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# Neuroimagerie et traitement des addiction

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Colloque Toxicomanies Hépatites THS8  
Les Rencontres de Biarritz  
23-26 octobre 2007  
Centre de Congrès Le Bellevue

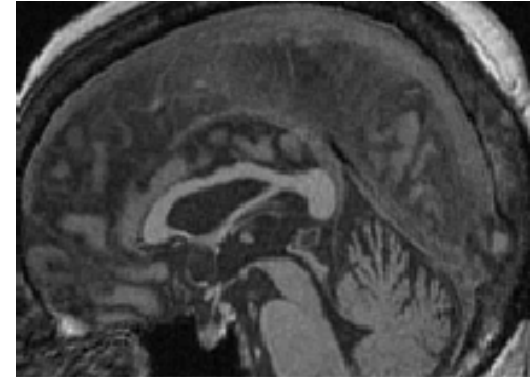
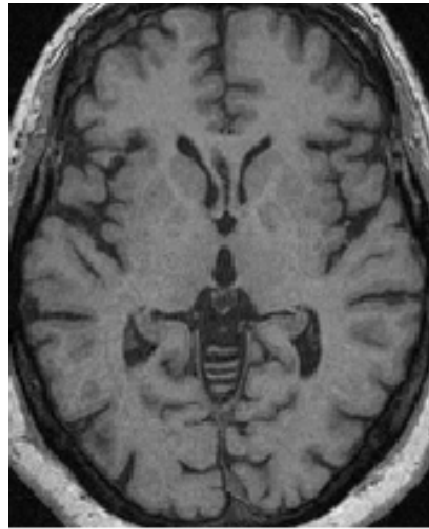
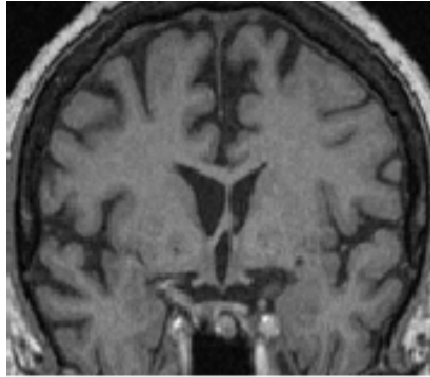
Karl Mann, MD

Chair in Addiction Research  
University of Heidelberg

Central Institute of Mental Health  
Mannheim

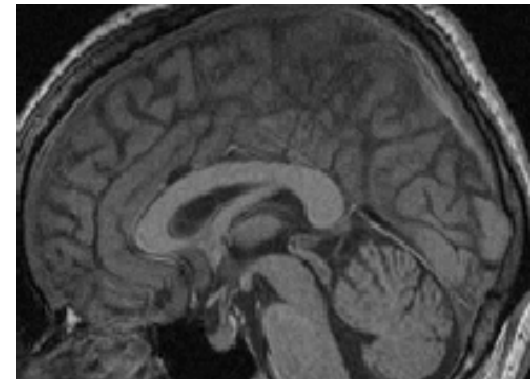
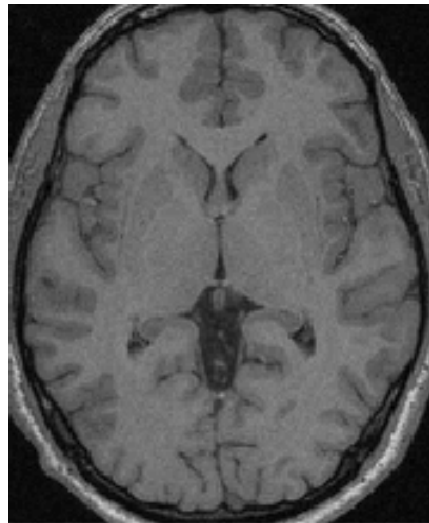
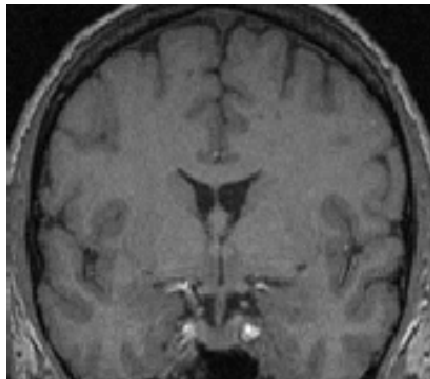


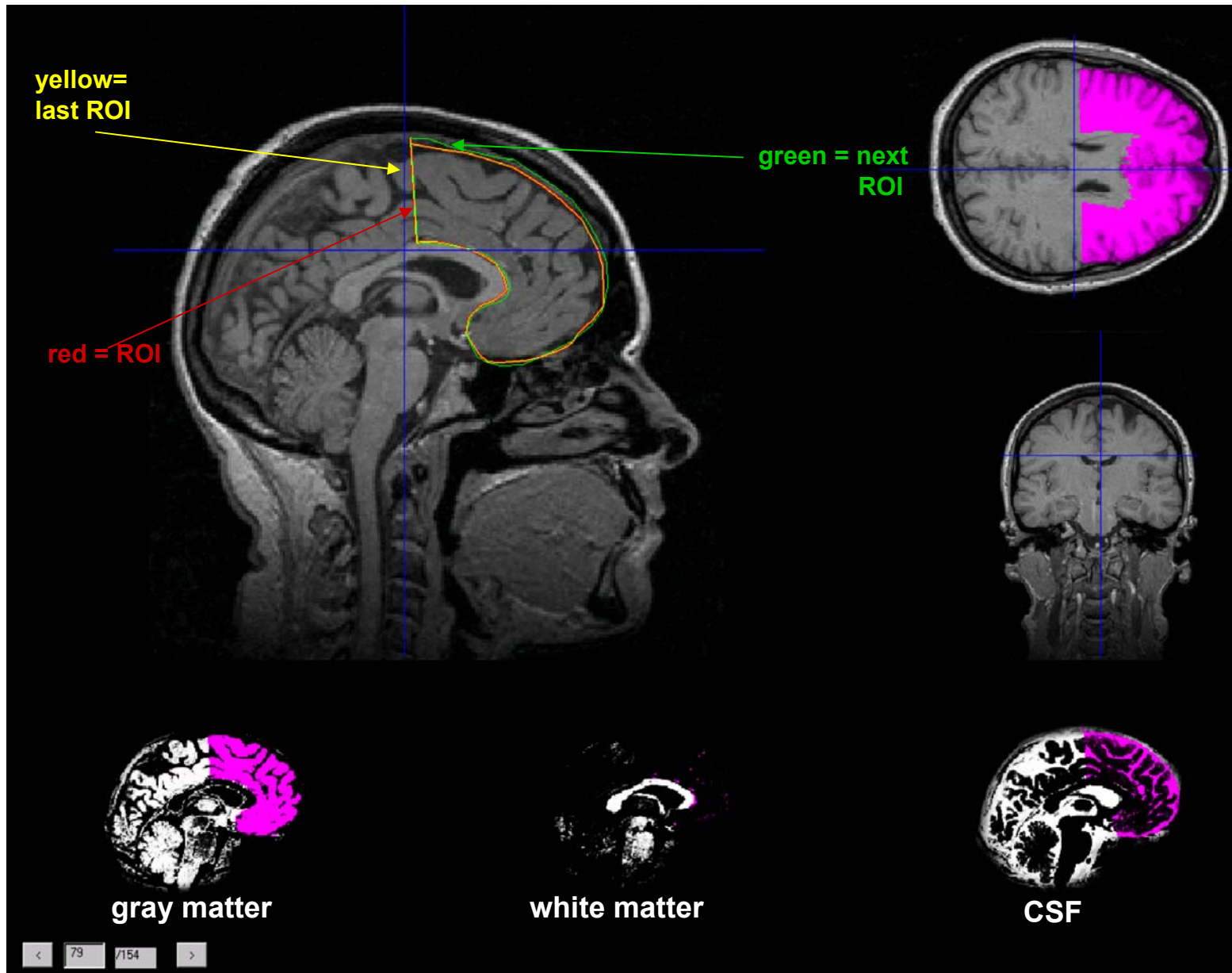
**Patient**



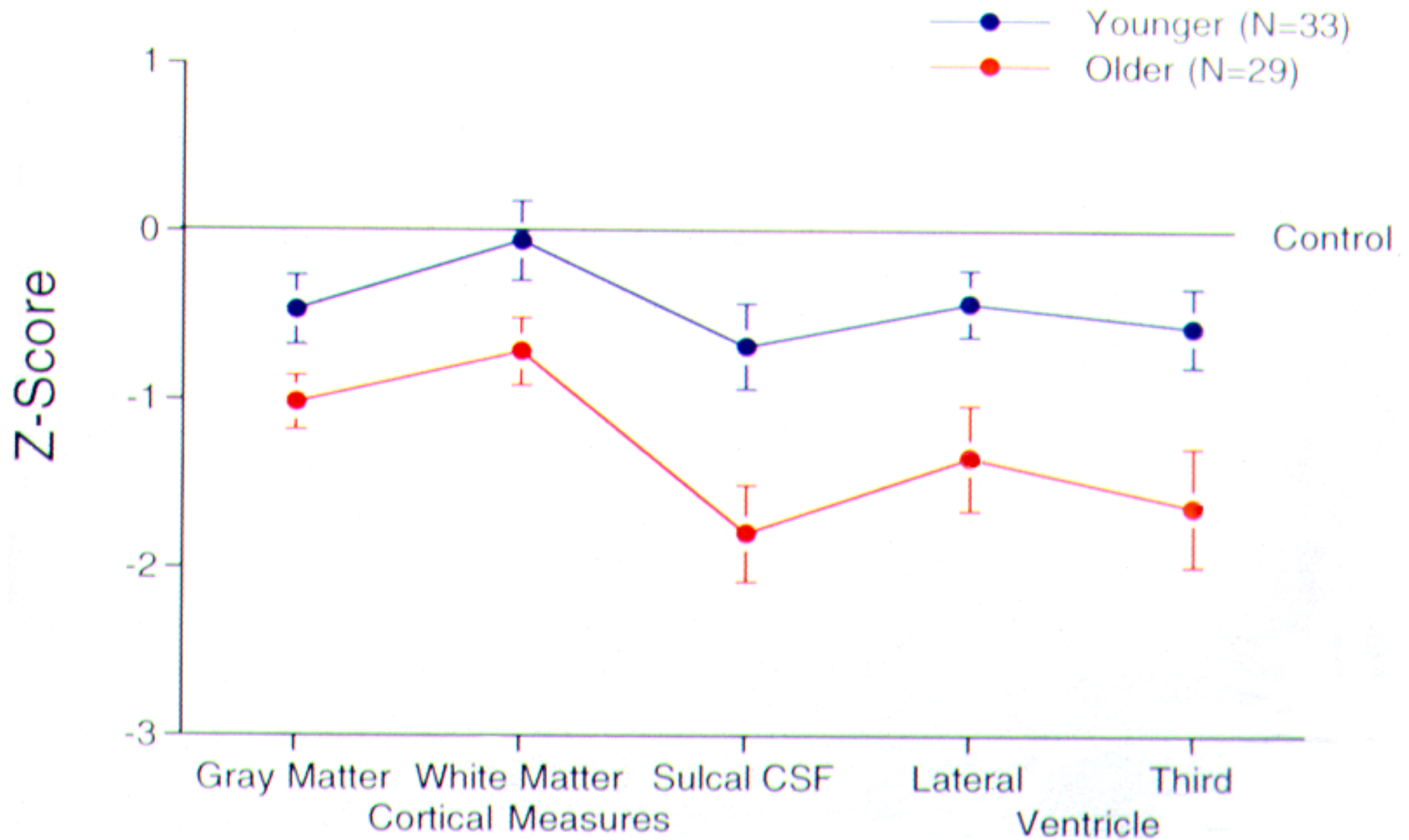
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**Control**

