine transporter levels.

Method: Nine SPECT and PET studies investigating striatal dopamine transporter density in ADHD patients (N=169) and age-, gender-, and IQ-matched healthy comparison subjects (N=173) were included in a quantitative meta-analysis. Binding potentials in the striatum and demographic, clinical, and methodological variables were extracted from each publication or obtained directly from authors. Hedges' g was used as a measure of effect size in an analysis using Comprehensive Meta-Analysis software. Publication bias was assessed with funnel plots and Egger's intercept. Heterogeneity was ad-

dresssed with the Q statistic and I^2 index.

Results: Striatal dopamine transporter density was 14% higher on average in the ADHD group than in the healthy comparison group. However, heterogeneity across studies was large and statistically significant. Meta-regression analyses showed that the percentage of subjects without exposure to psychostimulants was negatively correlated with dopamine transporter density; density was higher in patients with previous medication exposure and lower in medication-naïve patients. There was no moderating effect for age, comorbidity, gender, year of publication, or imaging technique. There was no publication bias, and sensitivity analysis confirmed robustness of the results.

Conclusions: Striatal dopamine transporter density in ADHD appears to depend on previous psychostimulant exposure, with lower density in drug-naïve subjects and higher density in previously medicated patients.

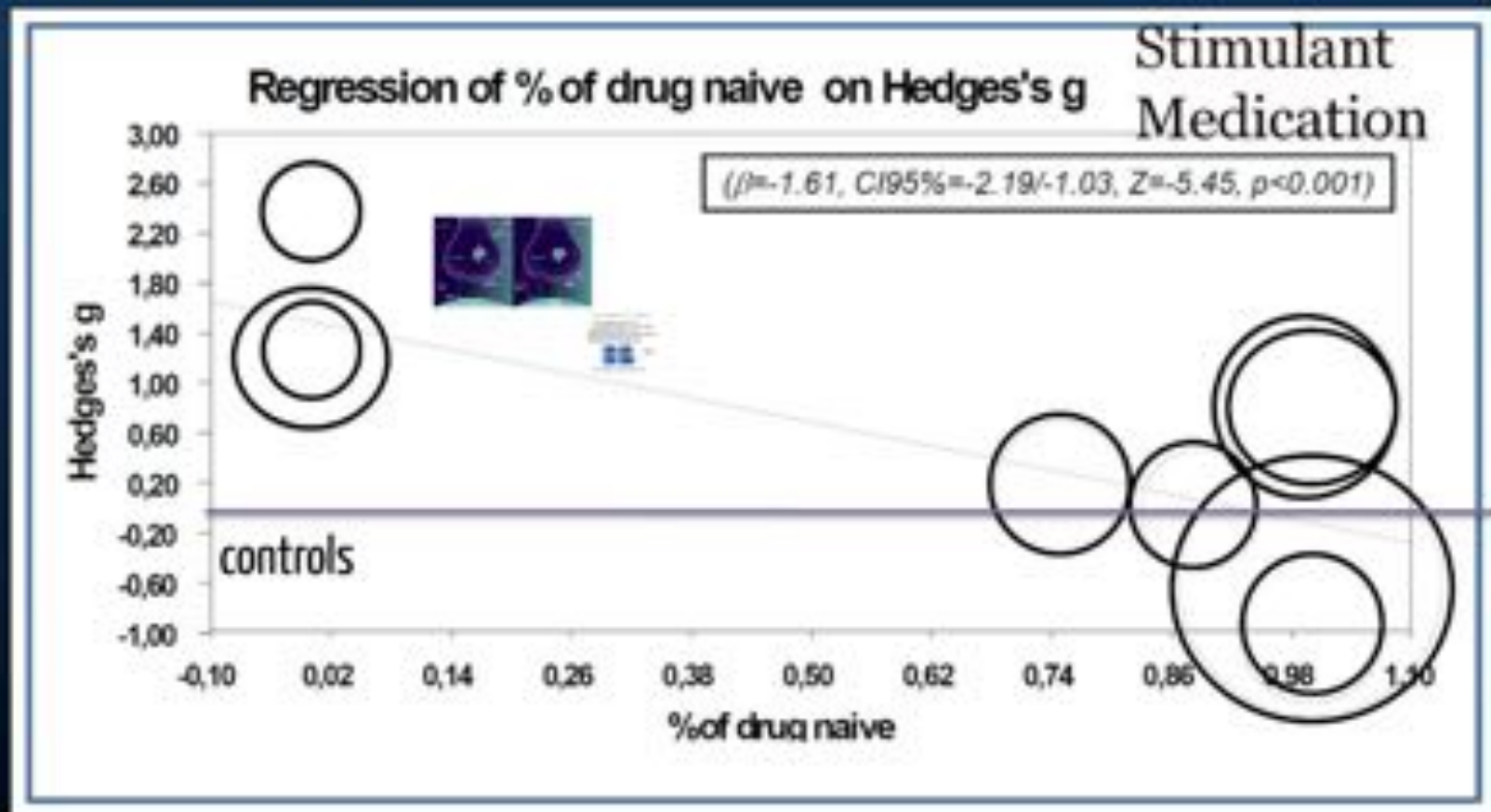
Meta-analysis of PET studies in ADHD

9 PET/SPECT studies (2 pediatric); 169 ADHD, 173 controls

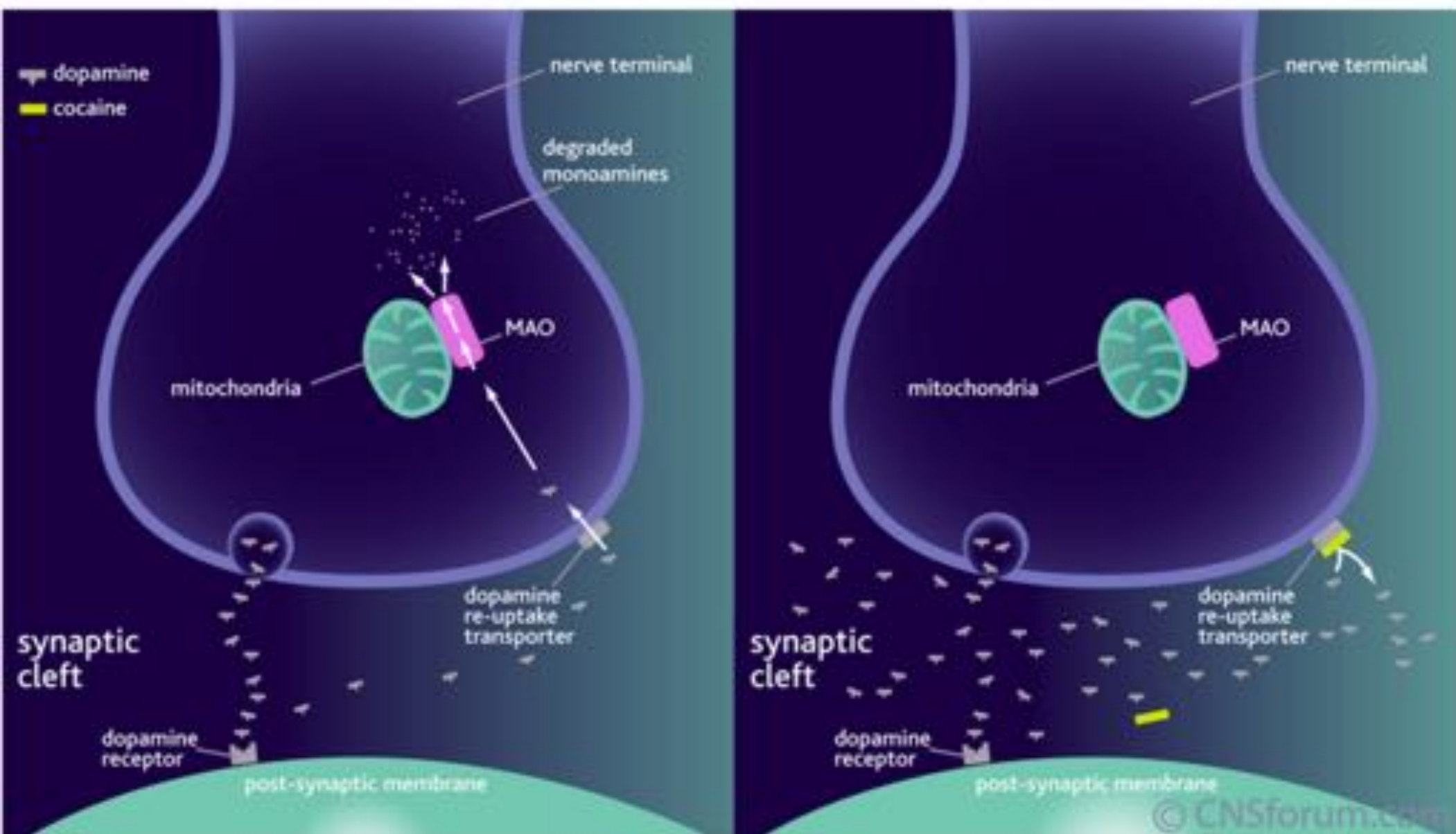
Age, gender, comorbidities, publication year => no effect

Striatal DAT elevated => due to stimulants

Med-naïve: reduced DAT



Fusar-Poli, Rubia, et al., 2012, Am J Psychiatry 169: 264-272





...the ...

