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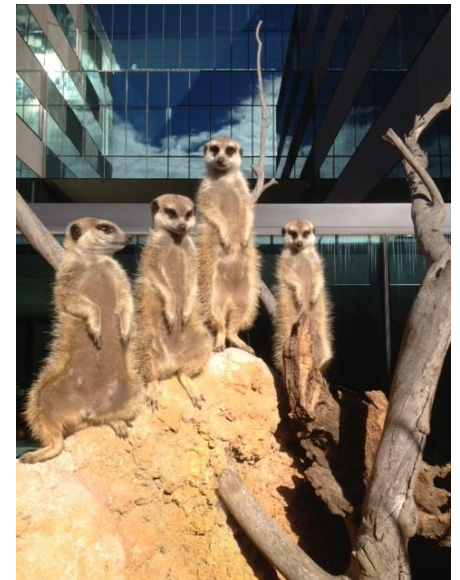
# Quality of Life in Autism and other Neurodevelopmental Disorders

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# Disclosures

- Professor Coghill served in an advisory or consultancy role for Lilly, Medice, Novartis, Shire/Takeda.
- He was paid for public speaking by Lilly, Janssen, Medice, Novartis, Shire/Takeda, Servier
- He has been involved in clinical trials conducted by Shire/Takeda.
- He received royalties from Oxford University Press.
- No funding was received in connection with the work presented in this presentation

# Agenda

- What is Quality of Life and why does it matter
- Measuring Quality of Life
  - Age
  - The proxy question
  - Domains
- Quality of Life in Autism, ADHD and other disorders
- Relationship symptoms and QoL (and cognition)
- Ongoing issues and conclusions

What is Quality of Life  
and why does it matter?

# Functional impairment / QoL

Symptoms

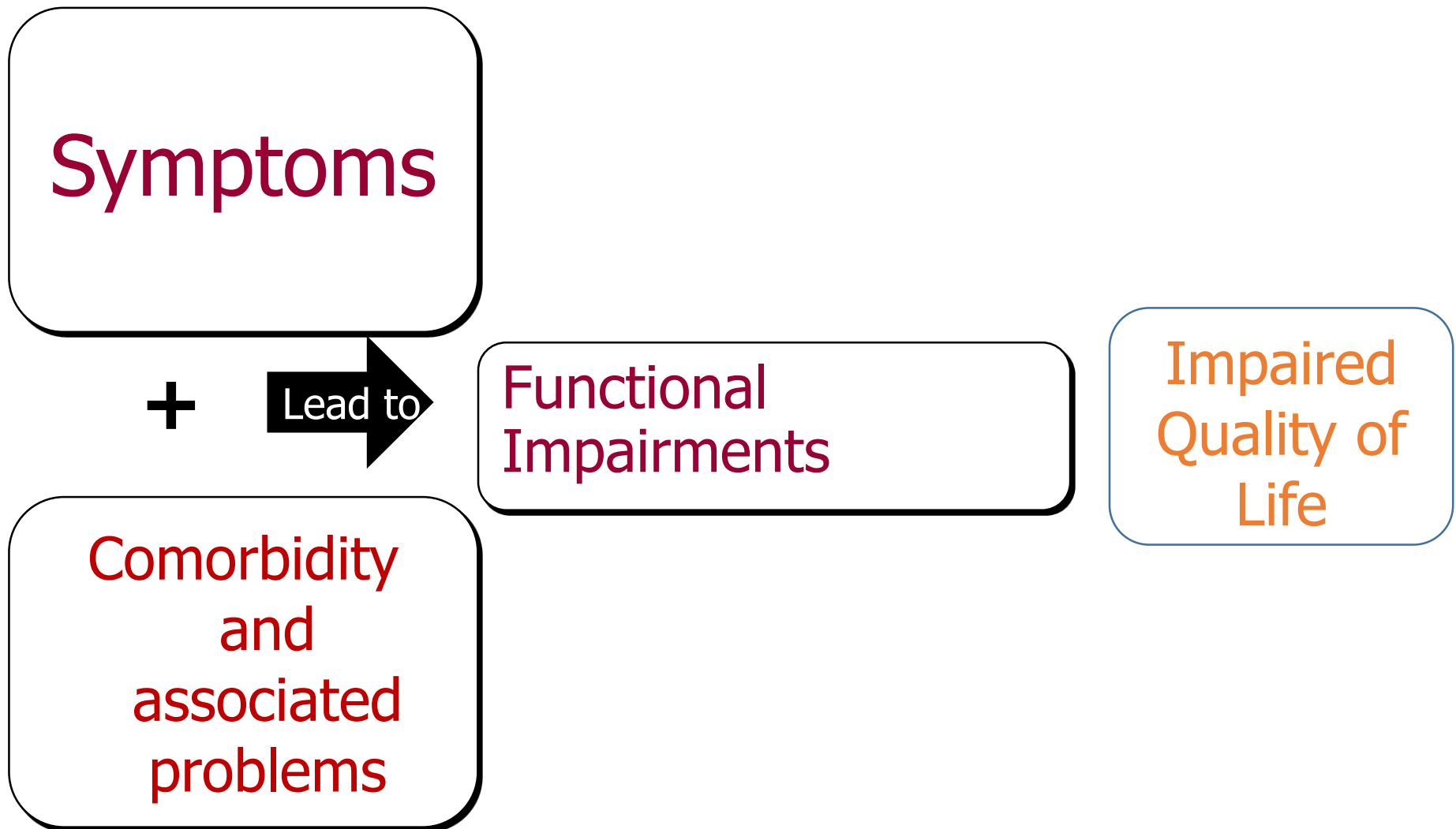
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Lead to