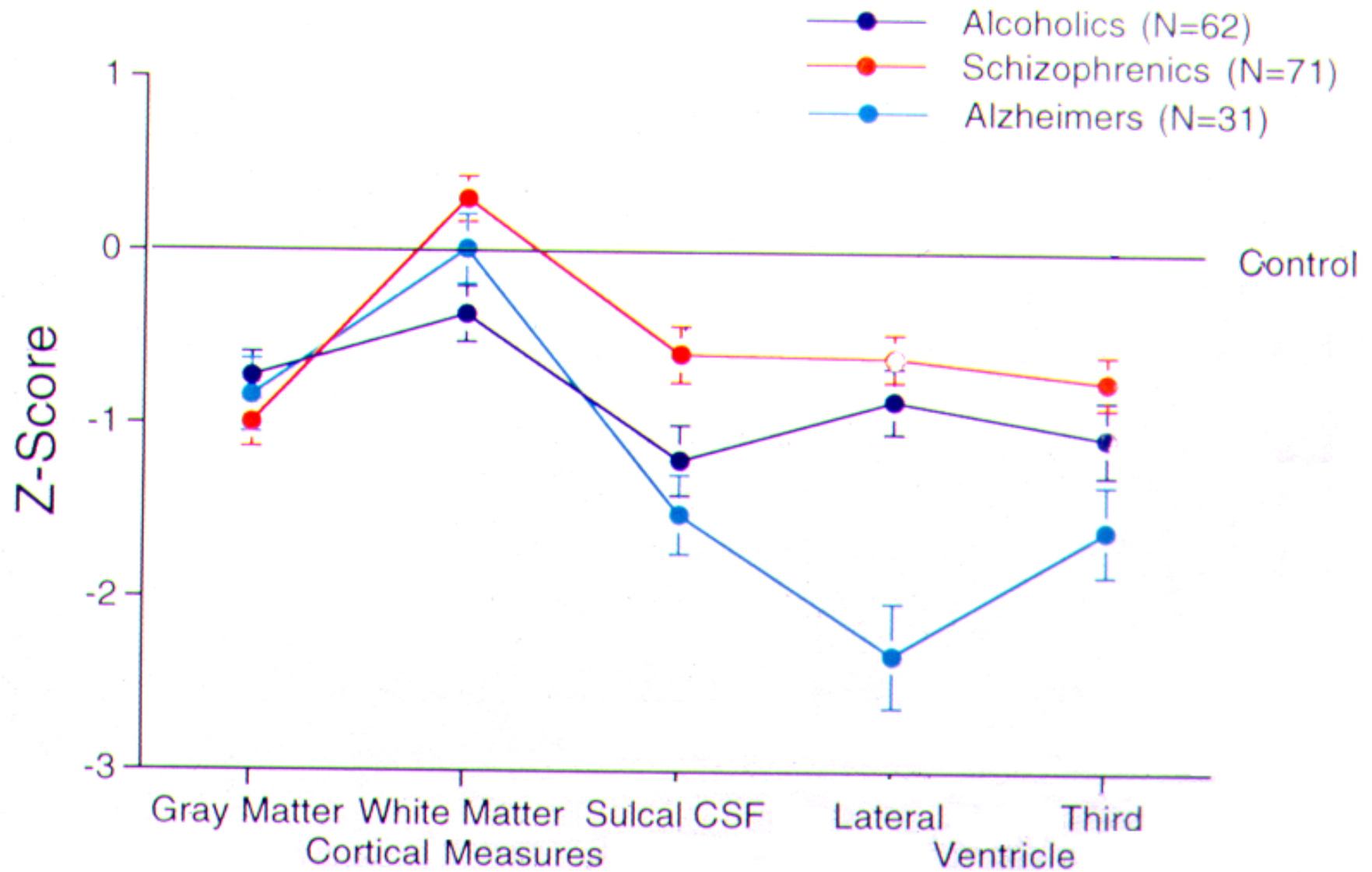




# Age effects in alcoholism



# MR-Volumes



# Neuroimaging of Gender Differences in Alcohol Dependence: Are Women More Vulnerable?

K. Mann, K. Ackermann, B. Croissant, G. Mundle, H. Nakovics, and A. Diehl

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**Background:** Alcoholic brain damage has been demonstrated in numerous studies using neuropathology and brain imaging techniques. However, gender differences were addressed only in a few studies. Recent research has shown that development, course, and consequences of alcohol dependence may differ between female and male patients. Our investigation was built upon earlier research where we hypothesized that women develop alcoholic brain damage more readily than men do. To further compare the impact of alcohol dependence between men and women, we examined brain atrophy in female and male alcoholics by means of computed tomography (CT).

**Methods:** The study group consisted of a total of 158 subjects (76 women: 42 patients, 34 healthy controls; 82 age-matched men: 34 patients, 48 healthy controls). All patients had a DSM-IV and ICD-10 diagnosis of alcohol dependence. CT with digital volumetry was performed twice in patients (at the beginning and end of the 6-week inpatient treatment program) and once in controls.

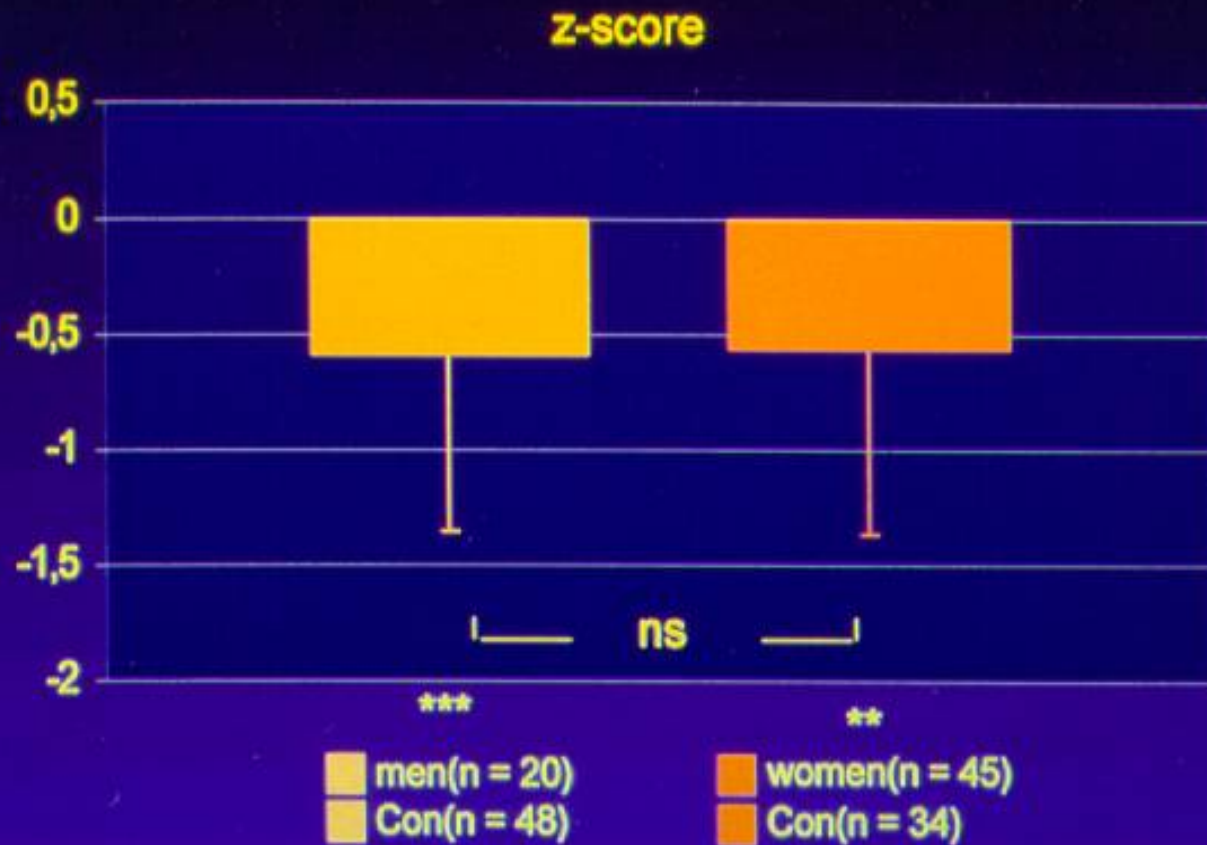
**Results:** Patients of both genders had consumed alcohol very heavily. Although the average alcohol consumption in the year before the study was significantly lower in female alcoholics, this gender difference disappeared when controlled for weight. However, women had a significantly shorter duration of alcohol dependence. Despite this fact, both genders developed brain atrophy to a comparable extent. Brain atrophy was reversible in part after 6 weeks of treatment; it did not reach the level in the control groups.

**Conclusions:** Gender-specific differences in the onset of alcohol dependence were confirmed. This is in line with the telescoping effect, where a later onset and a more rapid development of dependence in women were described. Under the assumption of a gradual development of consequential organ damage, brain atrophy seems to develop faster in women. As shown in other organs (i.e., heart, muscle, liver), this may confirm a higher vulnerability to alcohol among women.