[illegible]

Meta-regression analysis of 14 whole-brain sMRI studies

14 studies (5 adults; 9 children)

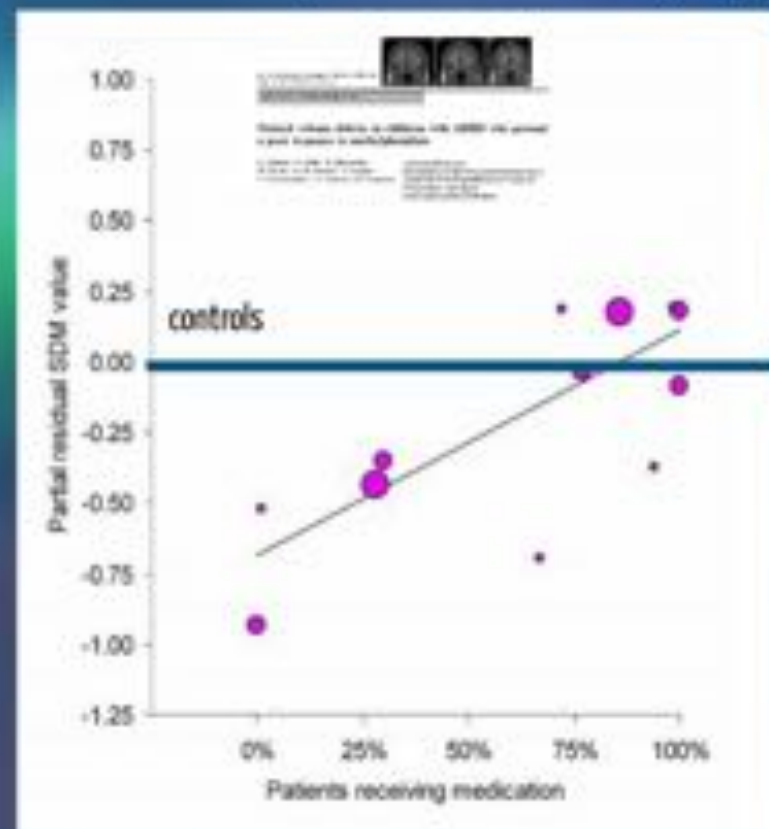
N combined: 347 ADHD, 313 Controls

Reduction of GM in:

caudate, putamen, globus pallidus



Long-term medication effects (controlled by age)



Not replicated in meta-analysis of 30 sMRI studies

Nakao, Radua, Rubia, Mataix 2011, American J Psychiatry 8:1154-1163

Long-term structural effects

No prospective studies, no RCT, only naturalistic

Longitudinal studies

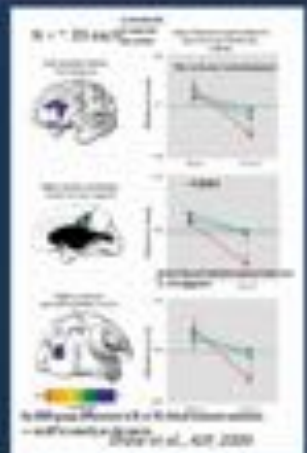
- Castellanos 2006: med ADHD more normal WM overall
- Shaw 2009: med ADHD more normal GM in L IFC, PMC, PL

Cross-sectional studies

- Pliszka 2006: med ADHD > normal ACC volume, caud no diff
- Bledsoe 2009: med ADHD more normal post-inf. vermis Cb
- Sobel 2010: med ADHD > normal caudate morphology
- Ivanov 2010, 2014: med ADHD > normal thalamus, L cerebellar lobe
- Schnoebelen 2010: med ADHD > normal CC
- Onnink 2014: med reduced hippocampus (82med;16naiv;107c)
- Hoekzema 2014: med reduced VS volume (adults) longitudinal: med reduces VS transiently in kids (peak:~10m) & adults (~20m)

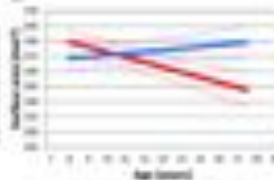
Meta-analysis studies

- Nakao et al. 2011: med ADHD > normal lenticular GM
- Frodl et al., 2012: med ADHD > normal lenticular GM, ACC

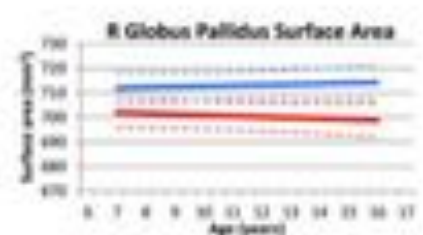
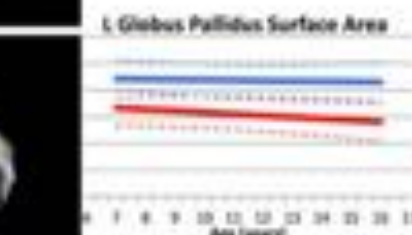
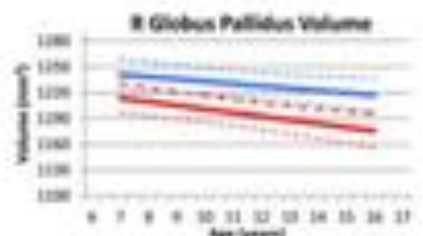
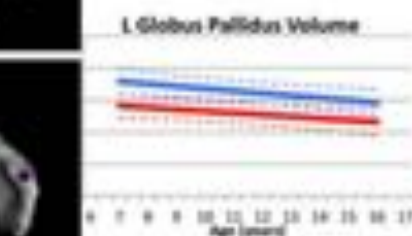
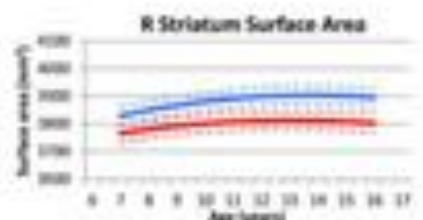
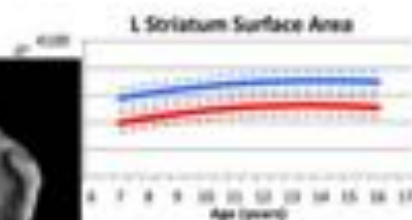
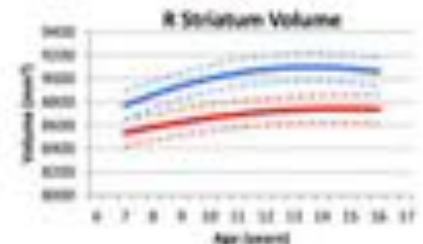
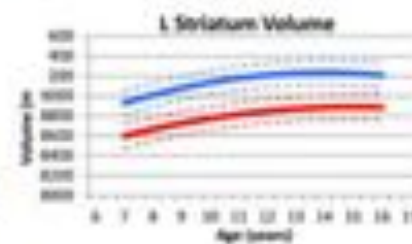


Mapping the Development of the Basal Ganglia in ADHD

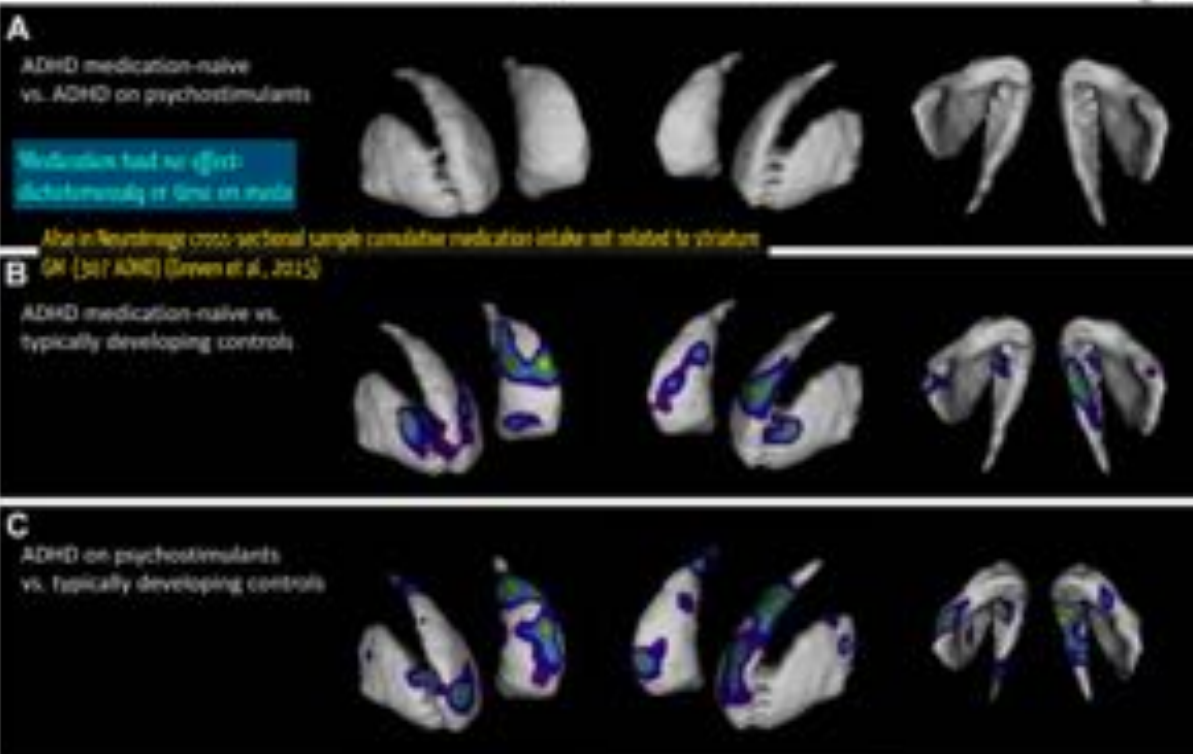
Regions where trajectories differ



- 270 ADHD (68% male)
- 270 age, sex matched controls.
- 40% had two or more scans *99 not on med at entry*
- Age at baseline 10.1 (SD 2); range 4-19 yrs.
- Symptomatic throughout study.



