

# Subjective cognitive decline as the first symptom of Alzheimer's Disease

Frank Jessen, MD

Department of Psychiatry

Clinical Research and Treatment Center for Neurodegenerative Diseases (KBFZ)

University of Bonn

German Center for Neurodegenerative Diseases (DZNE)

# Disclosure

Within the last five years:

Advisor fee: AC Immune, Via Med, Janssen Cilag,

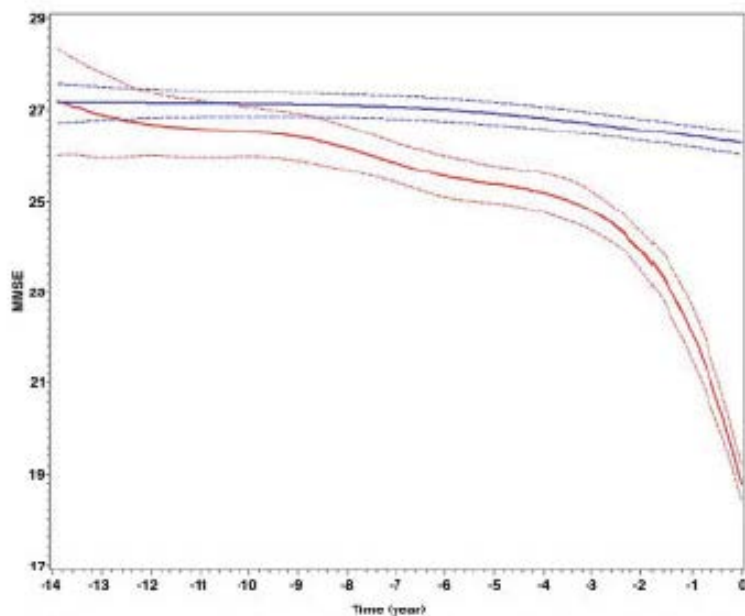
Novartis, GE Healthcare, Lilly, Piramal Imaging, Roche,

UCB, Astra Zeneca, Schwabe, Nutricia, Octapharma

Speaker fee: Pfizer, Esai, Novartis, GE Healthcare

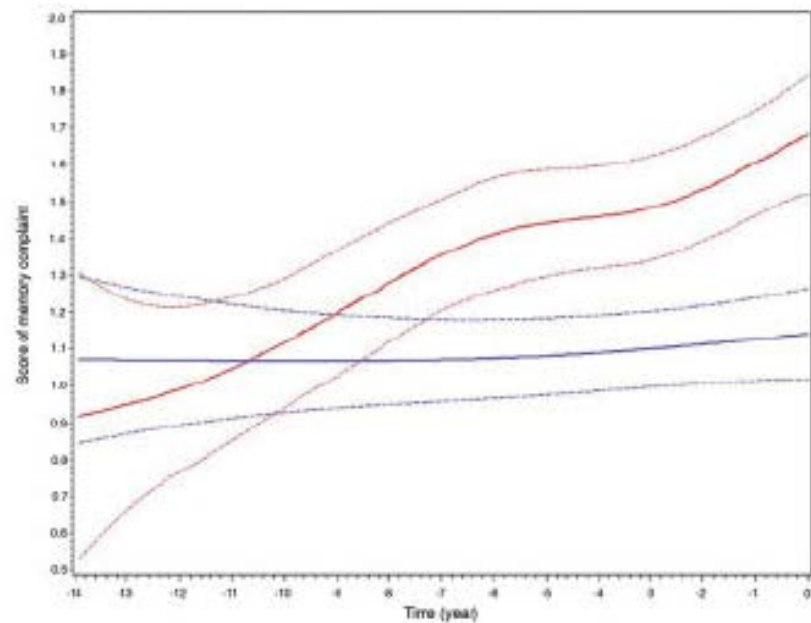
# Cognitive performance and cognitive complaints before AD onset