Functional  
Impairments

Comorbidity  
and  
associated  
problems

Impaired  
Quality of  
Life



# What is (HR)QoL?

## **WHO's definition:**

Individual's perception of their position in life in the context of the culture and value systems in which they live and in relation to their goals, expectations, standards and concerns.

Includes a person's physical health, psychological state, personal beliefs, social relationships and their relationship to salient features of their environment.

>> Life satisfaction, well-being, happiness

**HR:** Focus on the impact of a health condition on QoL

>> multidimensional construct

>> subjective reality (primary perspective > 7-8y)

>> large interindividual variability (incl ADHD)

# What is functioning?

Abilities and disabilities as a complex interaction between the health condition of the individual and the contextual factors of the environment as well as personal factors.

The picture produced by this combination of factors and dimensions is of "*the person in his or her world*".

- >> competence and performance!
- >> multidimensional construct
- >> objective reality
- >> large interindividual variability (incl ADHD)

# Functional Impairment

- ⊙ Academic functioning
  - Achievement below intellectual capacities
  - Achievement  $x$  SD below age-mean
- ⊙ Activities
  - Participates in less activities than other children his age
- ⊙ Independence
  - Needs a lot of supervision in daily routines

“Objective reality”

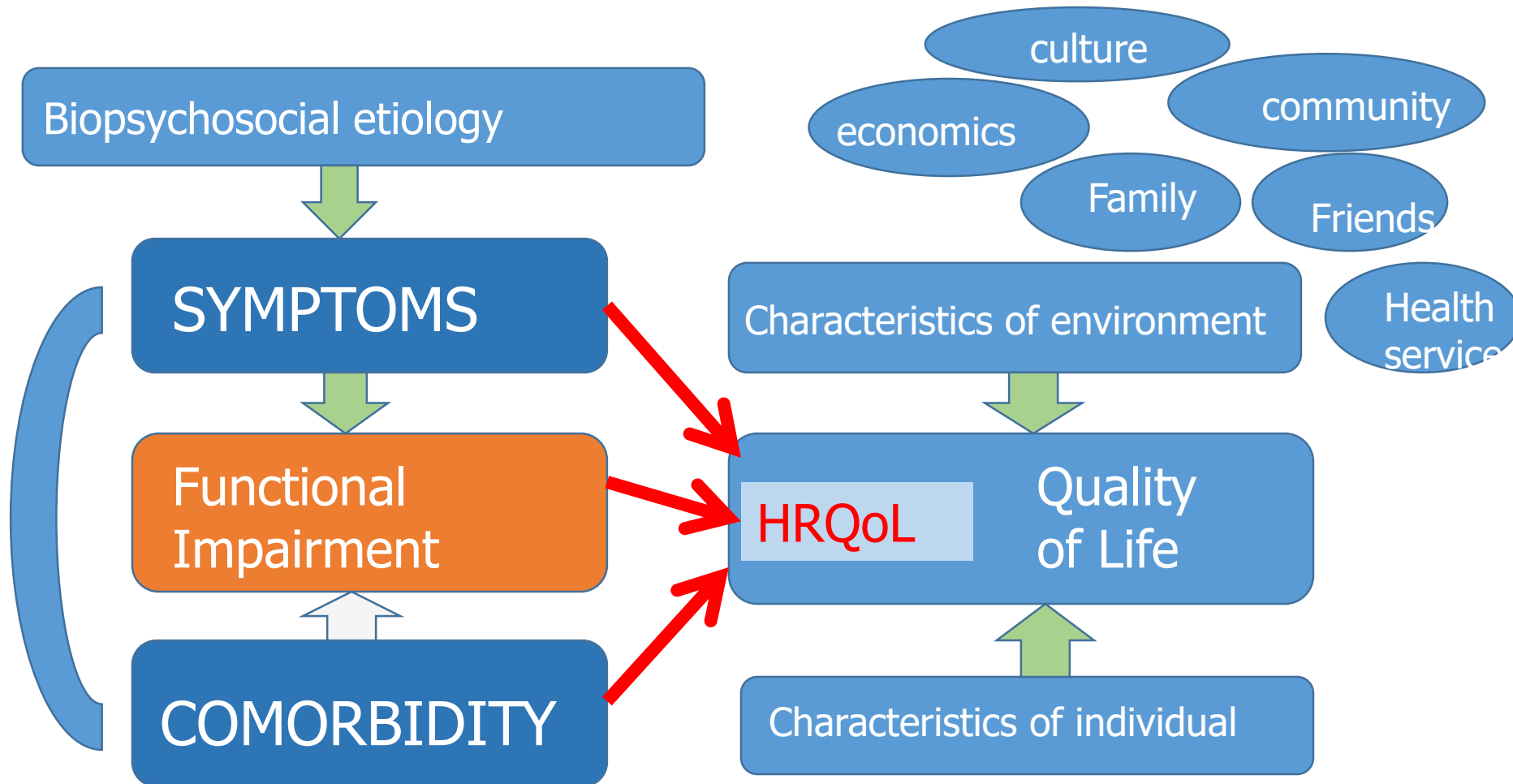
# QoL

- ⊙ Academic functioning
  - “I do OK at school but not well enough”
  - “I feel OK about how I am doing at school”
- ⊙ Activities
  - “I can participate in social activities”
- ⊙ Independence
  - “I don’t need any supervision, the adults just treat me like a child”

“Subjective reality”



# Impairment and Quality of Life



# So why do impairment and QoL matter?

- They are inherent to the diagnostic criteria
- They may be less stigmatizing?