—Typically developing —ADHD



Developmental trajectories (estimates with 95% CI) for the striatal and globus pallidus volumes and total surface areas. Note: There were no significant differences in the shapes of the curves. ADHD have reduced volumes & surface areas. Medication had no effect.

Philip Shaw, et al. 2014, Am Academy Child & Adol Psychiatry, 53: 780 - 78

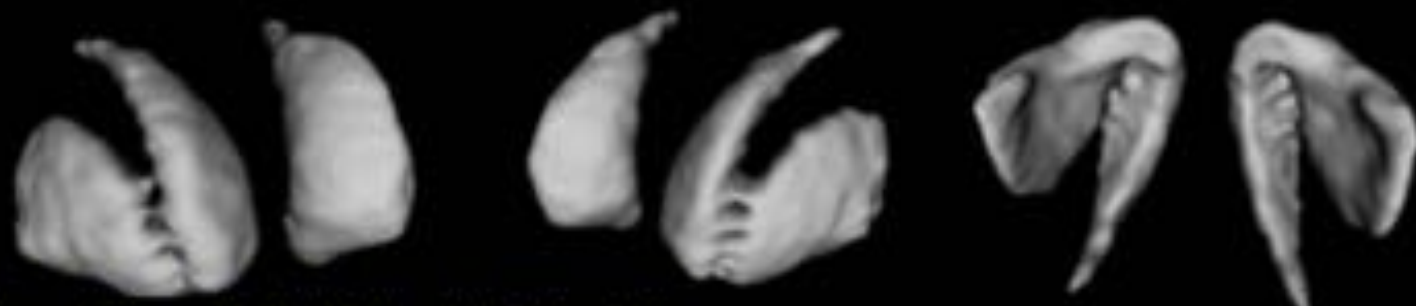
- Symptomatic throughout study.

4100

A

ADHD medication-naïve
vs. ADHD on psychostimulants

Medication had no effect:
dichotomously or time on meds



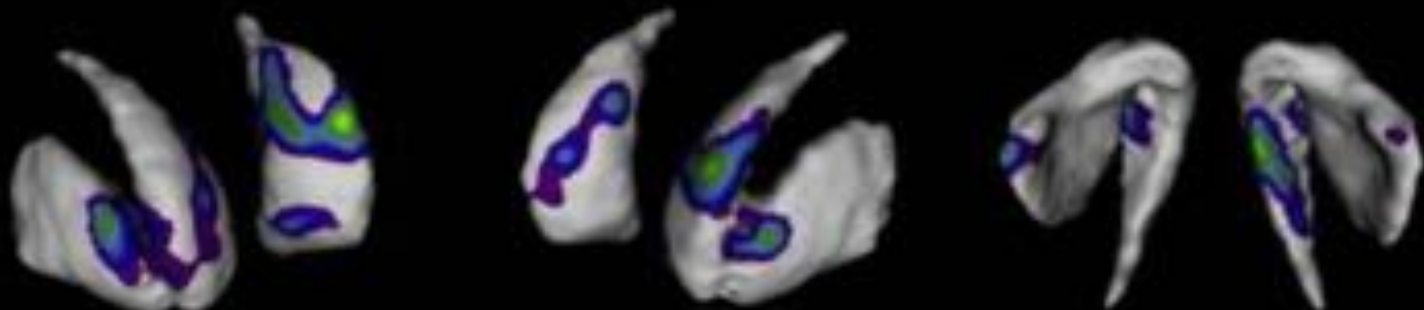
Also in NeuroImage cross-sectional sample cumulative medication intake not related to striatum

B

ADHD medication-naïve vs.
typically developing controls

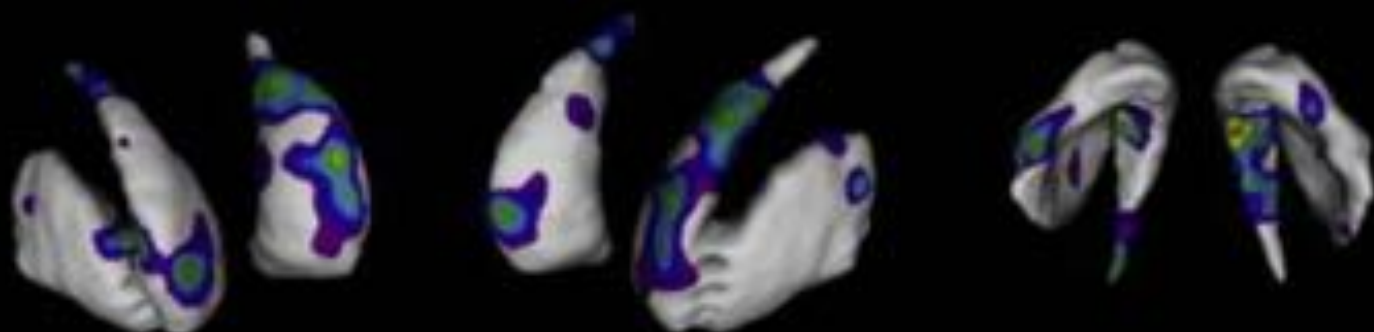
GM (307 ADHD) (Greven et al., 2015)

ADHD medication-naïve vs.
typically developing controls

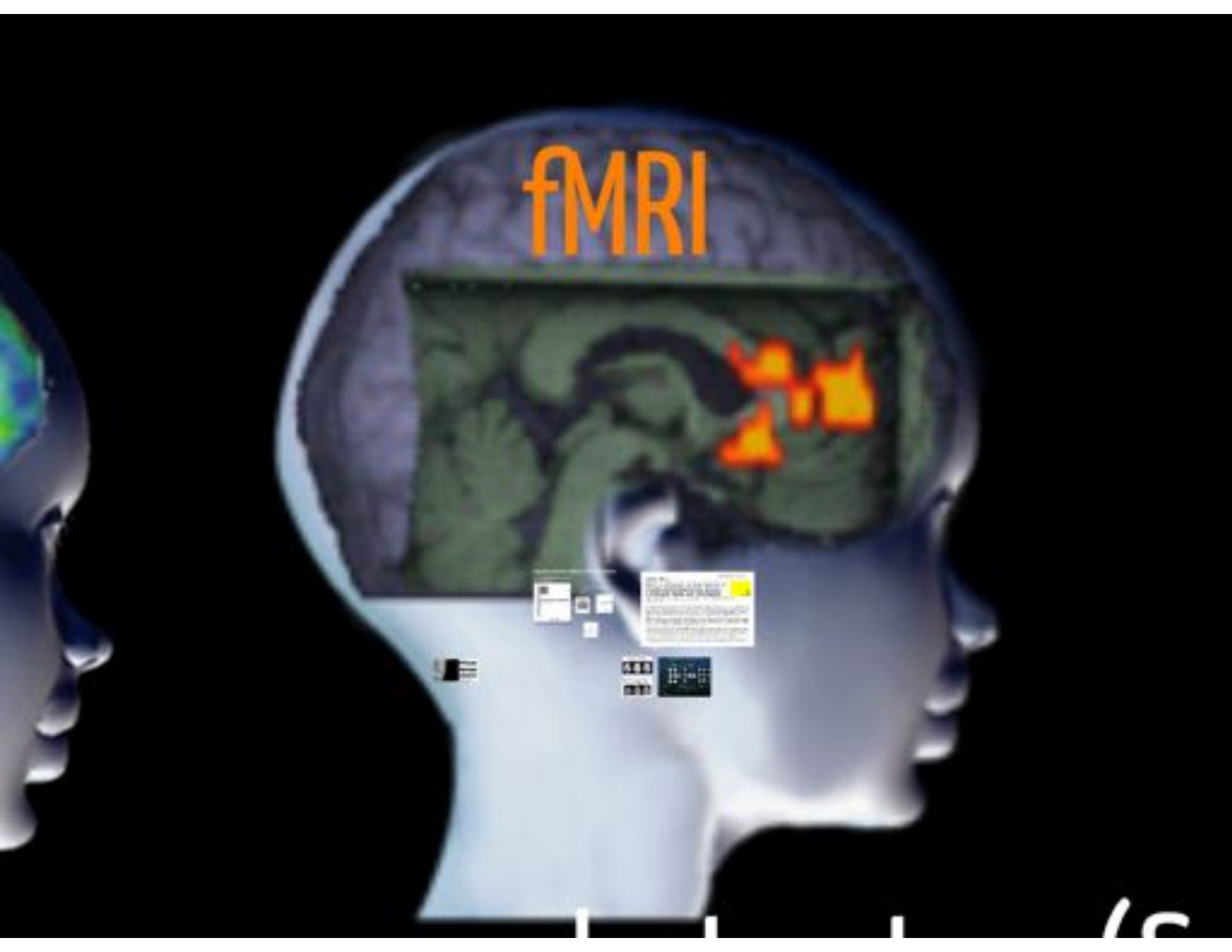


C

ADHD on psychostimulants
vs. typically developing controls

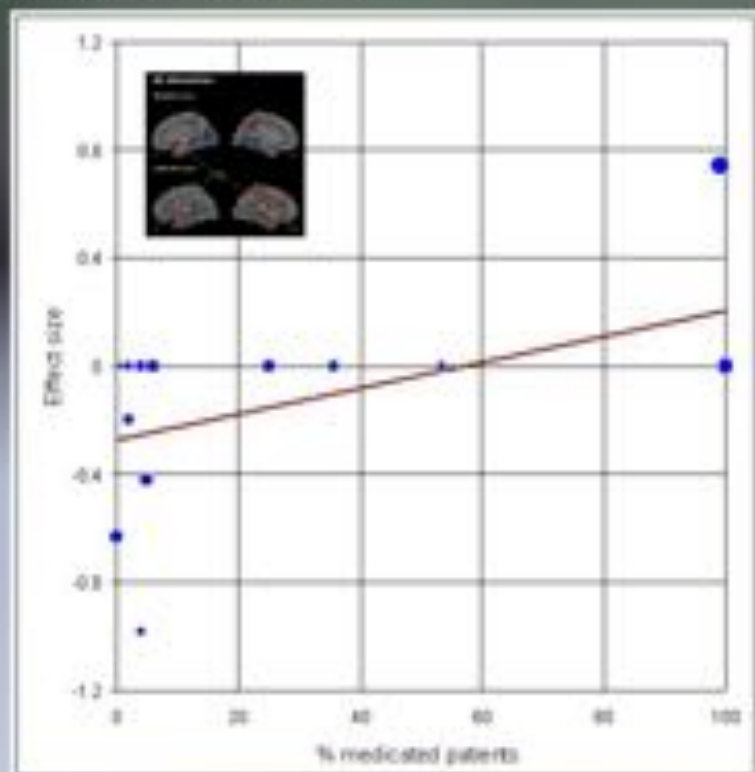


Developmental trajectories (estimates with 95% CI) for the striatal a
surface cross. Note: There were no significant differences in the ch