PAQUID study, n=3.477, age >65 J., 14 years follow-up



AD cases	25	91	129	159	175	210	308	344
Controls	24	101	144	173	186	217	303	348

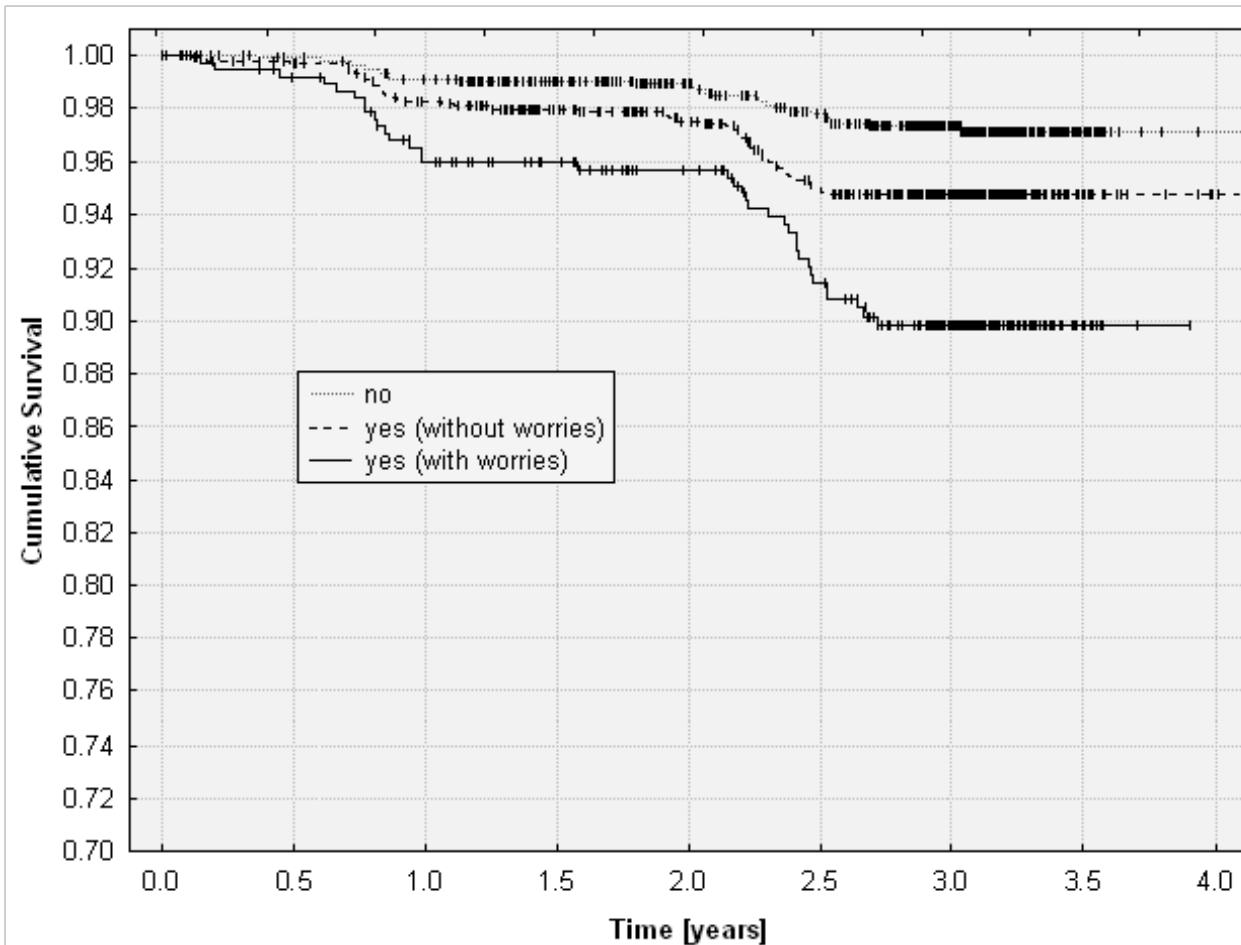
MMSE



AD cases	35	85	125	155	170	200	287	298