**Key Words:** Alcohol Dependence, Brain Atrophy, Computed Tomography Scans, Gender Differences, Telescoping Effect.

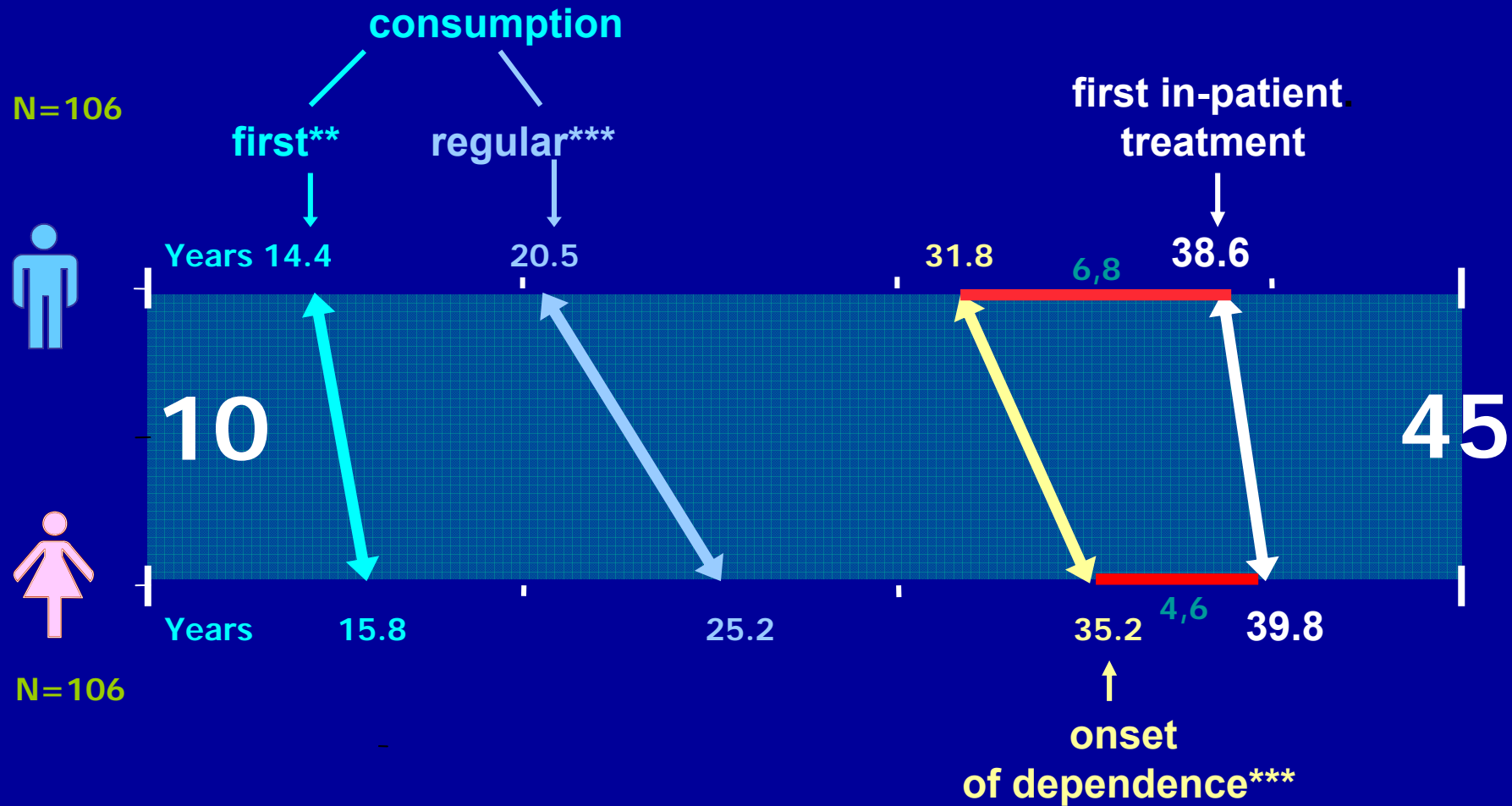
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## Brain volume men vs women (N =147)