Long-term stimulants effects in fMRI meta-analyses

Caudate in attention meta-regression analysis
Effect of LT medication



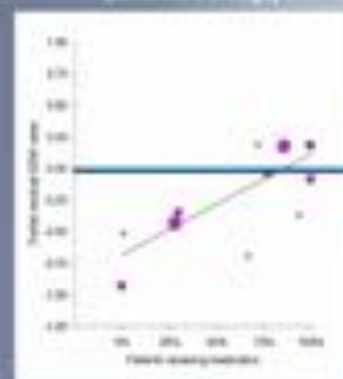
Hart, Radua, Mataix, Rubia, JAMA Psychiatry, 2013, 70: 185-98

Meta-regression analysis of 14 whole brain fMRI studies

- 14 studies (5 adults, 9 children)
- Randomised (47 ADHD, 12) (Control)
- Reduction of ADHD
- Reduction of ADHD
- Caudate, anterior, globus pallidus



Medication effects
(controlled for age)



Nakao, Yodanis, Yodanis, Metaix 2011, American J Psychiatry 168:1154-1163

Meta-regression analysis of 14 whole brain fMRI studies



ARCHIVAL REPORT

Effects of Stimulants on Brain Function in Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis

Katya Rubia, Analucia A. Alegria, Ana L. Cubillo, Anna B. Smith, Michael J. Brammer, and Joaquim Radua



Background: Psychostimulant medication, most commonly the catecholamine agonist methylphenidate, is the most effective treatment for attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). However, relatively little is known on the mechanisms of action. Acute effects on brain function can elucidate underlying neurocognitive effects. We tested methylphenidate effects relative to placebo in functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) during three disorder-relevant tasks in medication-naïve ADHD adolescents. In addition, we conducted a systematic review and meta-analysis of the fMRI findings of acute stimulant effects on ADHD brain function.

Methods: The fMRI study compared 20 adolescents with ADHD under either placebo or methylphenidate in a randomized controlled trial while performing stop, working memory, and time discrimination tasks. The meta-analysis was conducted searching PubMed, ScienceDirect, Web of Knowledge, Google Scholar, and Scopus databases. Peak coordinates of clusters of significant effects of stimulant medication relative to placebo or off medication were extracted for each study.

Results: The fMRI analysis showed that methylphenidate significantly enhanced activation in bilateral inferior frontal cortex (IFC)/insula during inhibition and time discrimination but had no effect on working memory networks. The meta-analysis, including 14 fMRI datasets and 212 children with ADHD, showed that stimulants most consistently enhanced right IFC/insula activation, which also remained for a subgroup analysis of methylphenidate effects alone. A more lenient threshold also revealed increased putamen activation.

Conclusions: Psychostimulants most consistently increase right IFC/insula activation, which are key areas of cognitive control and also the most replicated neurocognitive dysfunction in ADHD. These neurocognitive effects may underlie their positive clinical effects.

Meta-analysis of acute stimulant effects

14 whole brain image analysis fMRI datasets: 212 ADHD children
Upregulation within patients MPH > Placebo (ON > OFF-Med)

Study	Task	MED	IFC	DLPFC	BG	ACC	PCC	Cb	PL/TL
Rubia 2009a NPP	Attention	No	X				X	X	X
Rubia 2009a NPP	Reward	No			X	X			
Rubia 2011a PP	Simon	No	X					X	X
Rubia 2011b BPS	Stop	No	X	X	X	X	X		X
R: Cubillo 2012 Cer Cx	Stop	No	X		X	X	X	X	X
Rubia 2009b PhilTransB	TD	No	X			X		X	
R: Smith 2013 BPS	TD	No	X		X				
R: Cubillo 2012 PSM	WM	No							
Kobel 2009 EurPedNeur	WM	Yes							
Peterson 2009 AJPpsych	Stroop	Yes							
Posner 2011 Psych Res	Emot. Stroop	Yes		X					

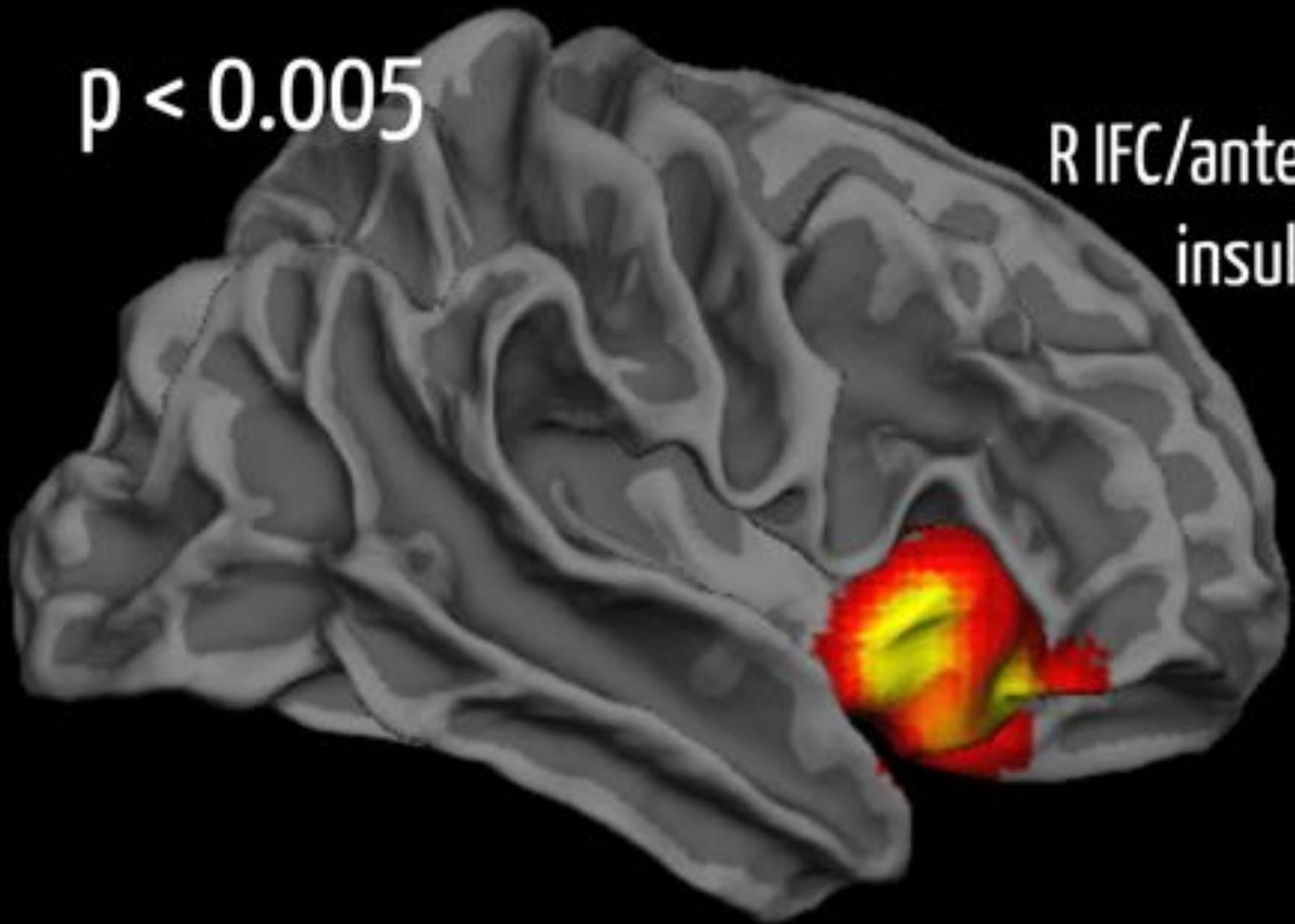
MPH > Placebo in randomised controlled design in med-naïve ADHD
MPH On > MPH Off in chronically treated ADHD