- Can be more important and meaningful than symptoms alone?
- Better describe individual's real world challenges, and difficulties
- Help to guide interventions
- In some circumstances can be used to calculate health related service costs.
- Can provide a bridge for communication between experts, patient, family and society
- Can be less controversial than diagnosis/symptoms (sometime)
- Give and opportunity to stress strengths as well as difficulties
- Can reflect a more holistic view of impact of health difficulties
- Can help provide a comparison between the impact of physical and mental health problems.

# Measuring Quality of Life

# Measuring Quality of Life

- Two key conceptual issues
  - Self appraisal
  - Multidimensional
    - Core domains include
      - Social
      - Physical
      - Psychological
    - Also usually includes
      - Cognitive

Unfortunately these domains are often given obscure labels which can make it difficult to be sure about what is actually being measured

# Methodological Issues in Paediatric HRQL Assessment

- What is the youngest age at which children can report their HRQL?
- The “proxy” question
- Age-appropriate tools
  - instrument formatting and design
  - creating multiple forms of a measure corresponding to different age groups

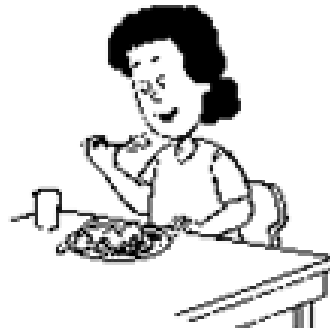
# Age

- Children can begin reporting the more concrete domains of their own HRQL between 4 and 6 years old
  - E.g. physical domains
- However subjective or abstract domains of HRQL can only be reported accurately by older children
  - E.g. the emotional impact of illness
- The level of language and literacy will also clearly impact on the design of questionnaires
- The disease / disorder may also interact with age e.g. ADHD and asthma may differ in terms of what can be expected of a child at any particular age

# Age appropriate instrument formatting and design

- What type of scale to use?
- Recall periods?
- Length of instrument?
- Children's degree of independence during administration?