Controls	34	88	140	167	182	209	292	336

Cognitive complaints

# Subjective decline in memory as a risk indicator of AD



*AgeCoDe*  
*n=2.423,*  
*cognitively normal*  
*36 months follow-up*

***SCD without worries***

**HR: 3.04**

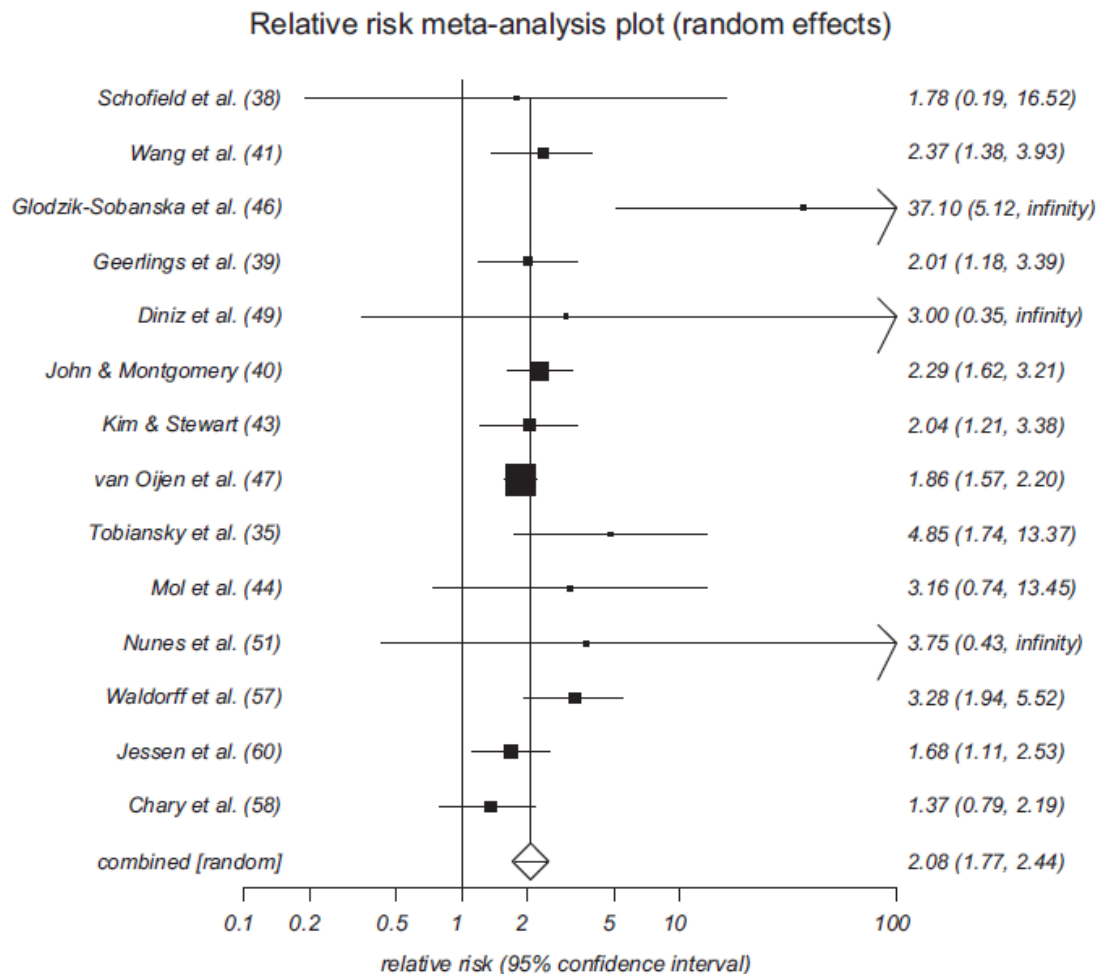
**CI: 1.36-6.81**

***SCD with worries***

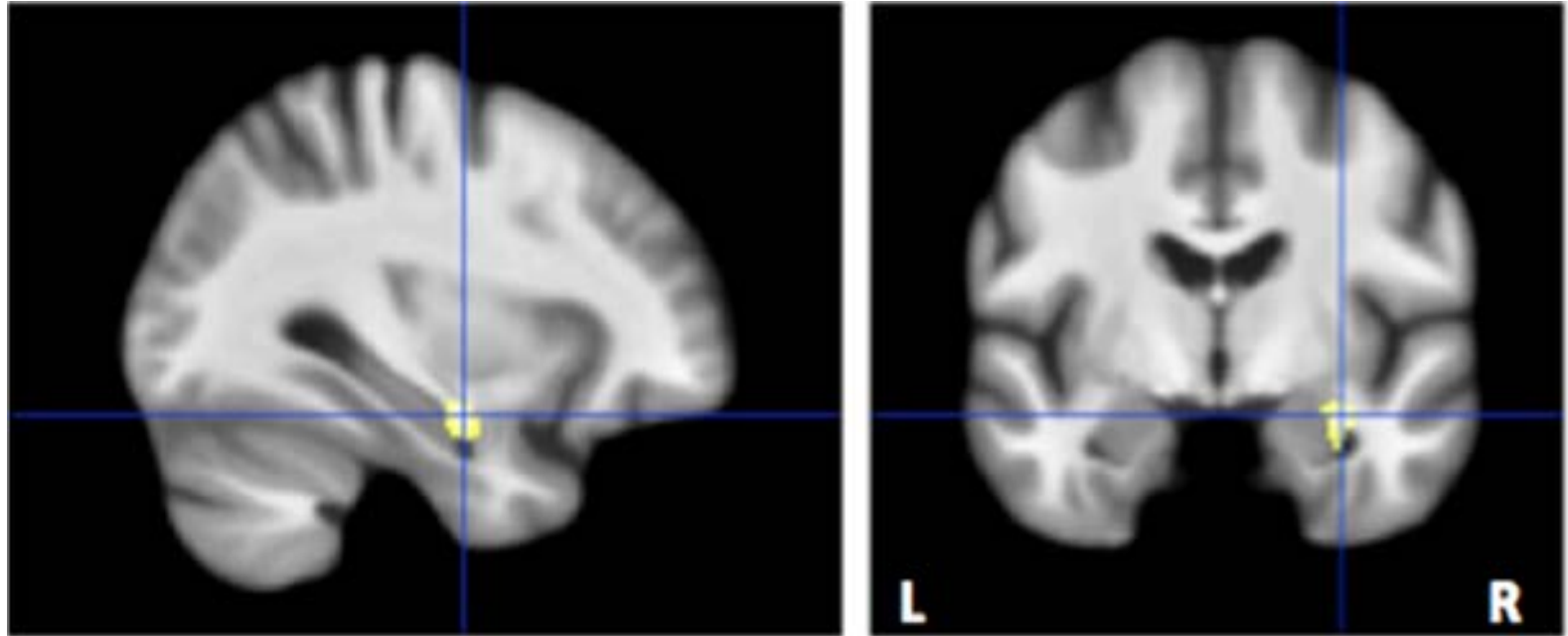
**HR: 6.54**

**CI: 2.82-15.20**

# Meta-analysis