Rubia, Alegria, Radua, Biol Psych, 2014:76:616



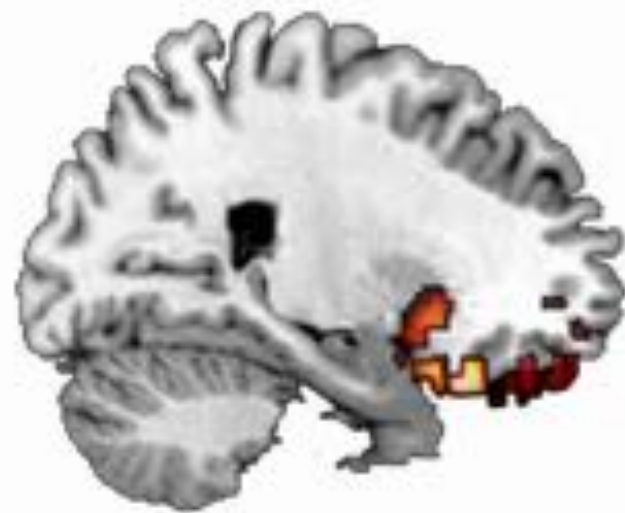
$p < 0.005$

R IFC/anterior
insula





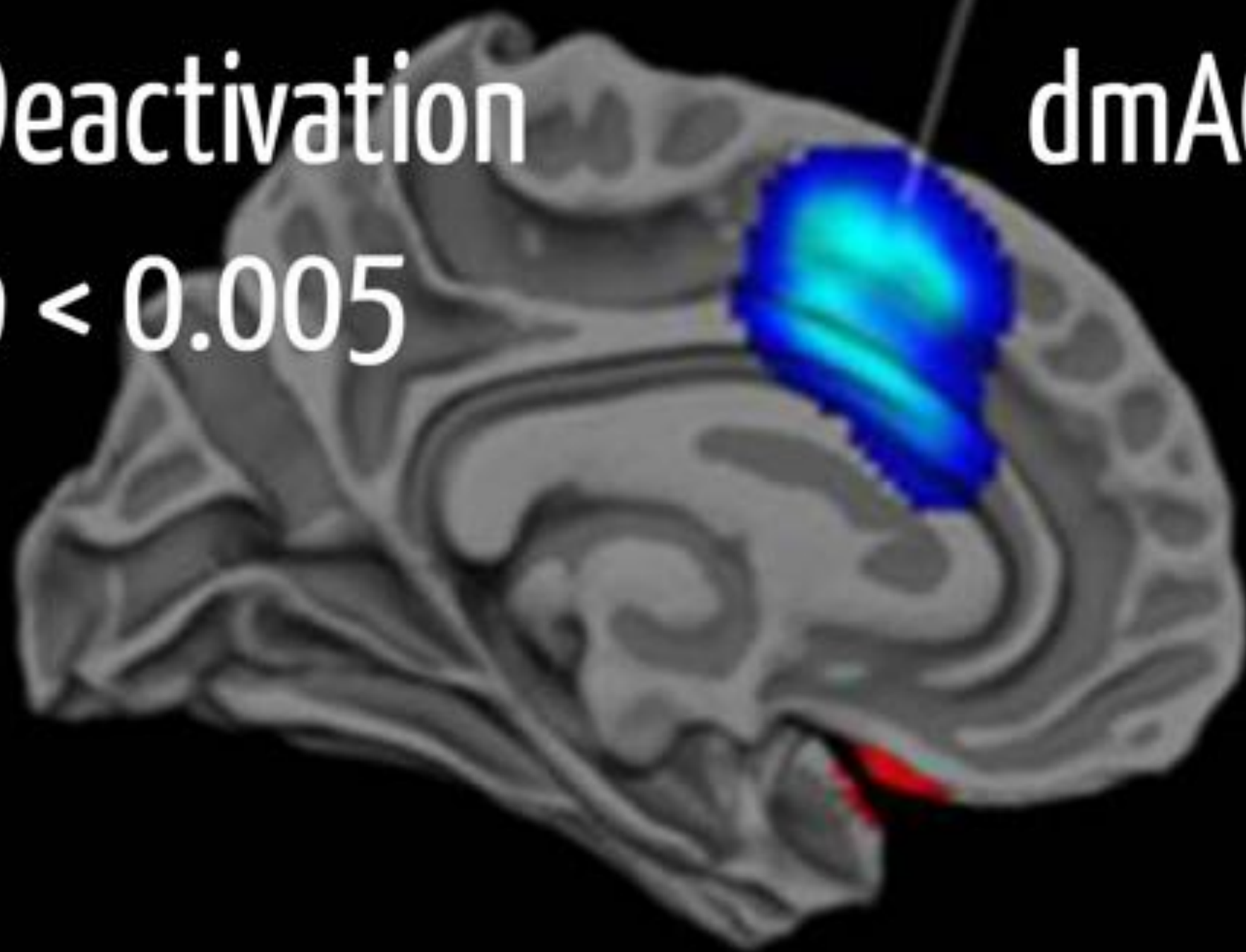
$p < 0.05$ putamen



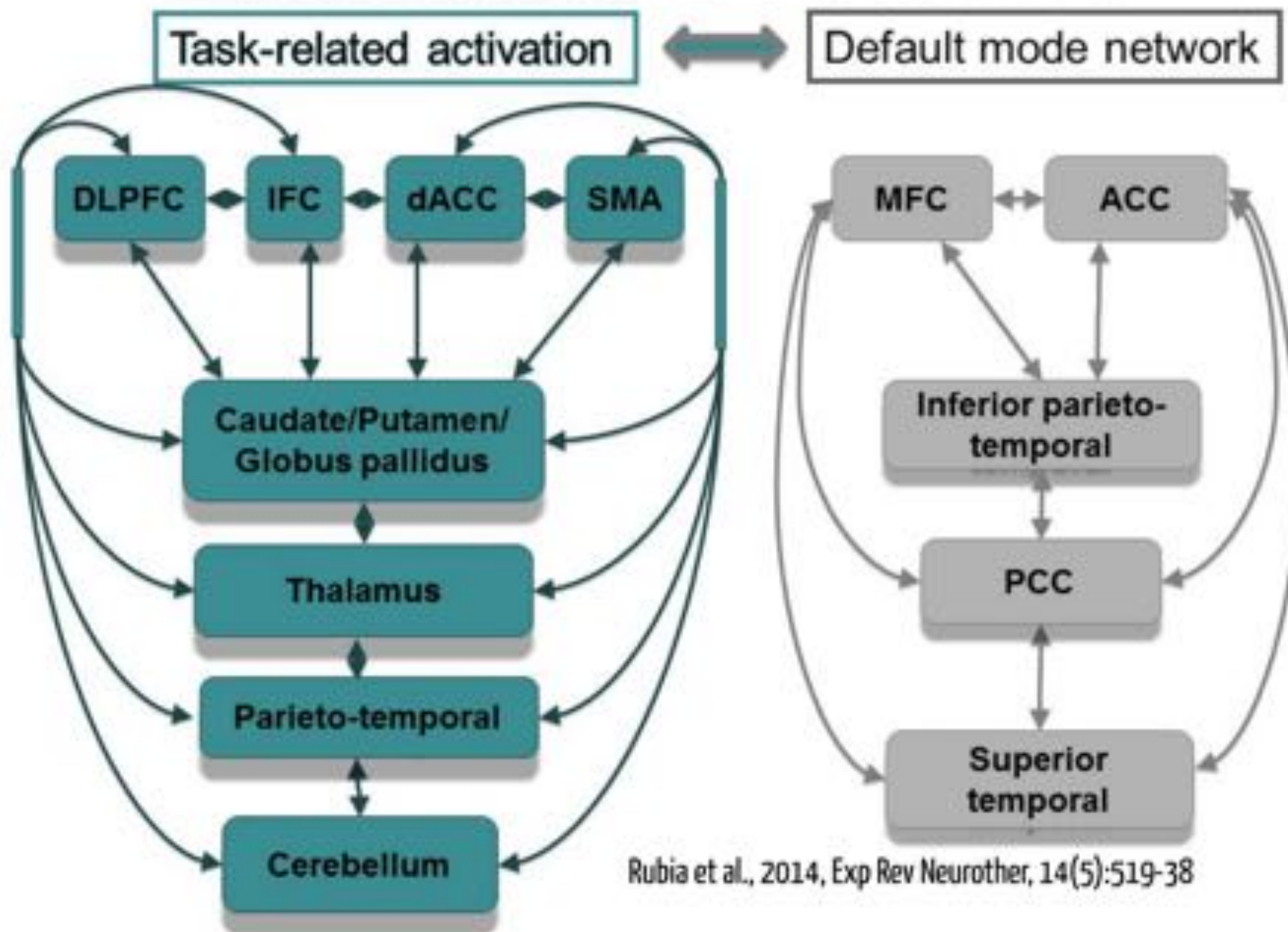
Deactivation

$p < 0.005$

dmACC



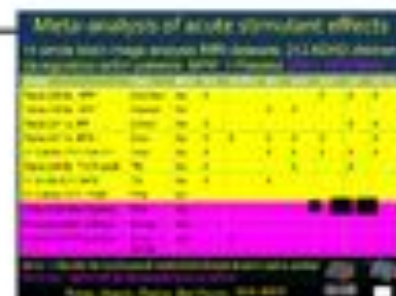
Most consistent brain abnormalities in ADHD



ARCHIVAL REPORT

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Atomoxetine vs Methylphenidate