km 6.98

# Developmental Course of alcohol dependence in women and men

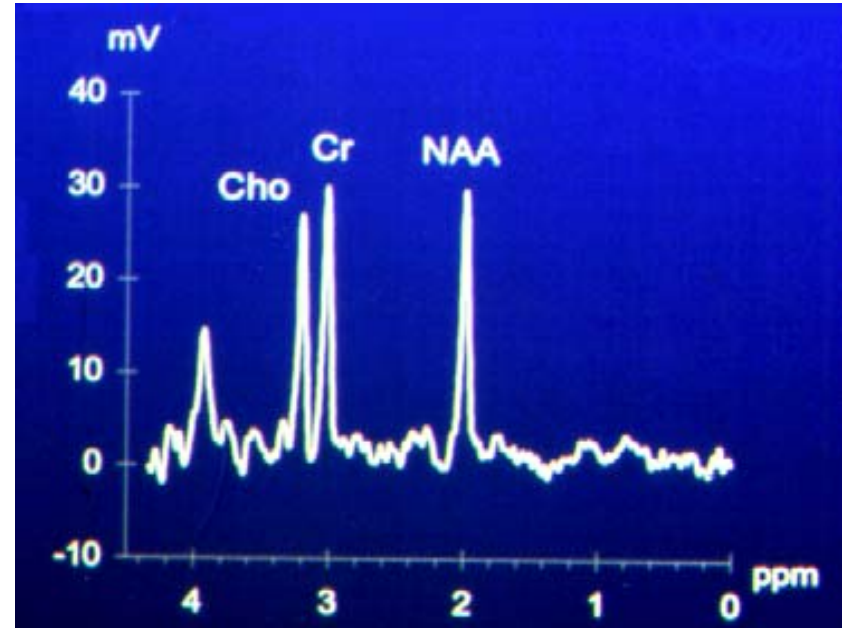




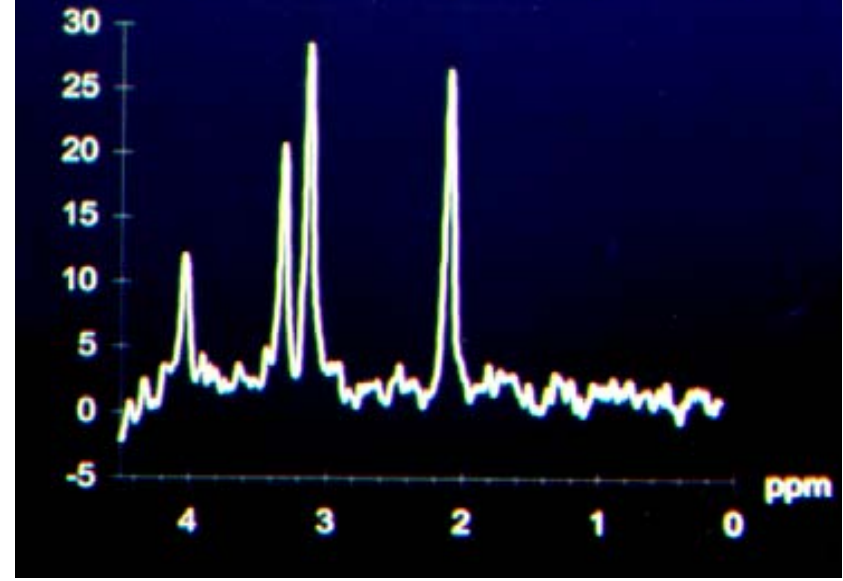


# Results: spectroscopy alcohol dependence (TE 135ms)

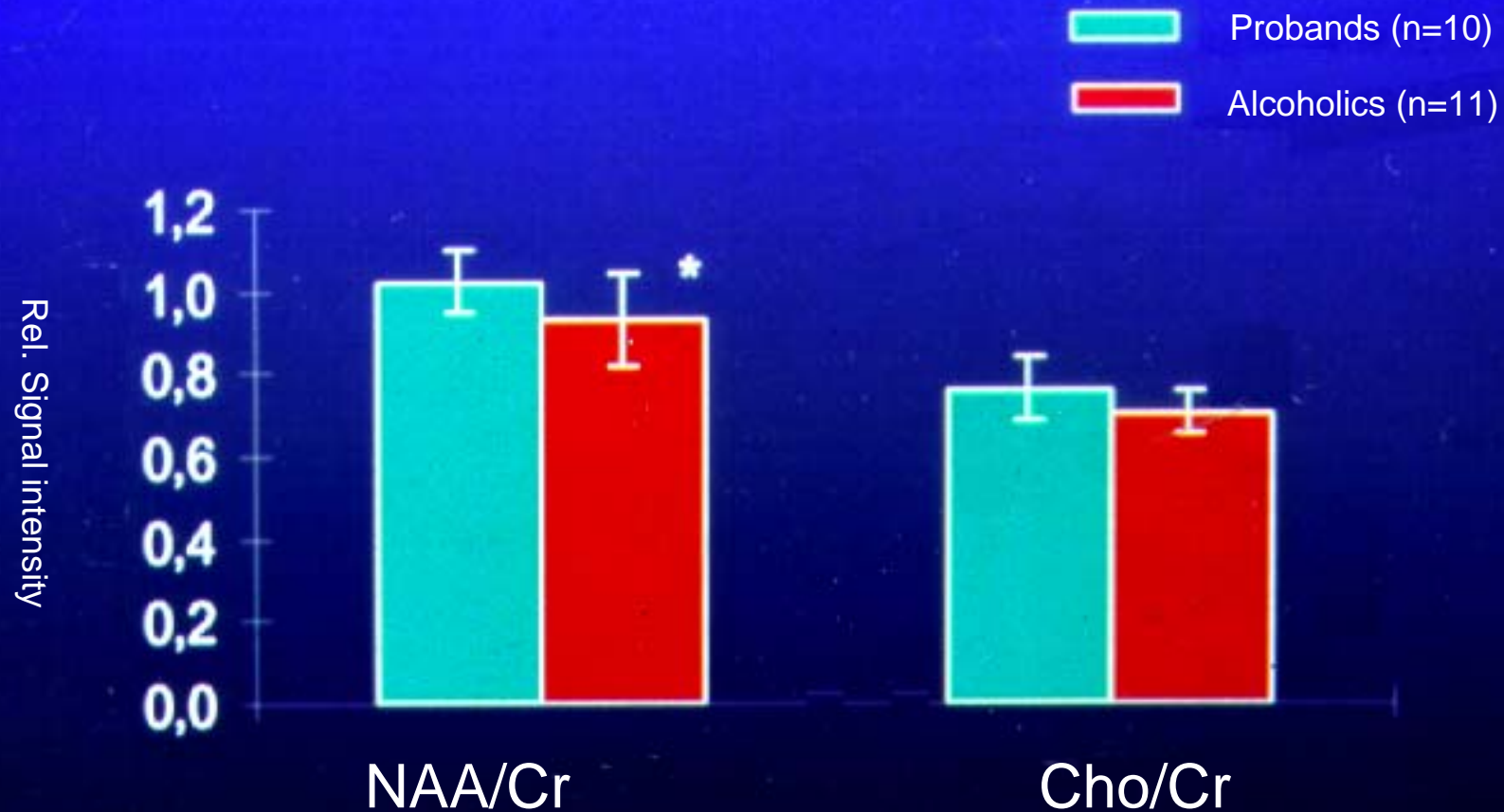
Control



Alcohol dependence

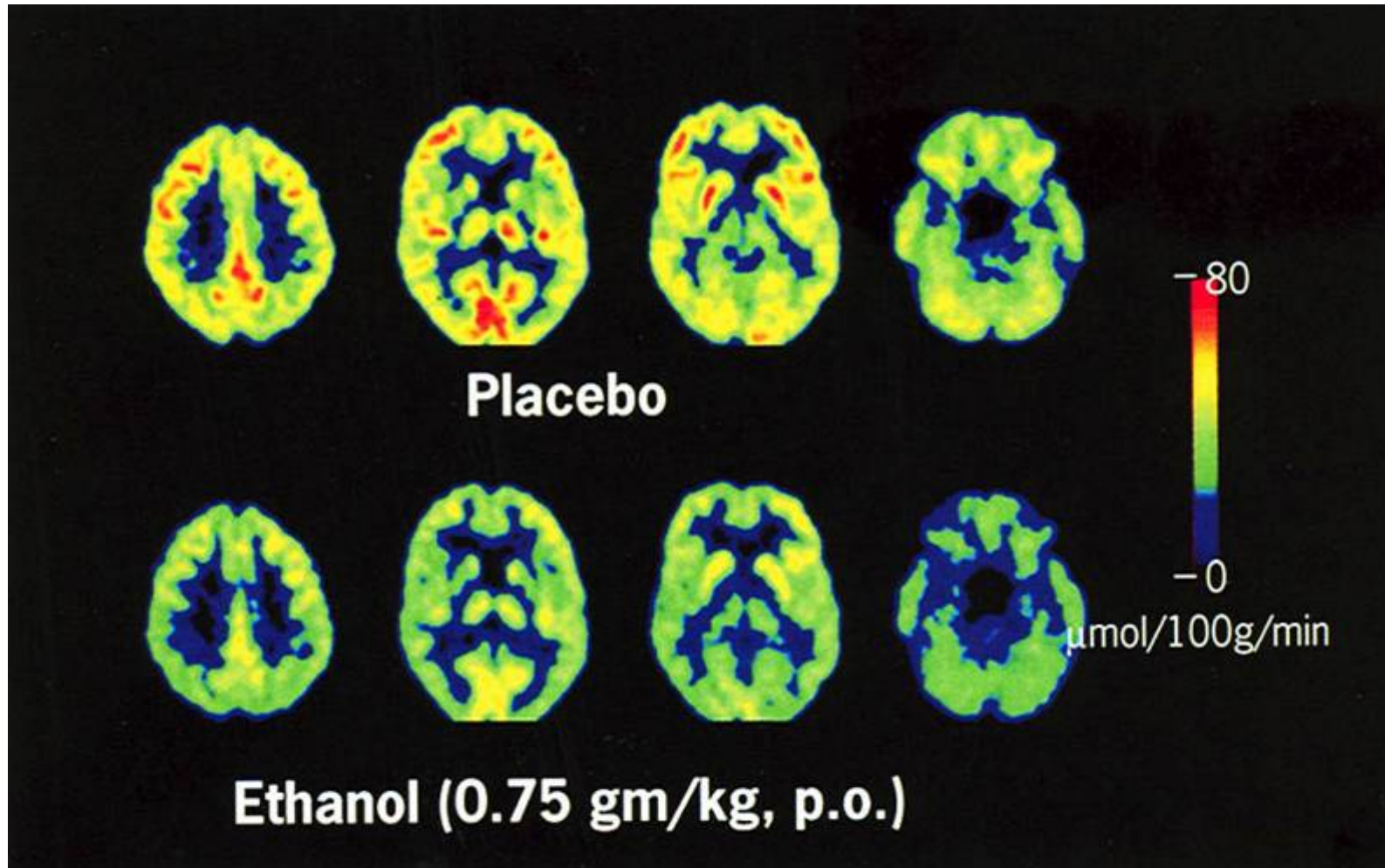


# H-Spectroscopy cerebellum (TE 135ms)



\*significant ( $p < 0,05$ )

# Fluorodeoxyglucose (FDG)-PET images of normal subject after placebo (diet soda) and ethanol (0.75 g/kg)



# DA D<sub>2</sub> receptors in alcoholics

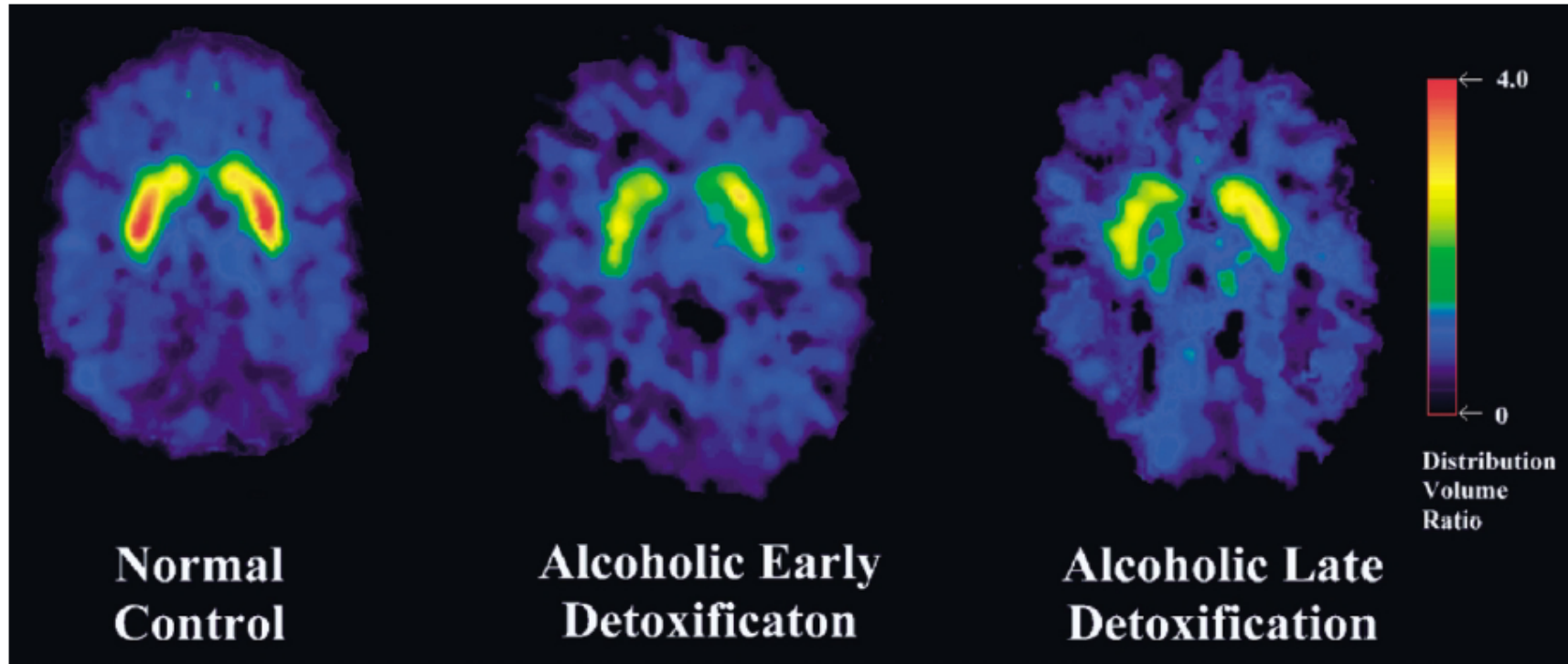


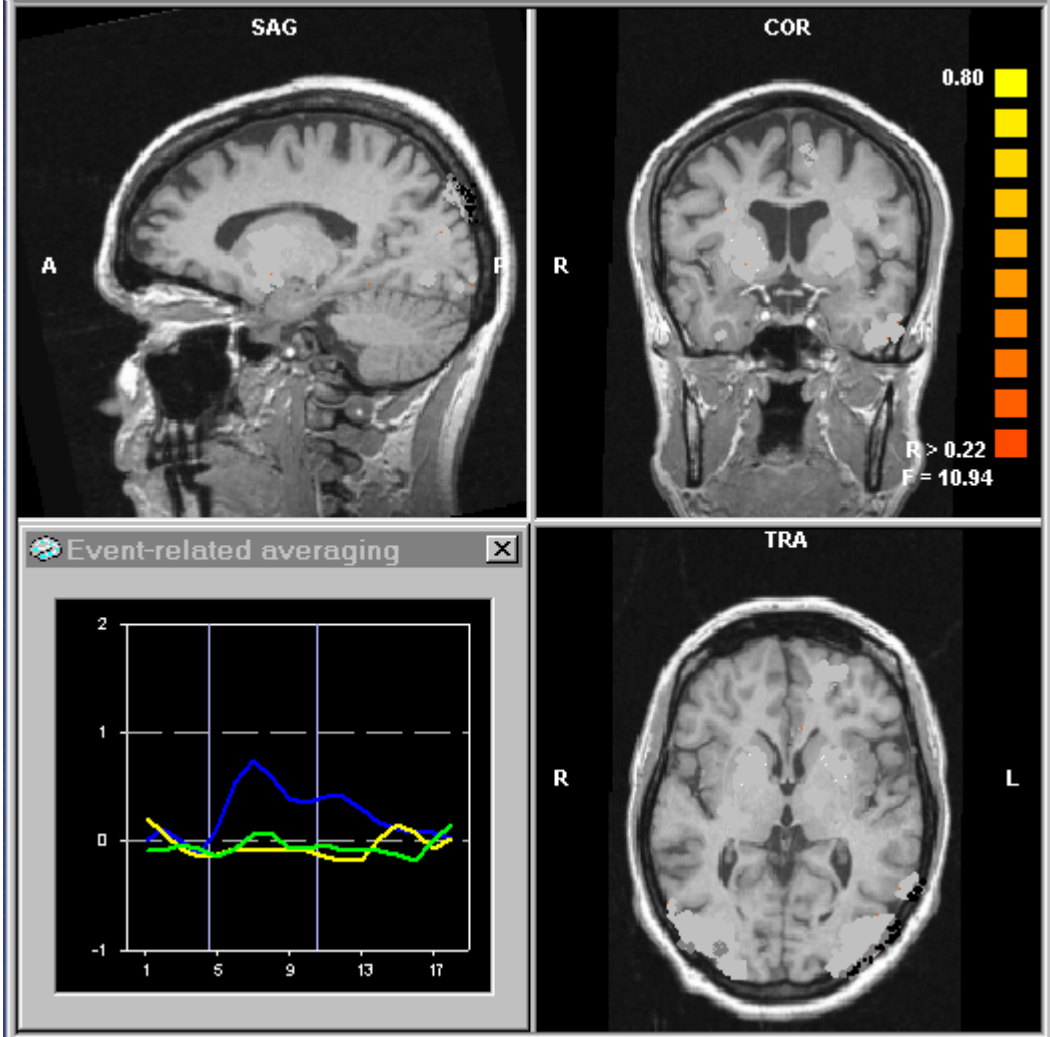
Fig. 1. DV ratio images for [<sup>11</sup>C]raclopride in a normal control and in an alcoholic tested during early and late detoxification at the level of the striatum. These images were obtained with a CTI PET scanner.