In the past 4 weeks, how often did your parents eat meals with you?



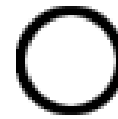
No  
Days



Very Few  
Days



Some  
Days



Almost Every  
Day



Every  
Day

In the past 4 weeks, how often did you feel really worried?



Never



Almost  
Never



Sometimes



Almost  
Always



Always



# Age appropriate instrument formatting and design

- Recall periods
  - Eight-year-old children have been shown to use a 4-week recall period with reasonable accuracy, but younger children may have difficulty with the concept of 1 week or 1 month. Use concrete events to anchor time

# Creating multiple forms of a measure corresponding to different age groups

- Benefits
  - Ensures you have age appropriate tools
- Disadvantage
  - Can become hard to compare the scores across different ages
  - Makes it more difficult to conduct longitudinal studies

# The Proxy Question

- Who is the most appropriate respondent
  - Child?
  - Parent/s? (one or both?)
  - Others? (teachers, sibs, peers?)
  - Multiple respondents?
- Empirical investigations of agreement between parent and child report of the child's health status and HRQL have yielded mixed results and suggest that agreement between parent and child report of HRQL varies considerably.
  - Correlations between parent and child report higher for observable physical domains than non-observable emotional domains
  - Studies that have considered the child's age have not reported consistent results.

# The Proxy Question

- Research examining the impact of the child's health on parent-child agreement has yielded conflicting information.
  - Parents of children with a chronic disorder tend to rate child's QoL as lower than the child themselves
  - Parents of children from population samples tend to rate child's QoL as higher than the child themselves
- Ikeda (2013) recognized that for some disorders and domains, the level of disagreement between parent and child might be particularly large,
  - For example in the social domain in ASD where parents often desire social integration of their children, while the children themselves might not be interested and may not want to be forced into it

# The Proxy Question

- Whenever a child is able to provide reliable and valid data, the child's self report is the ideal strategy because it is consistent with the definition of HRQL, which emphasizes the patient's subjective perspective.
- Also the child is able to contribute information regarding the whole of their life experience e.g. home and school and when out with friends

# The Proxy Question

- However in certain situations it may will be appropriate to ask an adult as a proxy respondant
  - When dealing with complex, abstract, psychologically oriented concepts
  - When a child is to sick to respond
  - For very young or severely disabled children
- The parent can also provide valuable information on the impact of the child's illness and treatment on family functioning, which is an integral part of children's HRQL.
- There are several disadvantages of using parents as proxy respondents.
  - Inconsistent with the QoL concept
  - Are mother's and father's reports equally valid?
  - Reports are likely to be biased by how they themselves are affected

# The Proxy Question

- In view of these issues some suggest that getting information from both child and parents will give the best picture however this has its own problems
  - More costly
  - Do you pool data or keep it separate
  - If they don't agree how do you choose which to believe?

# Domains of QoL

- Physical
- Psychological
- Social
  
- Cognitive

Clearly these can be described and sub-divided in many different ways



# Different approaches in different measures

## PedsQL

- Most frequently used measure in neurodevelopmental disorders
- Easiest to interpret
- Allows a Total Score
- Subscales
  - Physical
  - Emotional
  - Social
  - School