of risk of dementia in subjective cognitive decline (SCD) in epidemiological studies



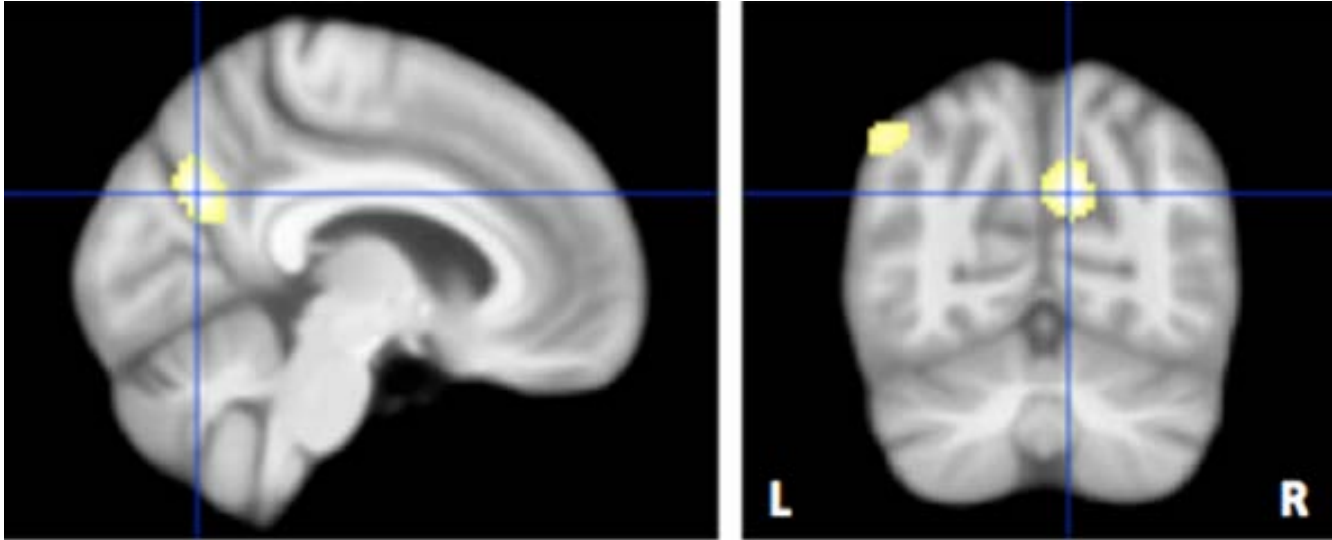
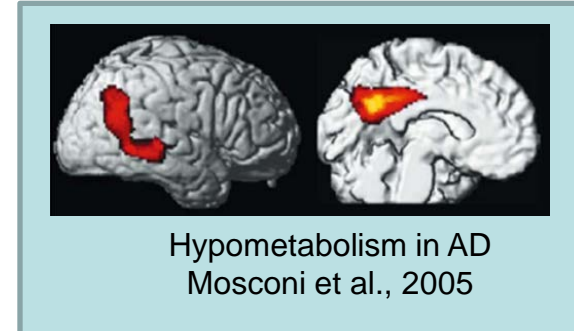
# Voxel-based morphometry (VBM) in SMI