# Alcoholic drinks



# Cue reactivity

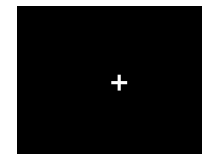
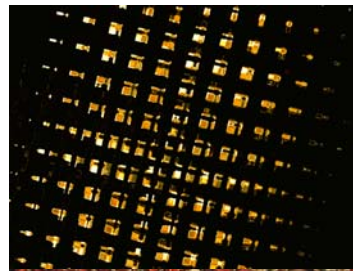
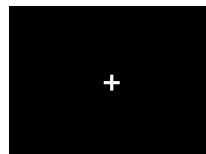
- Autonomic, cognitive & behavioral responses to drug-related stimuli
- Pairing of drug effects and withdrawal effects with environmental stimuli during development of dependence (classical conditioning)
- Cues control drug seeking and drug taking behavior
- Relevant for maintenance of drug dependence





# Methods: fMRI

- 1.5 Tesla MR-scanner (Siemens Vision)
- presentation of stimuli in a block design (~11 min)



3 alcohol cues  
(each 6.6 s)  
5 blocks à 19.8 s

fixation-cross  
19.8 s

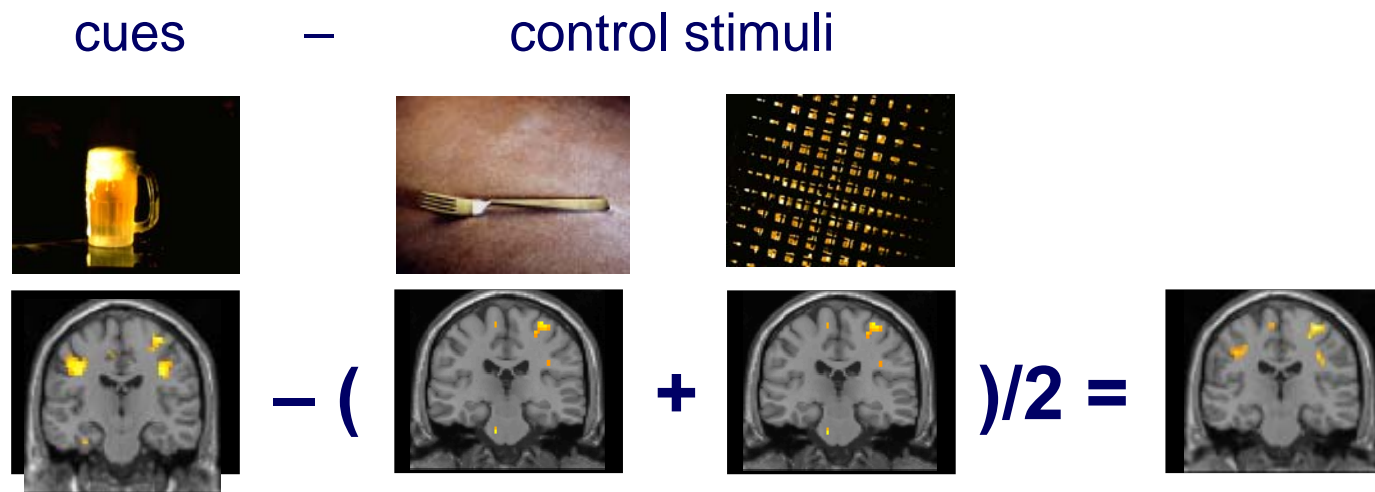
3 abstract stimuli  
(each 6.6 s)  
5 blocks à 19.8 s

fixation-cross  
19.8 s

3 neutral stimuli  
(each 6.6 s)  
5 blocks à 19.8 s

# Analysis of fMRI data

- Analyses with SPM
- Preprocessing (realignment, normalization)
- Computation of individual contrast images:



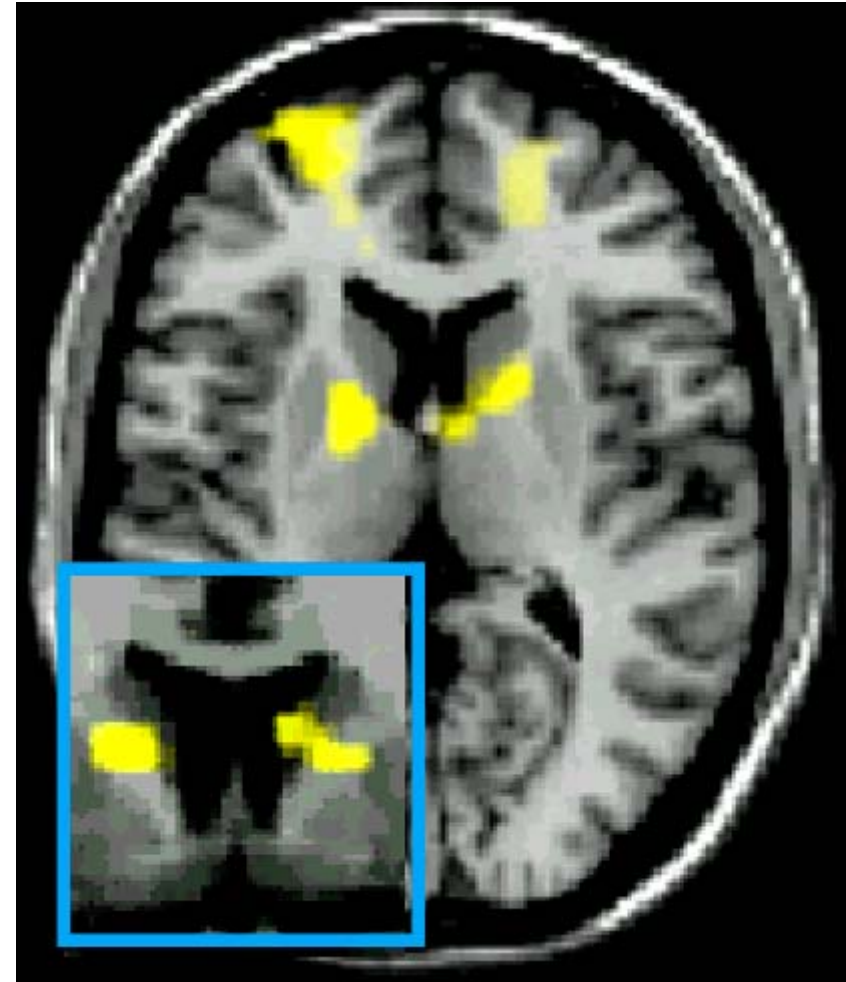
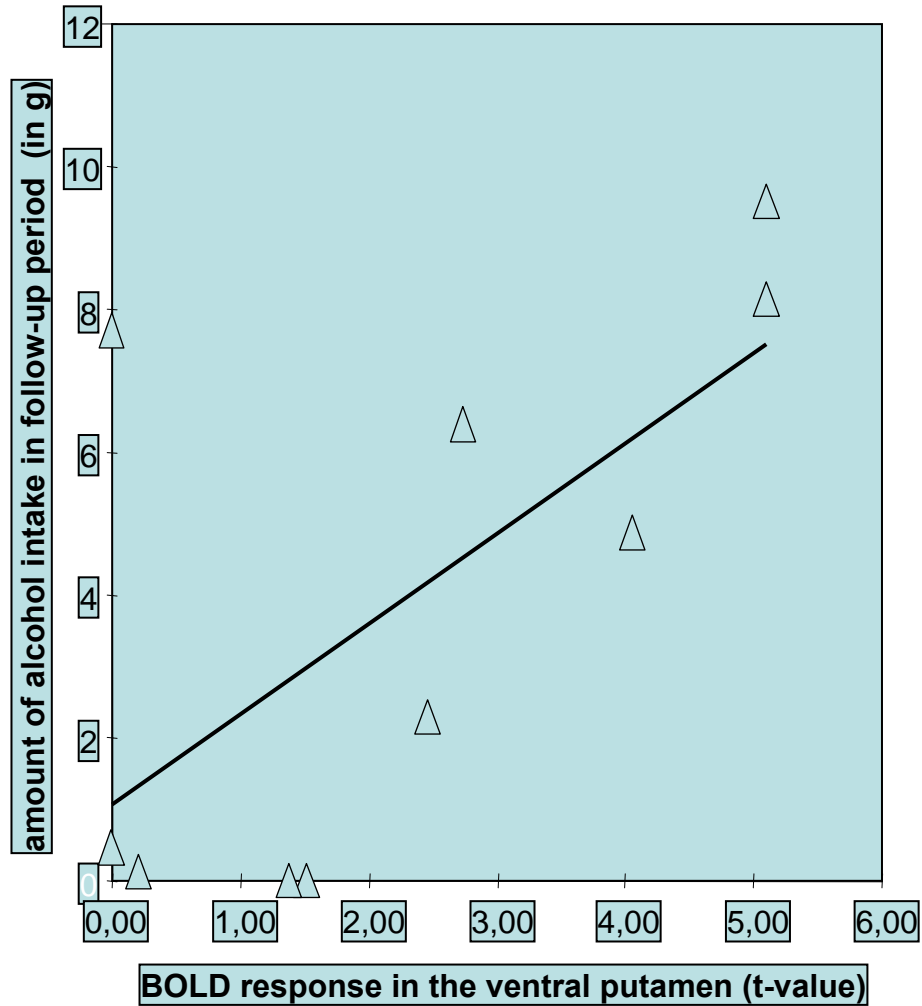
- Correlation of the BOLD response with different variables

# Reactivity to alcohol cues: fMRI studies

- Cue-elicited brain activity consistently found in the
  - striatum
  - amygdala
  - anterior cingulate
  - prefrontal cortex
  - insula

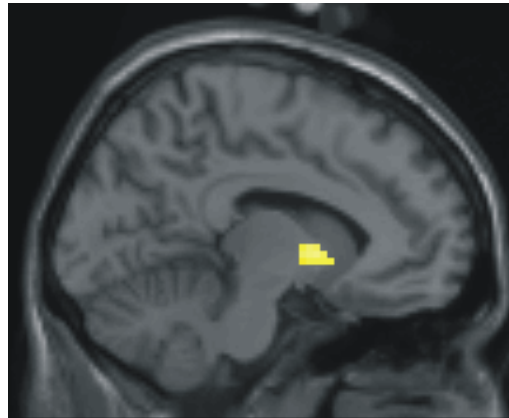
(Braus *et al* 2001; George *et al* 2001; Schneider *et al* 2001; Wrase *et al* 2002; Tapert *et al* 2003; Grüsser *et al* 2004; Myrick *et al* 2004; Tapert *et al* 2004)