# Child Health Questionnaire

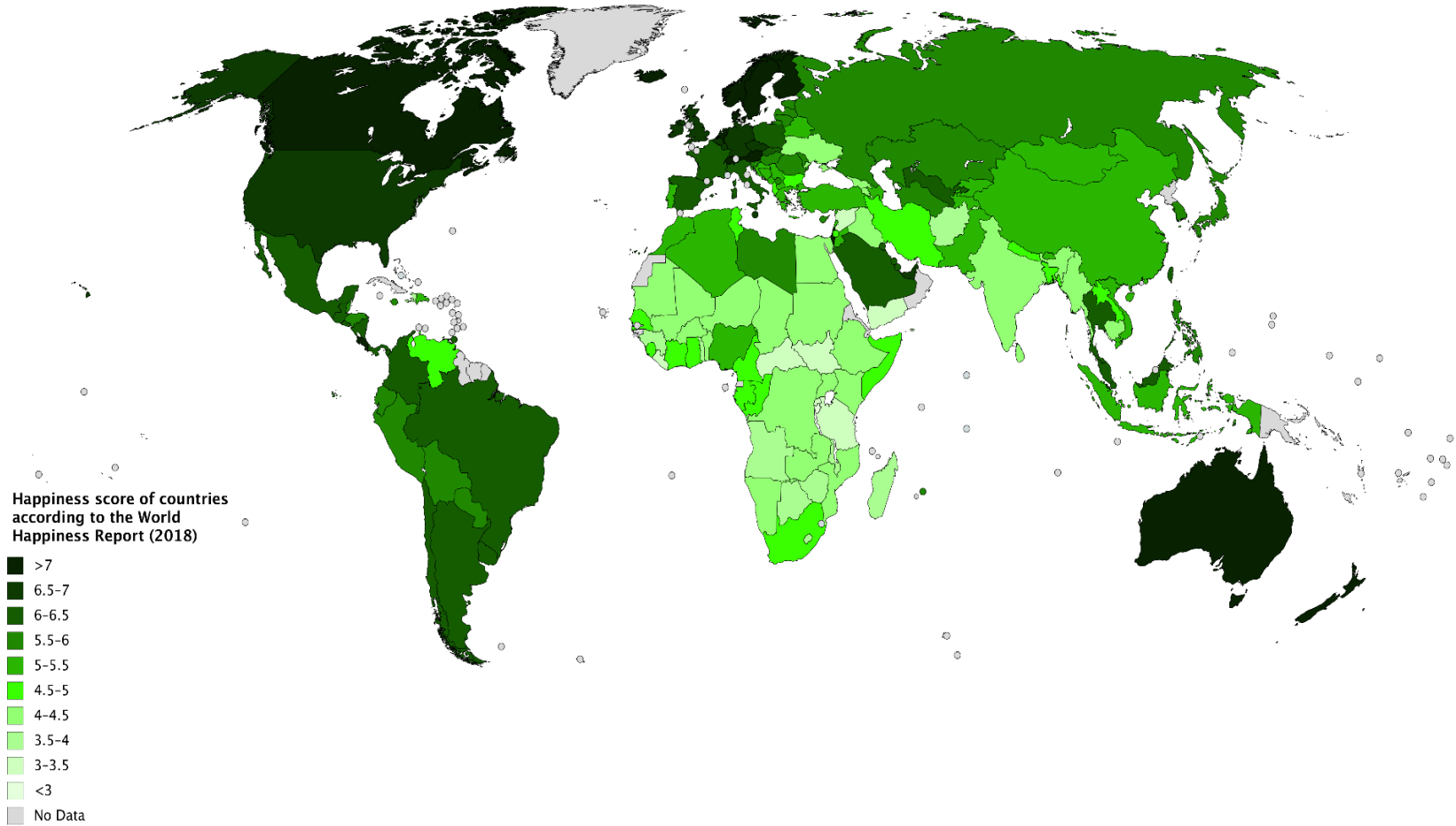
- Physical functioning
- Role Limitations – Emotional/behavioural
- Role Limitations – Physical
- Bodily Pain
- Behaviour
- Mental Health

- Self Esteem
- General Health Perceptions
- Parental impact – Emotional
- Parental impact – Time
- Family Activities

# CHIP - CE

<b>Domains</b>	<b>Sub-domains</b>
Satisfaction	Satisfaction with Health
	Satisfaction with Self
Comfort	Physical Comfort
	Emotional Comfort
	Restricted Activity
Risk Avoidance	Individual Risk Avoidance
	Threats to Achievement
Resilience	Family Involvement
	Physical Activity
	Social Problem Solving
Achievement	Academic Performance
	Peer Relations

# An overview of QoL around the world (courtesy of Sven)



# Annual Research Review: Quality of life and childhood mental and behavioural disorders – a critical review of the research

**Ulf Jonsson,<sup>1,2,3,\*</sup> Iman Alaie,<sup>1,3,\*</sup> Anna Löfgren Wilteus,<sup>1,2</sup> Eric Zander,<sup>1,2</sup>  
Peter B. Marschik,<sup>1,4</sup> David Coghill,<sup>5,6</sup> and Sven Bölte<sup>1,2</sup>**

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A total of 41 case–control studies were identified.