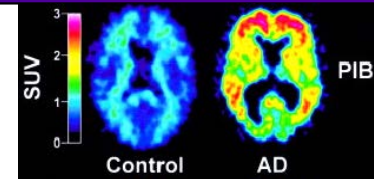
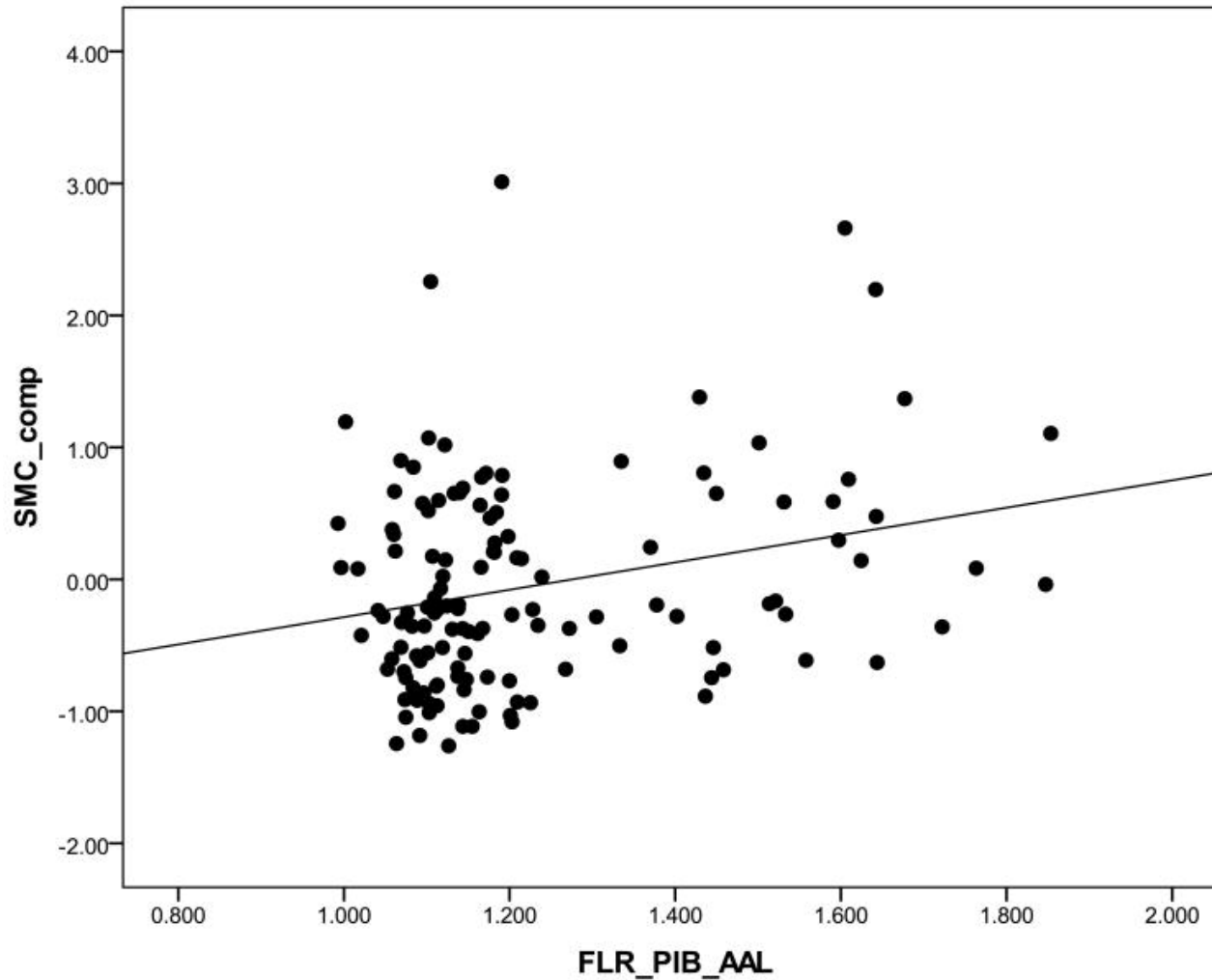
CO > SMI:  $p < 0.001$ , whole brain, uncorrected;  $p < 0.05$ , FWE – SVC (MTL)

# Glucose metabolism in SMI (FDG-PET)

CO > SMI:  
 $p < 0.001$ , whole brain, uncorrected  
 $p < 0.05$ , FWE - SVC (precuneus)