# Activation and Course

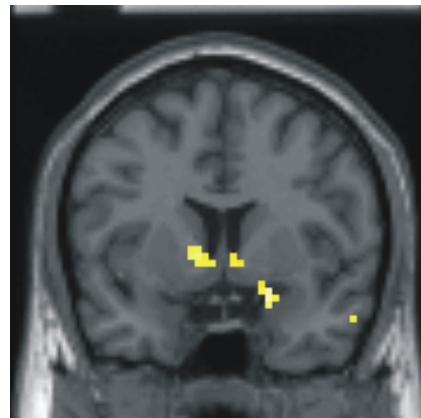


Single Patient  
**alcohol > neutral**  
 $p < .001$ ,  $k \geq 10$

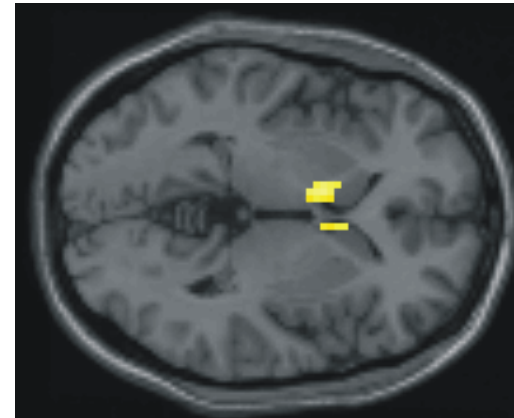
Baseline



$x = -9$

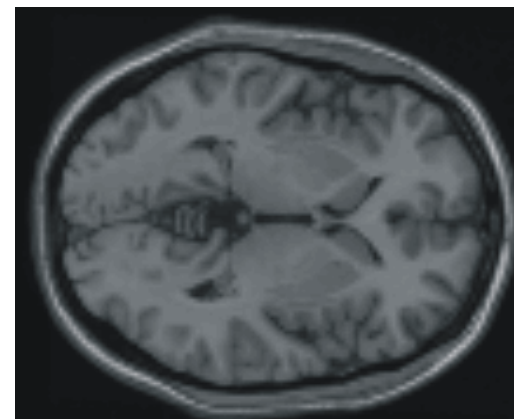
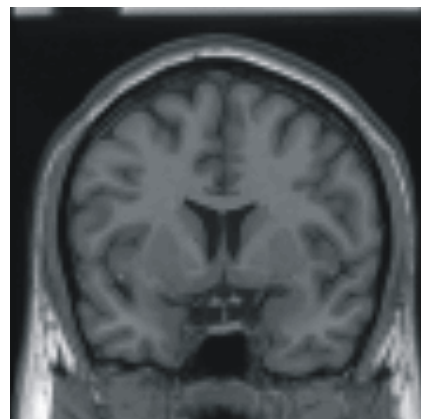
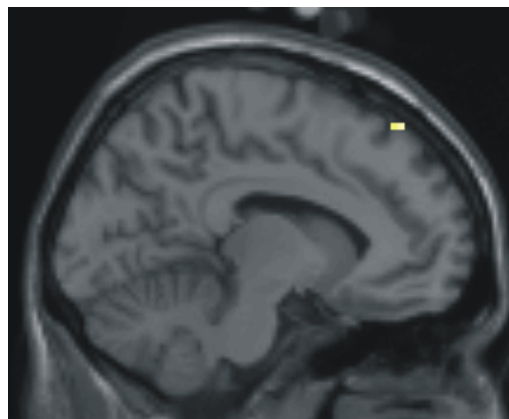


$y = 6$



$z = 0$

Visit 2

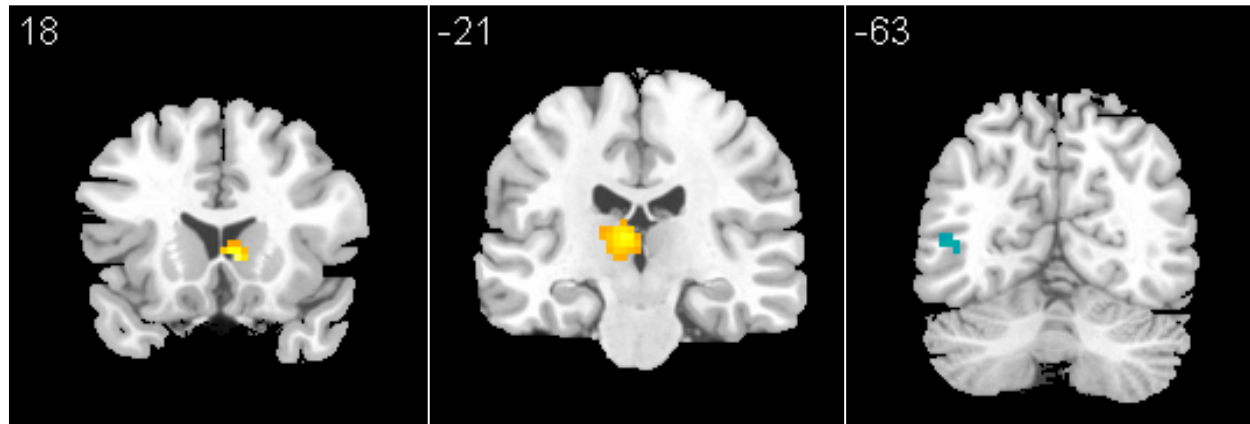


# Changes During Treatment

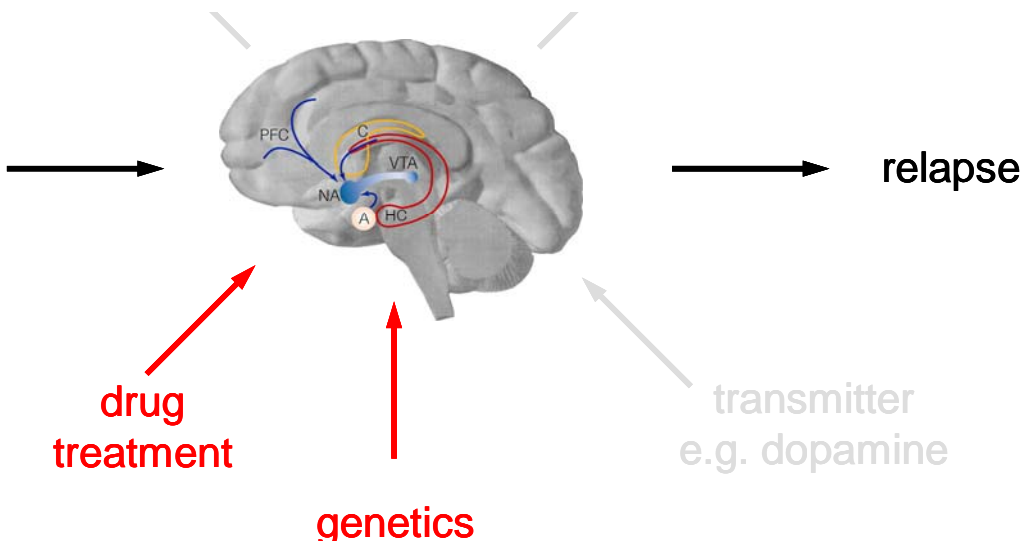
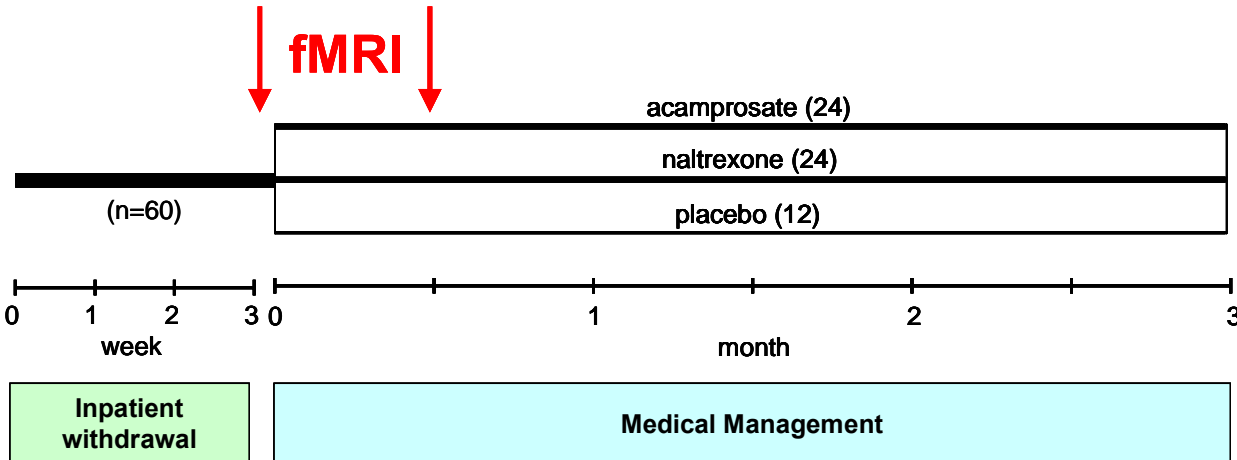
Average of 32 patients, changes over time