- Several studies examined QoL in ADHD, ASD, intellectual disability, Tourette's disorders and enuresis,
- **But**
- No eligible studies were detected for anxiety disorders, (early onset) schizophrenia and eating disorders

NB: A total of 14 different measures were used in these studies

# Quality of Life in Autism

A rather complex question

# The Autism Society

**When we say “quality of life,” we’re talking about basic human rights that allow people to interact with one another and the world on their own terms.**

- Recreation and Leisure – People with autism should be able to pursue their interests and spend their free time in a meaningful way
- Subjective Well-being – People with autism should feel happy and enjoy life
- Self-Identity and Acceptance – People with autism should understand and appreciate themselves, and feel understood and valued by others
- Autonomy and Self-Sufficiency – People with autism have the right to make their own decisions
- Pursuit of Dreams – People with autism should feel empowered to achieve their aspirations!

# The Autism Society

**When we say “quality of life,” we’re talking about basic human rights that allow people to interact with one another and the world on their own terms.**

- **Respect and Dignity** – People with autism should feel respected by those around them
- **Inclusion** – People with autism should be welcomed to participate actively in their schools, workplaces and communities
- **Communication** – People with autism should be able to express themselves and interact with others in a meaningful way
- **Health and Well-being** – People with autism should feel and be well physically and have access to the services they need to stay healthy
- **Safety** – People with autism should feel secure and be able to get help from their communities, law enforcement and others as needed



# The Autism Society

**When we say “quality of life,” we’re talking about basic human rights that allow people to interact with one another and the world on their own terms.**

- Academic Success – People with autism should have the opportunity to participate in school to their fullest capability and learn in an environment and manner that enables them to succeed
- Social Connections – People with autism should have friends and supporters as well as ties to their communities
- Independent Living – People with autism have the right to lead their own lives, and they should also have support if they need help caring for themselves
- Meaningful Employment with Fair Wages – People with autism should have the opportunity to do work that contributes to their communities, and should receive compensation befitting their positions
- Financial Stability – People with autism should be able to afford the things and services they need