Working memory

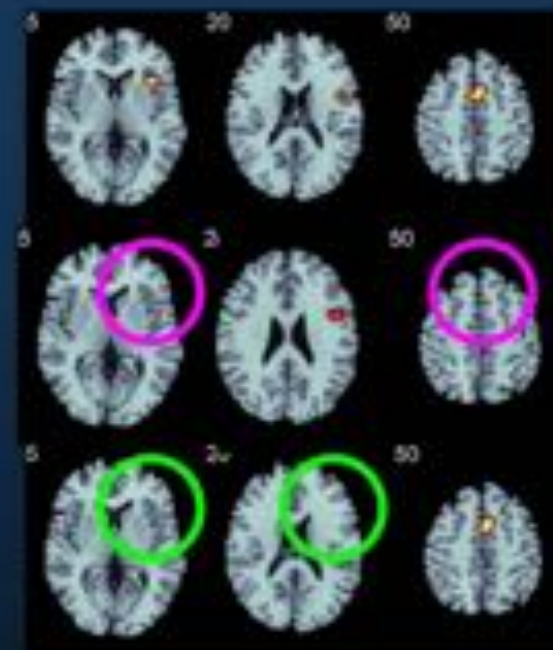
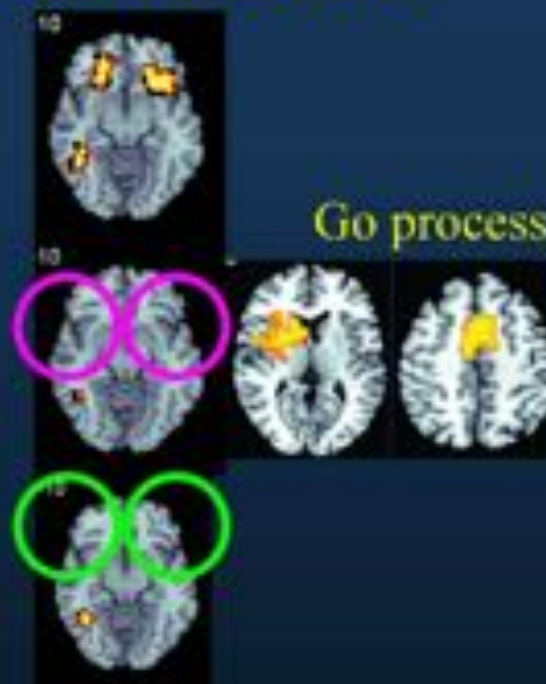
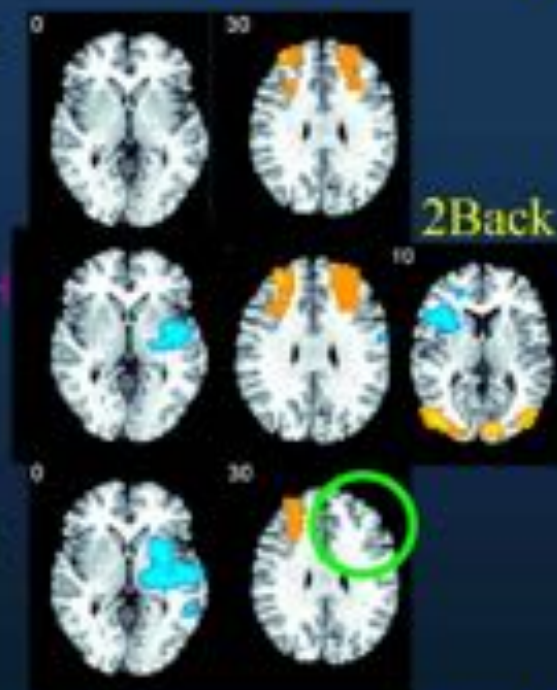
Stop task

Time discrimination

R DLPFC

IFC –correlated SSRT

C > ADHD Plac



Accuracy improved
with both drugs

Only MPH improved SSRT
Normalisation sign for both in L IFG
Sign for MPH in R IFG + Cb (trend for ATX)

Only MPH normalised
TD errors

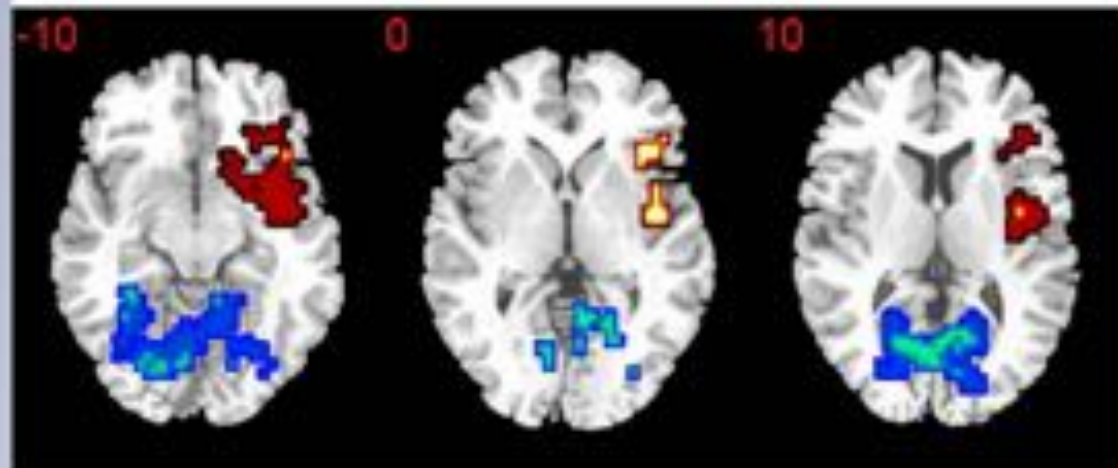
Cubillo et al., 2013, *Cerebral Cortex*, Cubillo et al., *Psychol Med*, **19:1-14**

Smith et al., 2013, *Biol Psych*, 74(8):615-22

24(1):174-85

Fluoxetine > Placebo

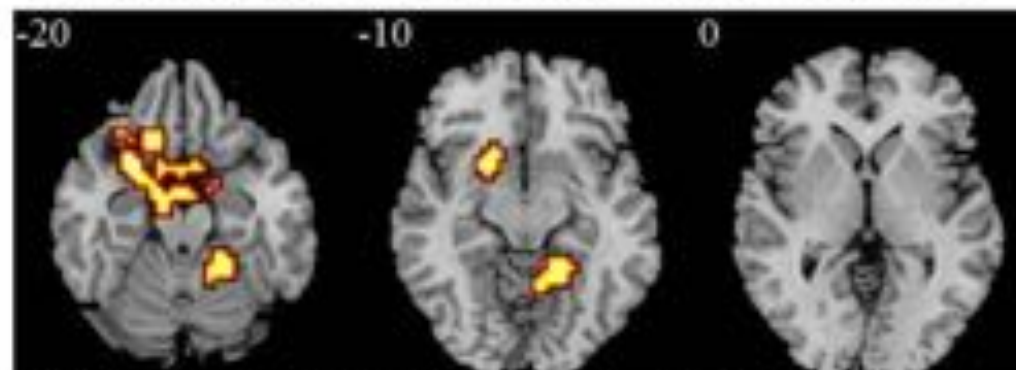
Temporal discounting: delayed > immediate



Carlisi, Chantiluke, Norman, Glampeietro, Brammer, Simmons, Rubia in submission

Within-Patient Comparisons

C. Group by Medication Interaction Effects



Chantiluke, Barrat, Rubia, Psychopharmacology 232(12):2071-82.

C > ADHD P

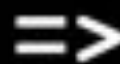
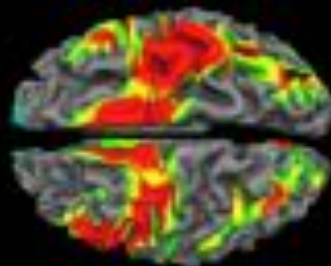
C > ADHD M

C > ADHD A

Accuracy in
with both d

Cubillo e
Smith e

Translation



Diagnosis/ prognosis?



Multivariate pattern recognition analyses
have the potential to aid in clinical diagnosis
& prognosis

Neurotherapy



Children with ADHD can self-regulate
brain activation -> clin improvement
no region-specificity

Diagnosis/ prognosis?



Multivariate pattern recognition analyses
have the potential to aid in clinical diagnosis
& prognosis



Analucia Ale



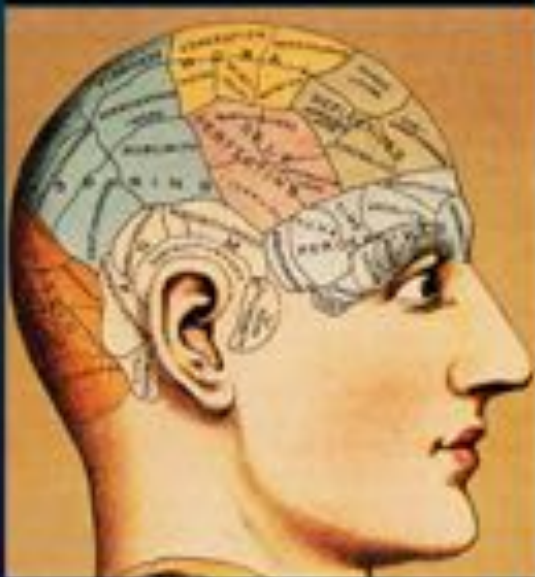
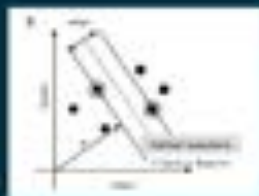
Helen Brin

Traditional MRI analysis:

mass
univariate



=>



Multivariate pattern recognition analyses

- designed to identify spatial/temp patterns that discriminative between groups
 - combinatorial effects=> more sensitive
 - generalise categorization to new individual data
- => diagnostic & prognostic indicators of individuals
⇔ groups

Applications of MVPR in MRI

Diagnosis:

ADHD:	~61%	sMRI/rfMRI	(ADHD200)
Autism:	80-90%	sMRI/DTI	(Ecker 2009, 2010, Ingahalikar 2010)
Schizophrenia:	81-92%	sMRI/fMRI/DTI	(Davatzikos 2005, Costafreda 2011, Ingahalikar 2010)
MDD:	68-90%	sMRI/fMRI	(Fu, 2008, Marquand 2008, Mwangi 2012)

Prognosis:

ARMS:	82-92%	sMRI	(Koutsouleris 2009, 2011)
PS-CP:	70	sMRI	(Mirao-Miranda 2011)

Treatment response prediction:

MDD:	69-89%	sMRI/fMRI	(Fu 2008, Costafreda 2009a,b, Gong 2011)
Schizophrenia:	85%	EEG	(Khodayari-Rostamabad 2010)

Multimodal MVPR:

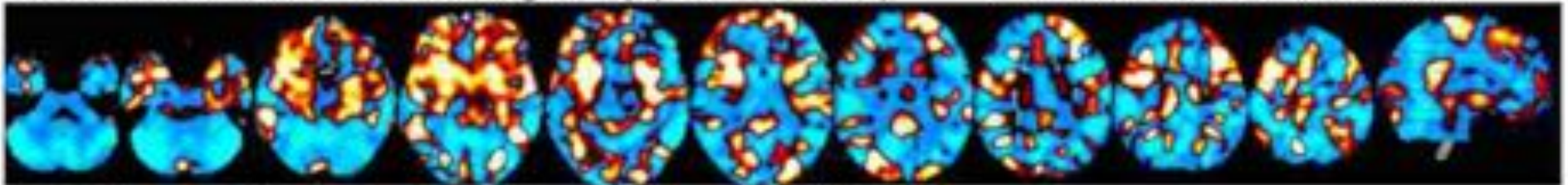
f/sMRI & NPS:	80%	reading	(Hoeft 2007)
sMRI & PET	65-100%	MCI	(Fan 2008, Zhang 2011, Cui 2011)
sMRI & DTI	91-98%	MCI	(Fan 2008, Haller 2010)
fMRI & genes:	87%	Schizophr.	(Yang 2010)

Pattern recognition analysis using grey matter

29 ADHD; 33 Controls

A. Multivariate discrimination weight map (unthresholded)

79.3% accuracy (76% ADHD; 83% C)

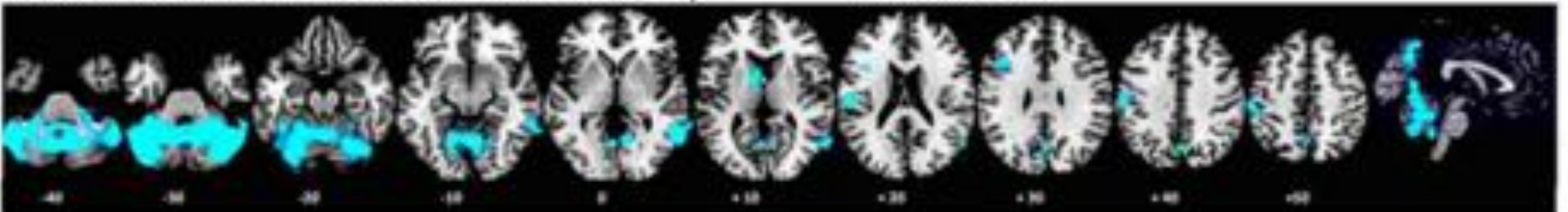


B. Multivariate discrimination weight map (thresholded)



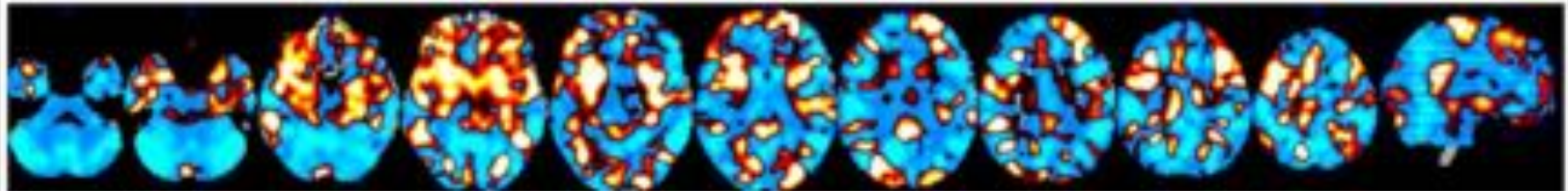
C. Conventional mass-univariate t-statistic map

Controls > ADHD

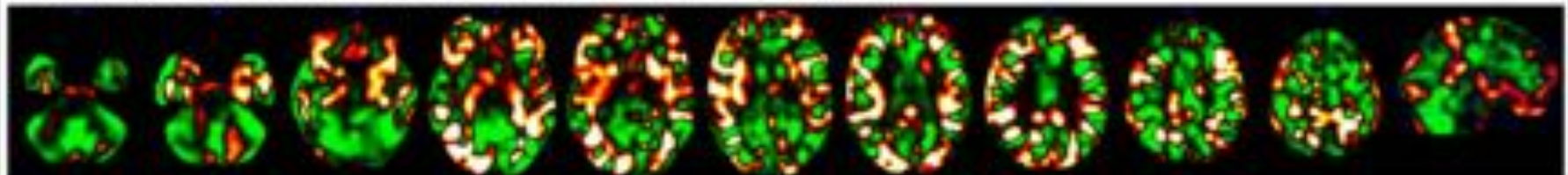


Disorder-specific pattern classification in GM: ADHD vs ASD

29 ADHD (orange) versus 33 healthy controls (blue): Accuracy: 79.3 %, sensitivity 74% (ADHD); specificity 83% (controls)

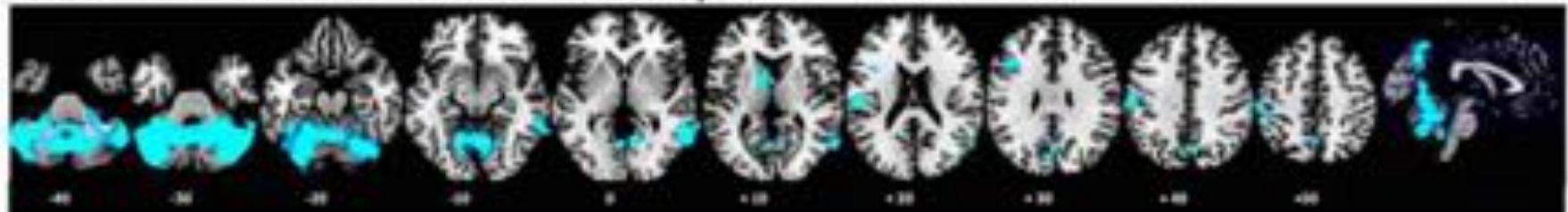


29 ADHD (orange) versus 19 ASD (green): Accuracy 83%, 93% (ADHD), 68% (ASD)



C. Conventional mass-univariate t-statistic map

Controls > ADHD

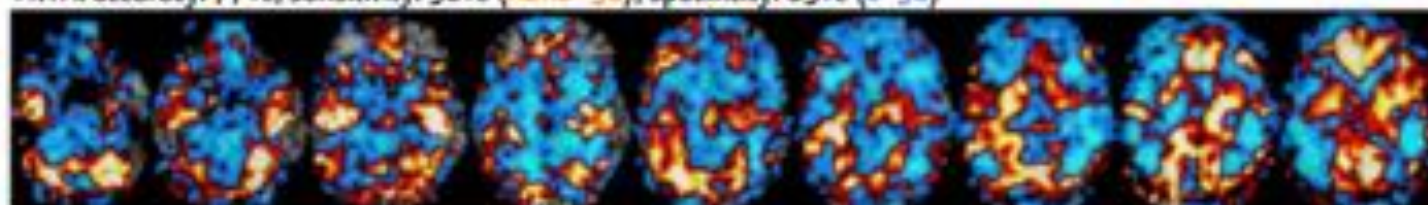


Lim, Marquand, Mehta, Rubia, PLOS One, 8(5): e63660

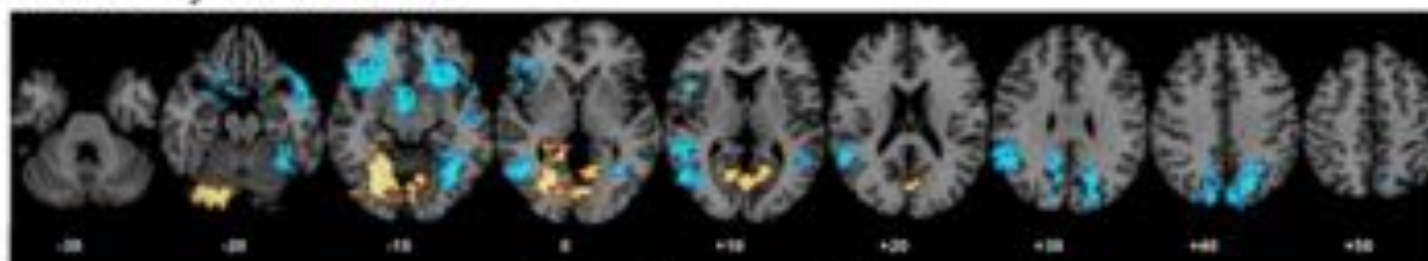
Pattern recognition analysis using fMRI

Stop task

MVPA: accuracy: 77%; sensitivity: 90% (ADHD=30); specificity: 63% (C=30)