Baseline vs. visit 2

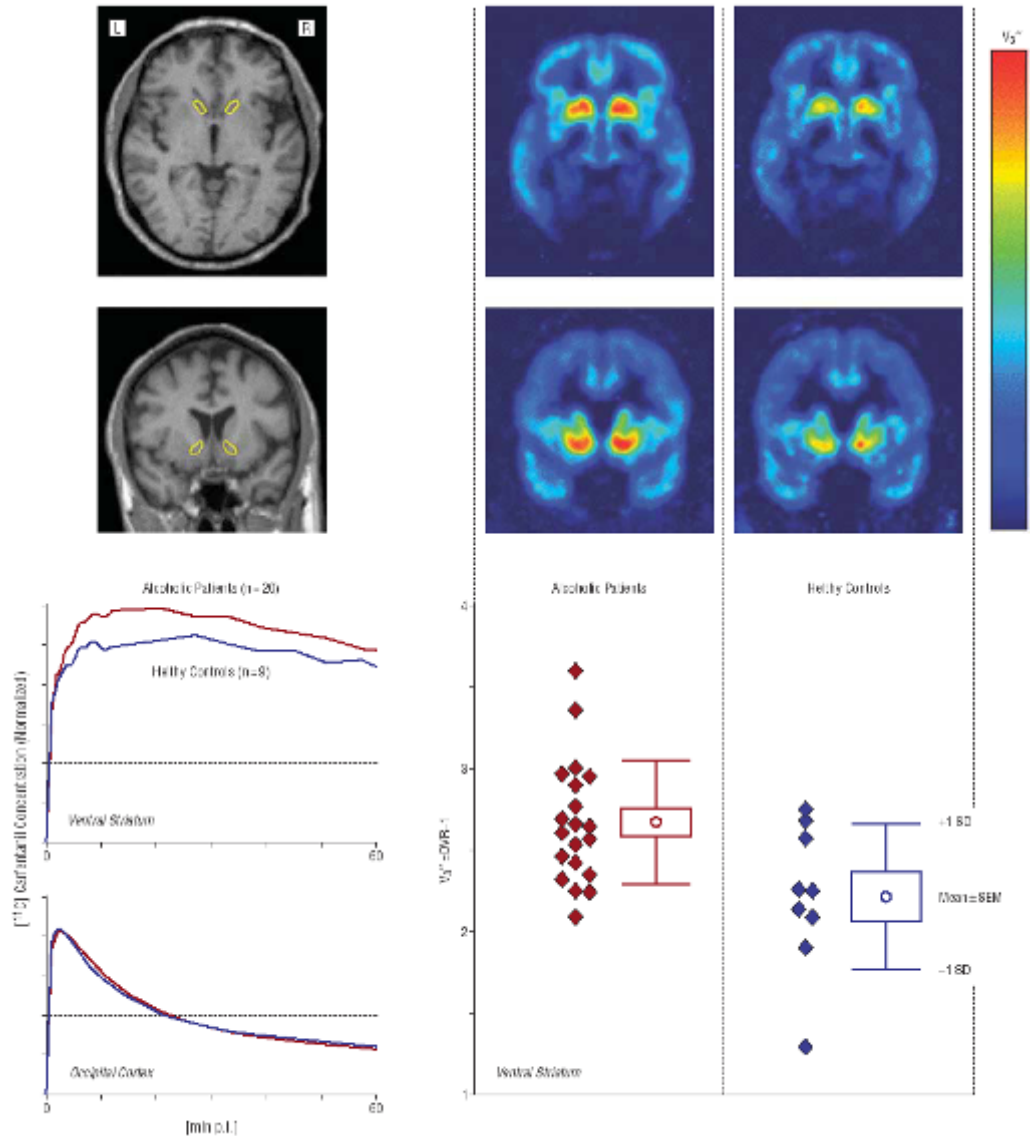
$p \leq 0.005$ ;  $K_E \geq 10$



# Next steps / study design: project predict



# Central $\mu$ -opiate receptor availability ( $V_3''$ ).

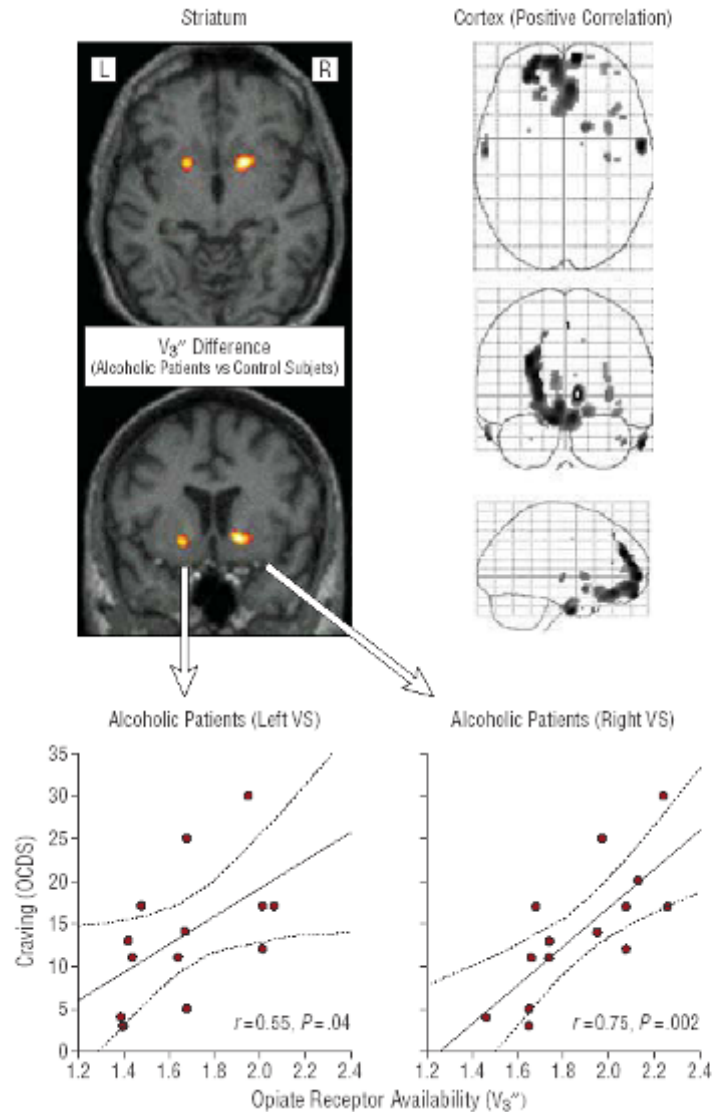


ROIs for the ventral striatum, including the nucleus accumbens

ROI analysis: interindividually averages time activity curves, normalized to occipital area under curve



# Correlation between V<sub>3</sub>“ and alcohol craving



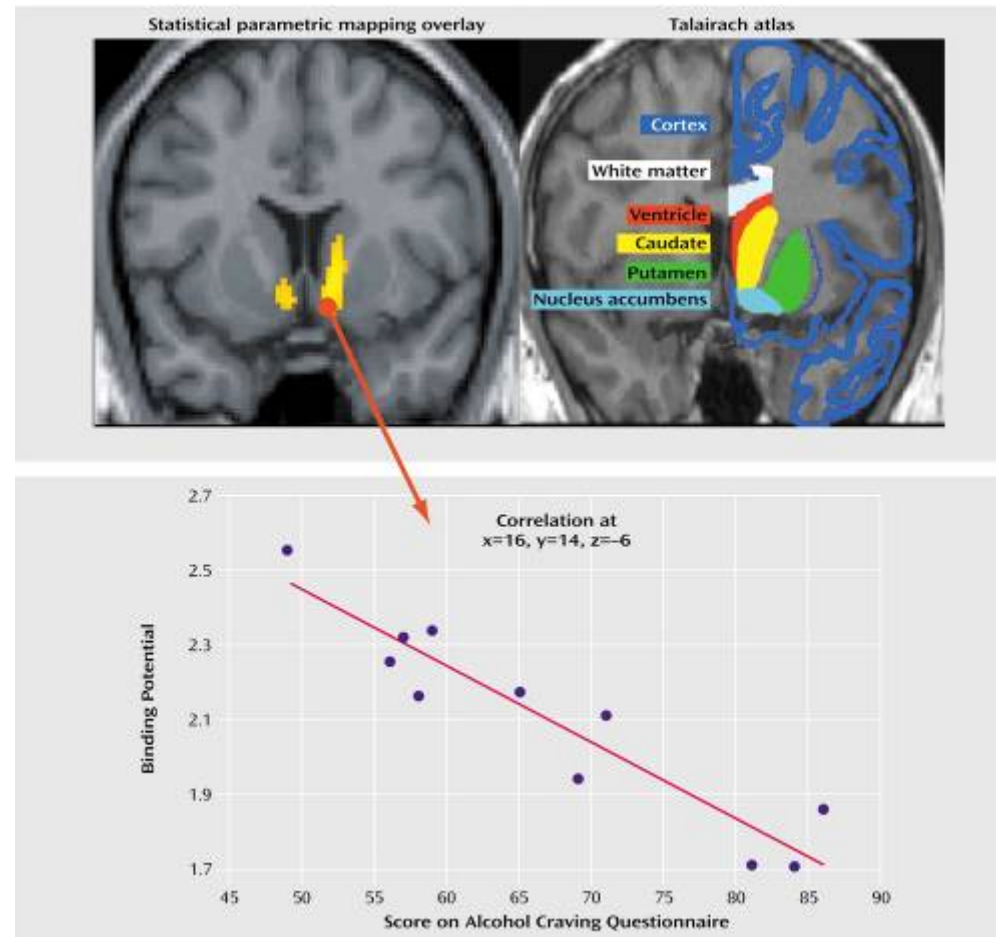
Left, absolute group difference in V<sub>3</sub>“ between alcoholic patients and control subjects (top).

Right, SPM analysis of correlation between V<sub>3</sub>“ and OCDS (voxel-level threshold:  $P<.001, t>3.93$ ). The large cluster in the left frontal cortex survived correction for the entire volume (corrected  $P<.001$ ).

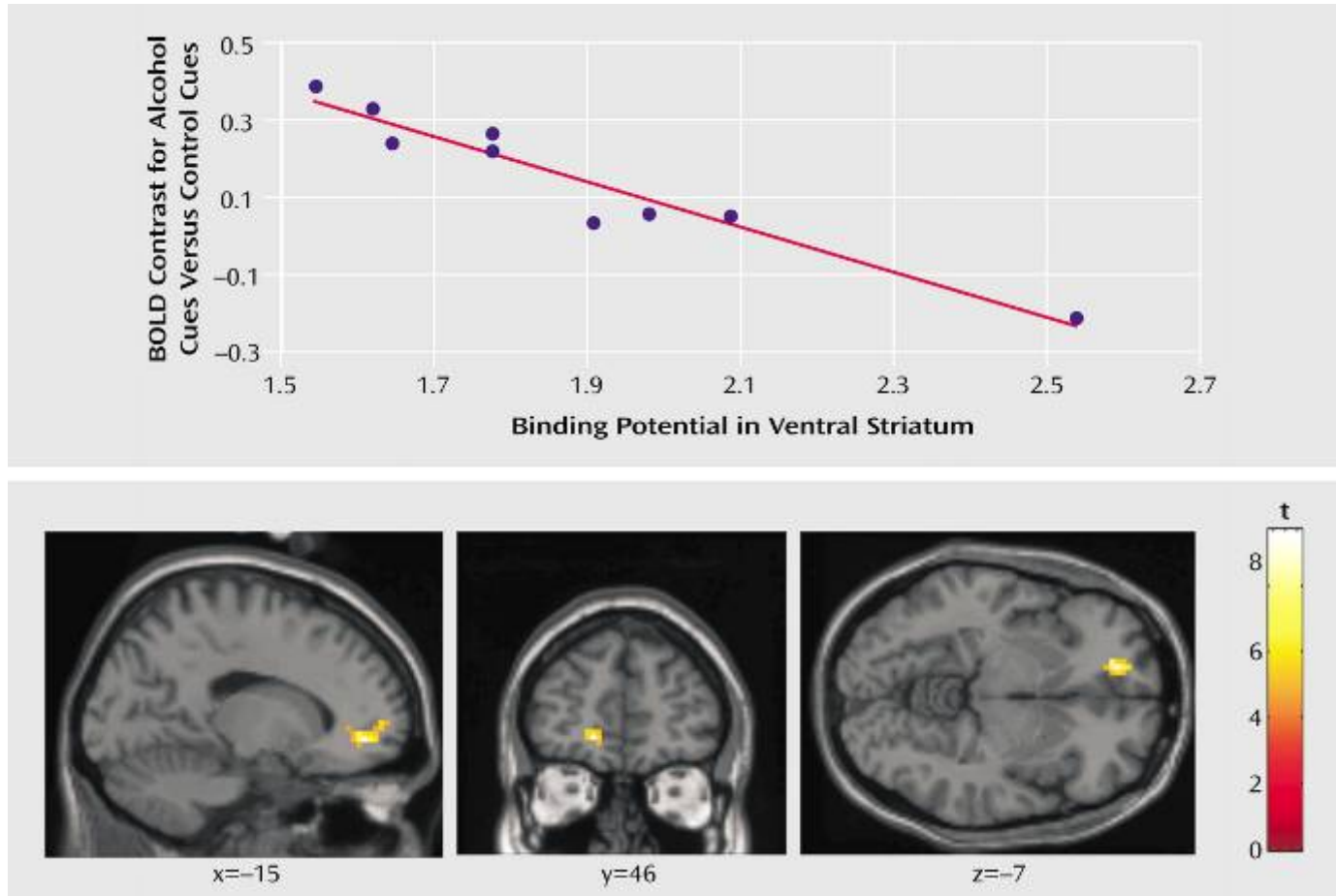
# DRD2 availability & cue reactivity

- 11 males
  - Age:  $45 \pm 7$  years
  - Alcohol dependent (DSM-IV)
  - Abstinent for at least 2 weeks
  - Free of any medications for at least 1 week
  - [ $^{18}\text{F}$ ]-DMFP PET, fMRI, ACQ
- 
- 13 Control subjects (matched for age and gender)