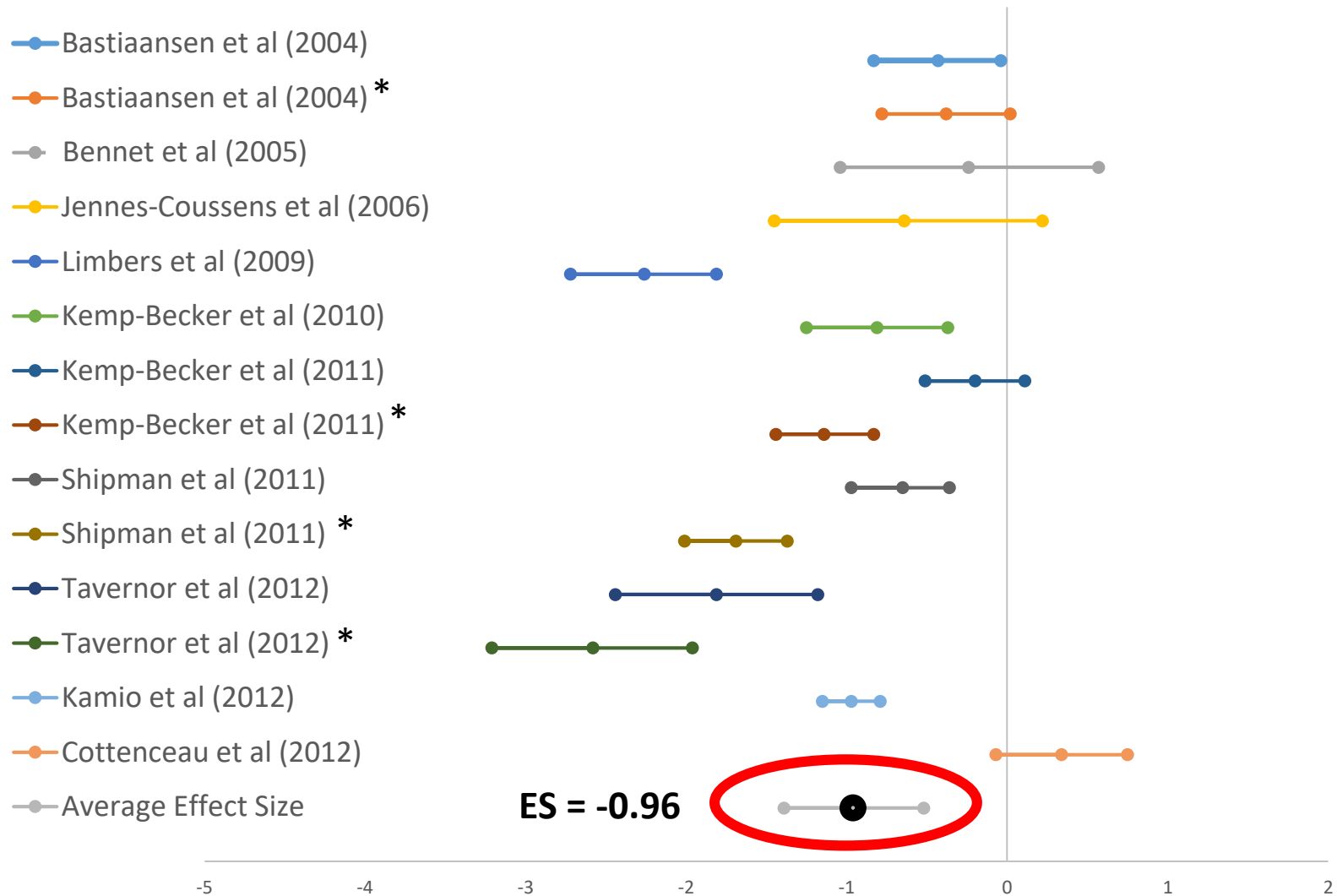
# From a Blog by Bobb

## Autism and quality of life

- A recent research publication from overseas says a "study concerning the elderly with autism showed that the difference in quality of life is similar in the elderly. Age, IQ and symptom severity did not predict quality of life in this sample. Across the lifespan, people with autism experience a much lower quality of life compared to people without autism." (see <http://aut.sagepub.com/content/19/2/158....>).
- Questions that spring to (my) mind are:
- Is it possible for most people with autism spectrum disorder to have a better or even good "quality of life"? [I believe the answer is "yes"]
- Is our community doing enough now to deliver best or better *quality of life* for people with autism spectrum disorder?
- Is sufficient effort going into research to improve *quality of life* for people with autism spectrum disorder?

# This is what we mean when we talk about Quality of life

## Meta-analysis of QoL in Autism - van Heijst and Geurts 2015



# Van Heijst & Geurts (2015)

- Specifically investigated whether age had an effect on QoL – It did not
- They also conducted the first study of QoL in elderly adults with ASD and found the difference in QoL in this group to be similar to other age groups

# Which factors are related to QoL in ASD?

## **Adults**

- ↑ Behaviour Problems
- ↓ Leisure activities

## **Children**

- Severity of autism
- ↑ Age
- ↑ Behaviour problems
- ↓ Social Skills
- ↓ Adaptive Behaviour
- ↓ Education
- ↑ Comorbid Psychiatric Conditions

# Predictors of QoL for Autistic Adults

- Younger adults reported better QoL than older
- Females reported better *social* QoL than males
- Males reported better *physical* QoL than females
- Positive Predictors of QoL were:
  - Being employes (physical)
  - Receiving support (social and environmental)
  - Being in a relationship (social)