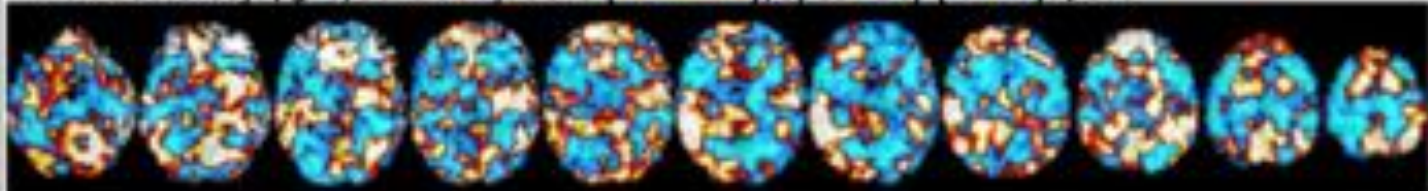
Univariate analyses: ADHD < controls



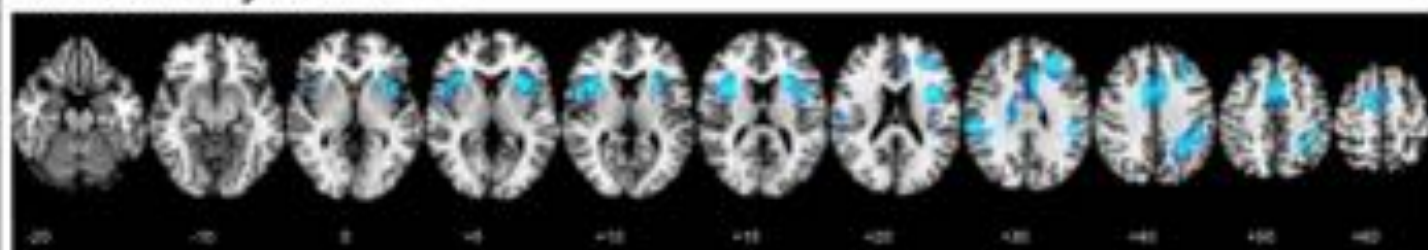
Hart et al., 2013, HBM, 35; 3083-3094

Time discrimination

MVPA: accuracy: 75%; sensitivity: 80% (ADHD=20); specificity (C=20): 70%



Univariate analysis: ADHD < C



Hart et al., 2013, JAACAP, 53; 569-578

Neurotherapy

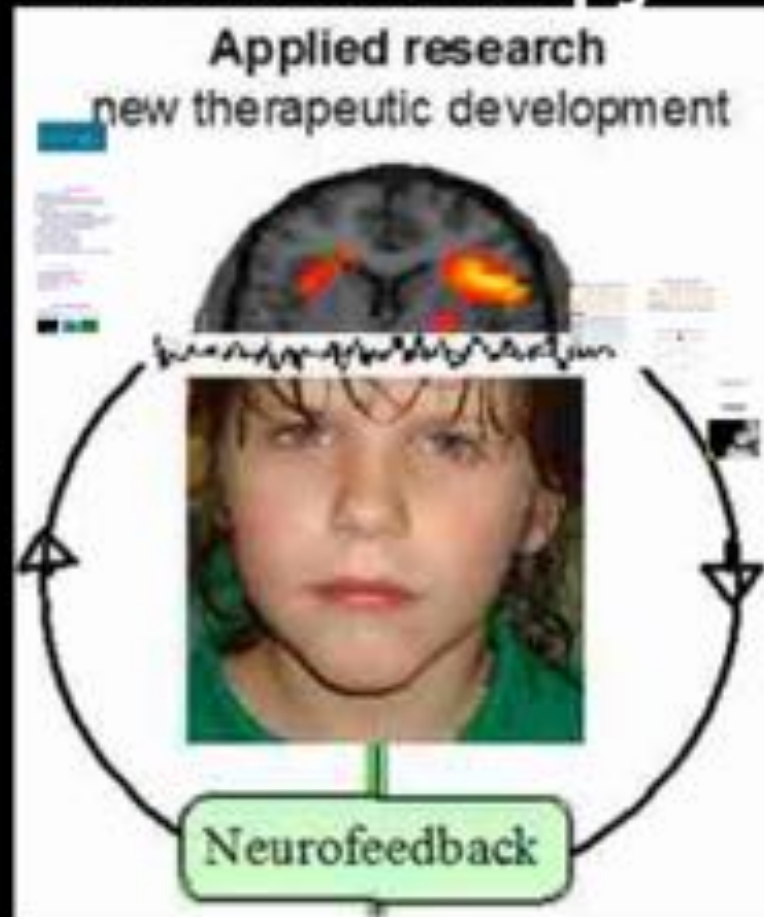
Applied research
new therapeutic development



Analucia Alegria



Helen Brinson



Children with ADHD can self-regulate
brain activation -> clin improvement
no region-specificity

Conclusions

Neurofeedback is a non-invasive, non-pharmaceutical approach to treating ADHD. It is based on the principle of operant conditioning, where children learn to self-regulate their brain activity. The research shows that neurofeedback can lead to significant improvements in ADHD symptoms, including inattention, hyperactivity, and impulsivity. The benefits are sustained over time, and there are no adverse effects reported. Neurofeedback is a promising treatment for ADHD, offering a safe and effective alternative to medication.

Neuroscience-based neurotherapy for ADHD:

r1FC underactivated, disorder-specific & modulated by stimulants =>



Stimulants
Stimulants increase the activity of the r1FC, which is underactivated in ADHD. This leads to improved attention and executive function.

fMRI NF for self-upregulating r1FC activation

EEG Neurofeedback in ADHD

Beta-theta ratio upregulation; slow cortical potentials

Meta-analyses: medium ES for prob blinded parent ratings to improve inattention & hyp/imp & smaller ES for teacher ratings (Micouloud-Francis 2014).

Several head-to-head RCT studies find similar effects to stimulants.

Advantage of fMRI NF

Better spatial resolution => better learning

fMRI-NF requires fewer sessions (4 of 10min) (EEG: 30-40 sessions of 50min)

Can target deep regions that are key to ADHD neuropathology: rIFC

Can easily control for region-specificity (<=> sham NF)

Can measure learning (brain act) & how it relates to outcomes

fMRI-NF study design

First fMRI-NF study in children

Single-blind RCT (parents/patients blind, not researcher)

N = 31 ADHD (combined) boys; stable medicated/med-naive

Age: 12-18 years

Controlling for region-specificity of upregulation

- 18 Active Grp: R IFC : pars triangularis/orbitalis (BA 44/45/47)
- 13 Control Grp: L middle parahippocampal gyrus (L PHG)

Training: 4 scan visits of 3-4 NF sessions of 8.5min

Total: 14 sessions of 8.5min NF

Last session: Transfer session (no NF)

In 1st & last session: Stop task fMRI

Offline training with a cue-card (daily)

Instructions: free but we suggested concentration as an option

Outcome measures/hypotheses:

Children with ADHD can self-regulate R IFG with fMRI-NF - feasibility

Clinical ADHD symptoms (ADHD-RS) (CPRS) - reduction

Progressive increase in rIFC activity - increased 

Cognitive functions MARS (GNG, CPT, time discr, TD) - improvement

rIFG activation during fMRI stop task - increase in active group

Side effect scale: no side effects

Long-term effects: 6 months persistence

Real-time fMRI Neurofeedback

Real-time fMRI software in AFNI that provides immediate access to the fMRI images as they are reconstructed

GE MR750 3T MR scanner. => 6s delay

NF calculation: $(ROI_{EXP} - ROI_{REF}) - (ROI_{EXP\text{Previous}} - ROI_{REF\text{Previous}}) \Rightarrow$ progressively more difficult to move rocket.

Can win 10 points (% of video covered) = €10



Bandettini, P. & Bodurka, J. (2008) Real-time software for monitoring MRI scanner operation. *Neuroimage*, 41(S1): p. S85.

Conclusions



Disorder-specificity



Reduced GM & activation in right IFC/BG & AI is disorder-specific to ADHD vs OCD & ASD
Reduced GM in Cb is disorder-specific to ADHD vs ASD
Dissociated abnormalities in BG/AI GM in ADHD (<) vs OCD (>) & in IFC activation in ADHD (<) vs ASD (>)

Medication



LT stimulants are associated with more normal BG structure & function (not replicated in recent studies), but with abnormally high striatal DAT levels.
Acute stimulant in fMRI: consistent upregulation in R IFC/AI/putamen & deactivation of DMN
Some evidence that Atomoxetine & Fluoxetine have comparable IFC upregulation/normalisation effects

Brain-based diagnosis



Machine learning based methods for NI are promising & may be able to aid with diagnosis (& prognosis) - higher classification accuracy & replication across scanners & samples necessary for clinically use.

Neurotherapy



fMRI-Neurofeedback is feasible in ADHD children. They can self-regulate specific brain regions and this is associated with clinical improvement (region-specificity needs to be further investigated)

Institute of
Psychiatry

at The Maudsley

Fundación
Alicia Koplowitz

MRC

Medical
Research
Council

NHS

National Institute for
Health Research



KIDS COMPANY

Lilly

THANK YOU!

All participants

RETA LILA WESTON TRUST FOR
MEDICAL RESEARCH

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Ana Lucia Alegria
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Steve Laidon
Luks Norman
Prof Eric Taylor
Prof Debra Murphy
Prof Michael Brammer
Dr Vincent Giampietro
Prof David Mataix
Dr Tomo Nakao
Dr Paulo Fusco-Poli
Dr Joaquim Radua
Dr Andre Marquand
Prof Daniel Brandeis
Prof Gareth Barker
Prof Tnoy David

KING'S
College
LONDON
Founded 1829

SOMERSET HOUSE AND KING'S COLLEGE BEFORE THE TRAMWAY EMBANKMENT WAS MADE