# DRD2 availability & craving



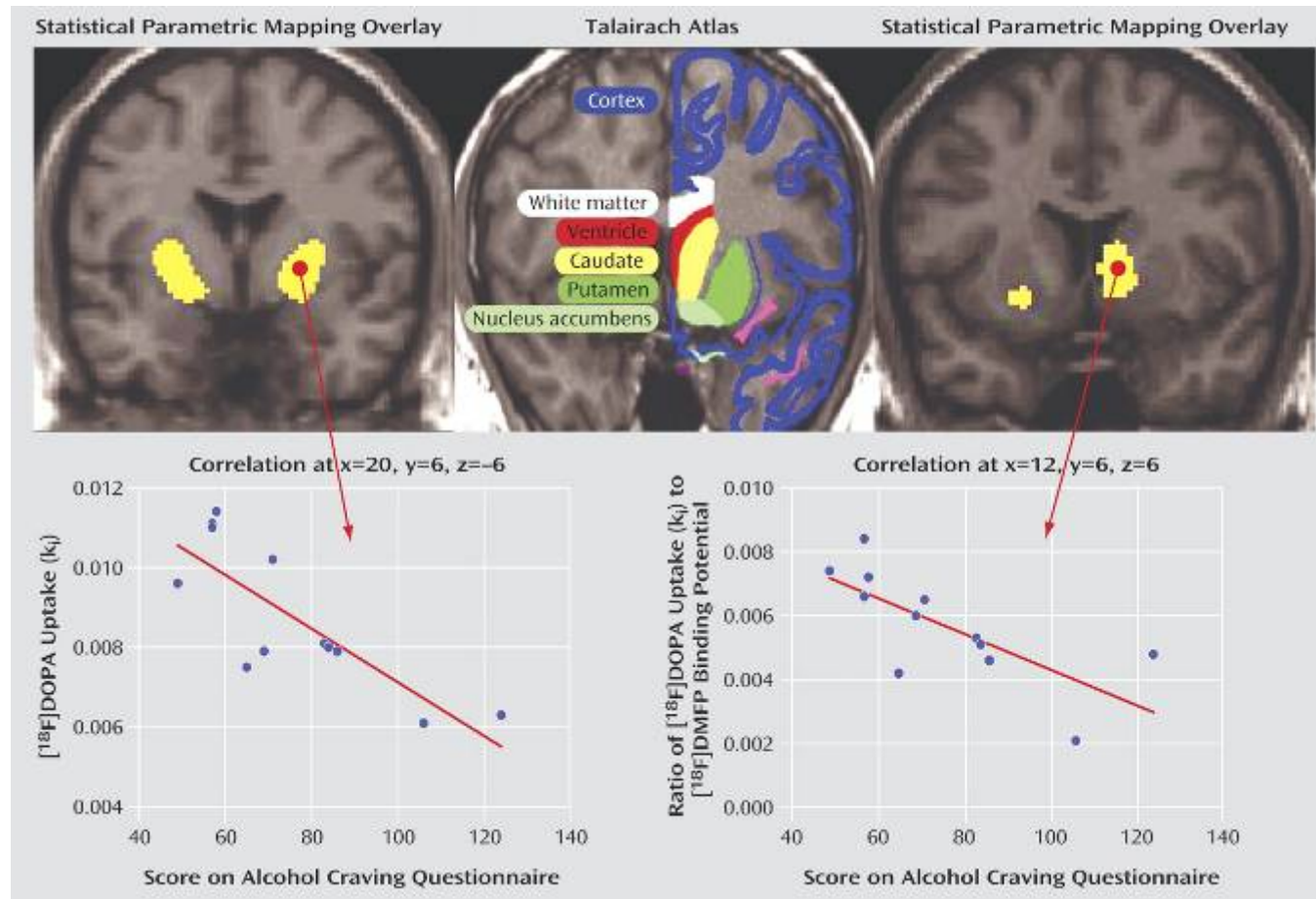
# DRD2 availability & neuronal cue reactivity



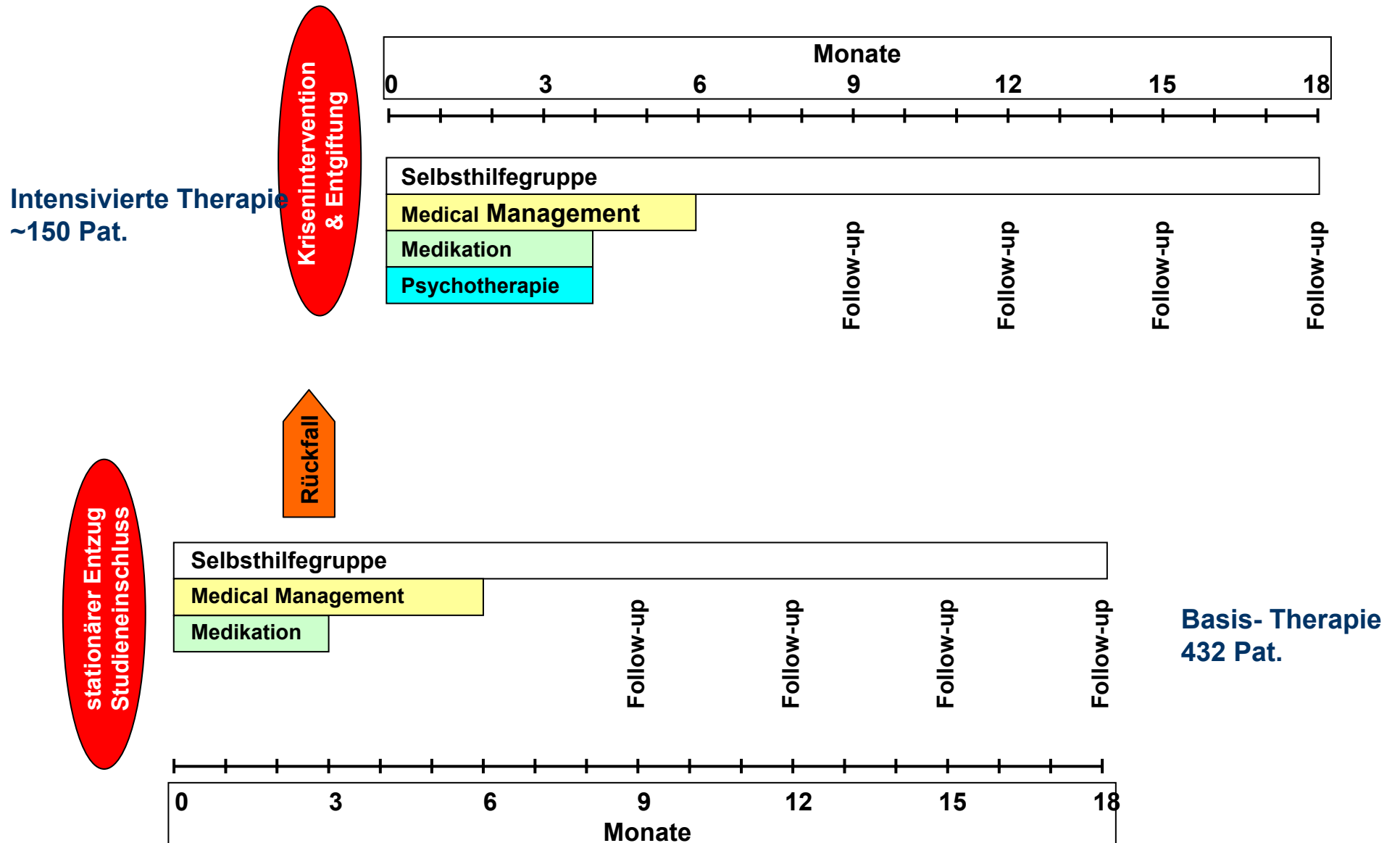
# DA synthesis capacity & cue reactivity

- 12 males
- Age:  $43 \pm 8$  years
- Alcohol dependent (DSM-IV)
- Abstinent for at least 2 weeks
- Free of any medications for at least 1 week
- [ $^{18}\text{F}$ ]-DOPA PET, fMRI, ACQ
  
- 13 Control subjects (matched for age and gender)

# DA synthesis capacity & craving



# Therapieschema Project Predict



# Summary / Discussion

- Neuronal cue reactivity associated with treatment response
  - ⇒ Replication (larger sample, other drugs)
  - ⇒ Identification of patients at high risk
  - ⇒ Effects of treatment (drugs, psychotherapy)



# Project Predict Research Group

## Steering Committee

PI: Karl Mann  
Co PI: Michael Smolka  
Coordinator: Falk Kiefer  
Ulrich Zimmermann  
Biometry: Stefan Wellek  
Freiburg: Michael Berner  
Riggo Brueck  
Martin Härter  
Tübingen: Anil Batra  
Mannheim: Bernhardt Croissant  
Alexander Diehl  
Wiesloch: Barbara Richter  
Matthias Kluge  
Emmendingen: Friedemann Hagenbuch

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Alexander Georgi  
Oliver Klein  
Simone Träger  
Anke Zimmer  
Jörg Nikitopoulos

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Karl Mann  
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Sabine Klein

## Genetics

PI: Gunter Schumann

## Preclinical Studies

PI: Rainer Spanagel

## Health Economy

PI: Hans Salize  
Co-workers: Silke Merkel  
Klaus Stamm

## Monitoring

Martin Wehling  
Armin Schultz