# Amyloid deposition and SCD

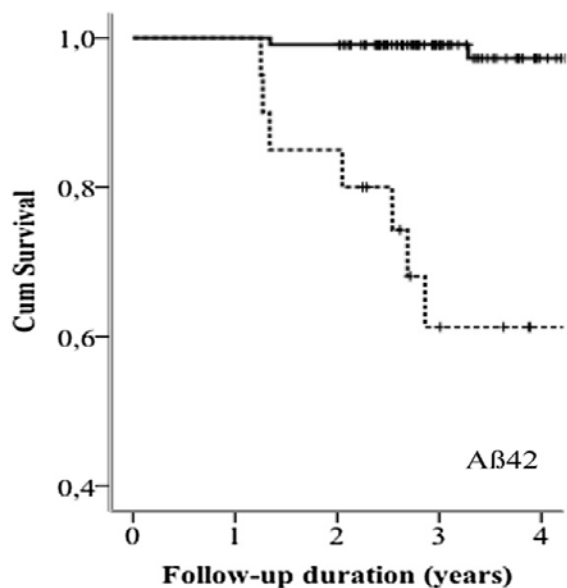


Klung et al., Ann Neurol., 2004



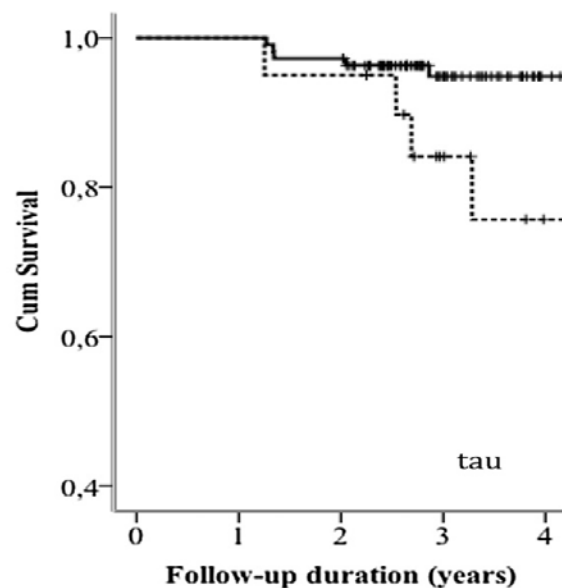
# Prediction of MCI and dementia by CSF markers of AD in SCD

HR: 16



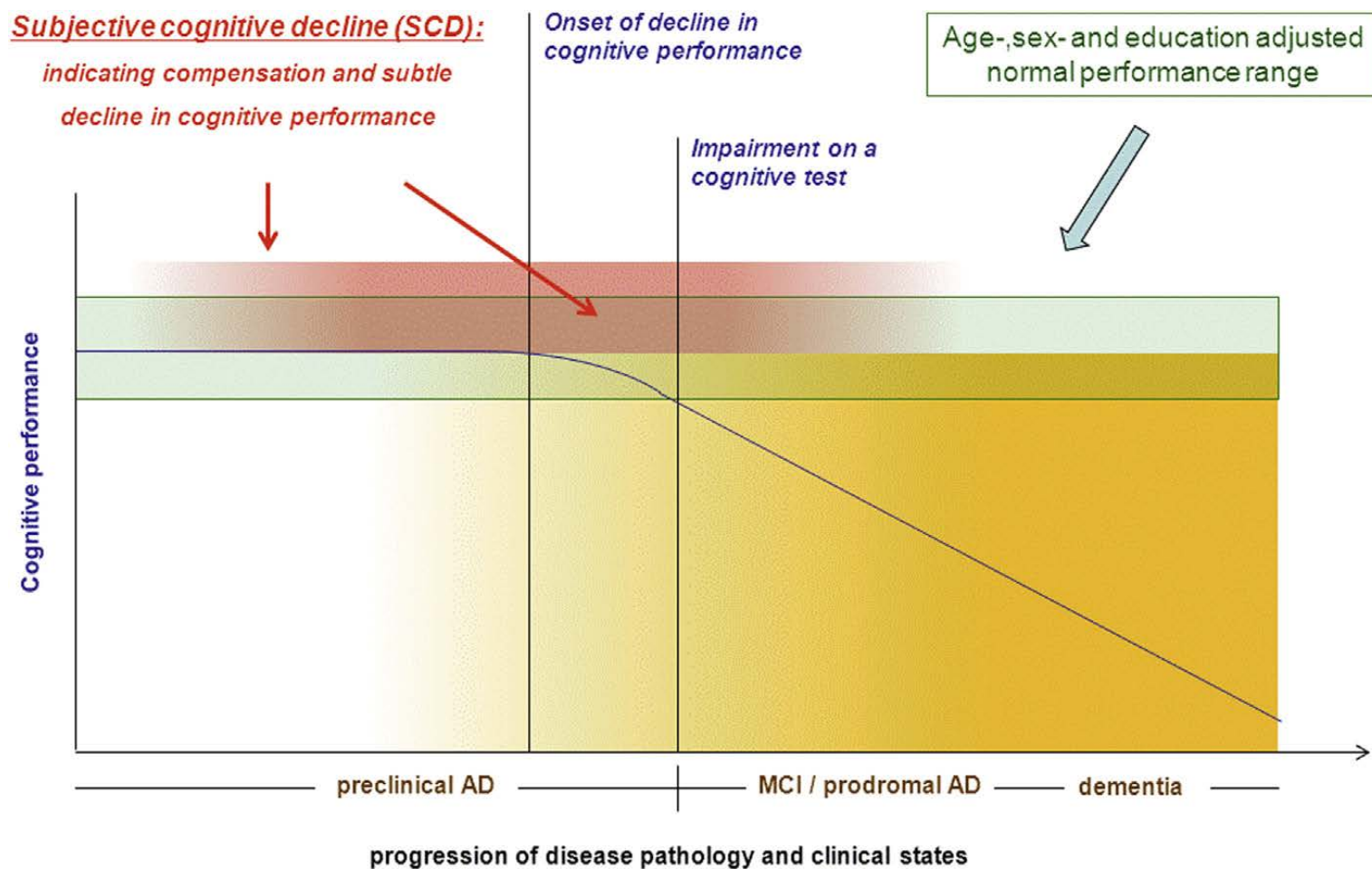
AB42	Numbers entering interval:		
>550 ng/l	108	107	35
<550 ng/l	20	17	5

HR: 2.8



tau	Numbers entering interval:		
<375 ng/l	108	105	33
>375 ng/l	20	19	7

# Conceptual framework for research on SCD in preclinical AD



# Research criteria for subjective cognitive decline (SCD) in preclinical AD

- Self-experienced persistent decline in cognitive capacity in comparison with a previously normal status, and not related to an acute event
- Normal age-, gender- and education-adjusted performance on standardized cognitive tests, which are used to classify mild cognitive impairment (MCI) or prodromal AD
- 1 and 2 must be present

## Exclusion criteria

- Mild cognitive impairment, prodromal AD, dementia
  - Can be explained by a psychiatric\* or neurological disease (apart from Alzheimer's disease) or by a medical disorder or by medication or by substance use
- \*individual symptoms of depression or anxiety, which do reach the threshold of a disorder, are not considered exclusion criteria*

# Features that increase the likelihood of preclinical AD in SCD : **SCD *plus***

- Subjective decline in memory, rather than in other domains of cognition
- Onset of SCD within the last five years
- Age at onset of SCD > 60 years
- Concerns (worries) associated with SCD
- Feeling of worse performance than other of the same age group

## *If available:*

- Confirmation of cognitive decline by an informant
- Presence of the *APOE*  $\epsilon 4$  genotype
- Biomarker evidence for AD (defines preclinical AD)

# Summary

- SCD may occur at the pre-MCI stage of AD (not in everybody)
- The presence of SCD in a subject increases the risk of future AD dementia
- SCD is not specific for AD
- The combination of SCD with AD biomarkers is a promising approach for very early identification of subjects with AD
- SCD may represent the future condition for biomarker-based AD detection and early intervention