But as with all of these studies cant tell the  
direction of impact

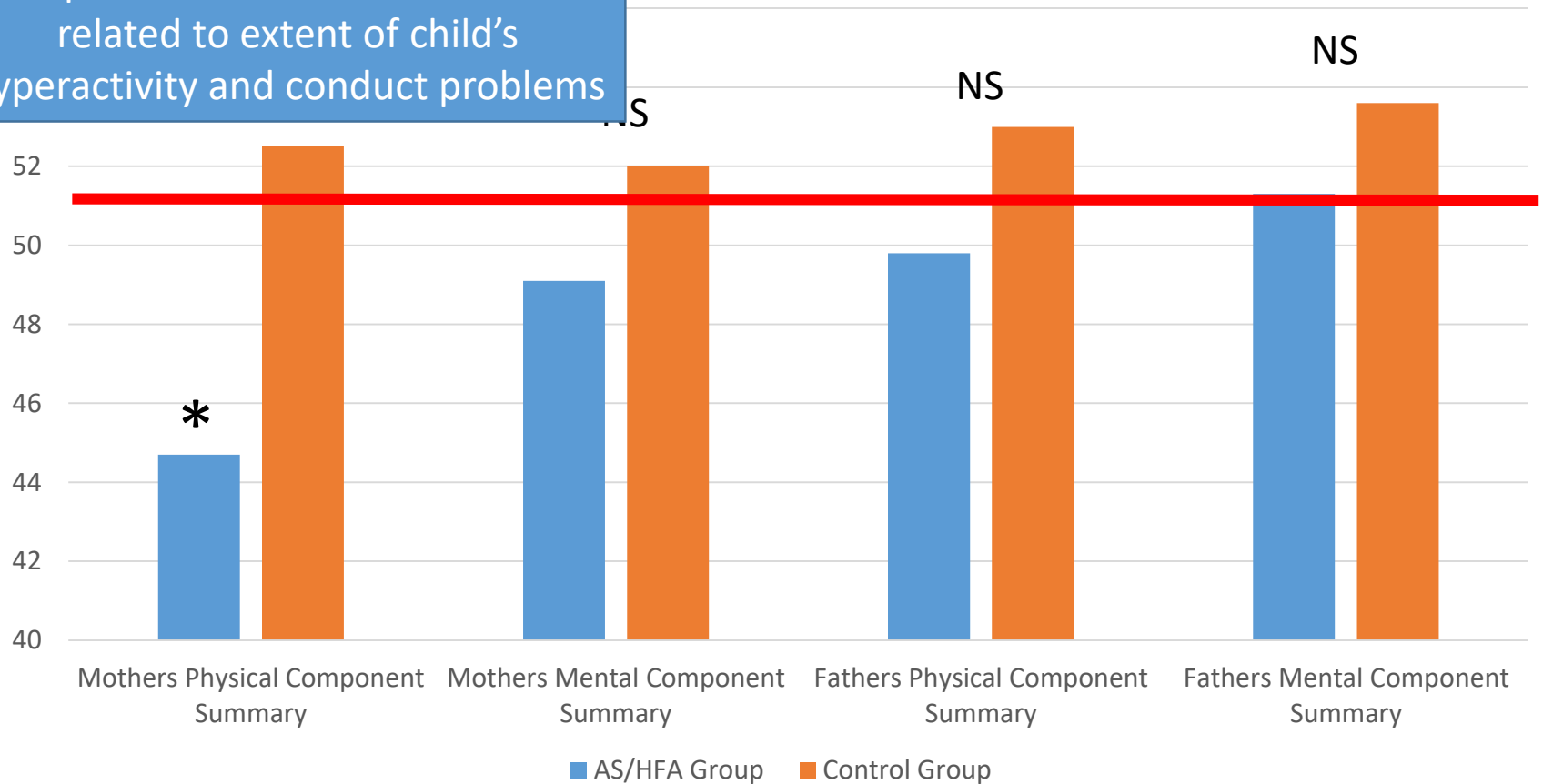
# Predictors of QoL for Autistic Adults

Sample composition (N=

- 54% Male
- 95% had capacity to self report
- 41% in a relationship
- 50% received support
- 36% Currently employed
- 42% Had a degree
- 71% Current Mental health diagnosis
- 70% Current Physical health diagnosis

# HR-QoL of parents of school age children with Asperger syndrome or high functioning autism

Impaired maternal HRQoL was related to extent of child's hyperactivity and conduct problems





# QoL in Autism

## How should we look at it?

- The potential for complex interactions between core symptoms – particularly with regards:

**“Persistent deficits in social communication and social interaction across multiple contexts”**

- Probably also a greater emphasis on ‘normalizing’ with the autistic community

**Bobb – “Is it possible for most people with autism spectrum disorder to have a better or even good “quality of life”? [I believe the answer is “yes”]”**

QoL in ADHD

# Self-reported quality of life in children with attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder, as compared to healthy controls

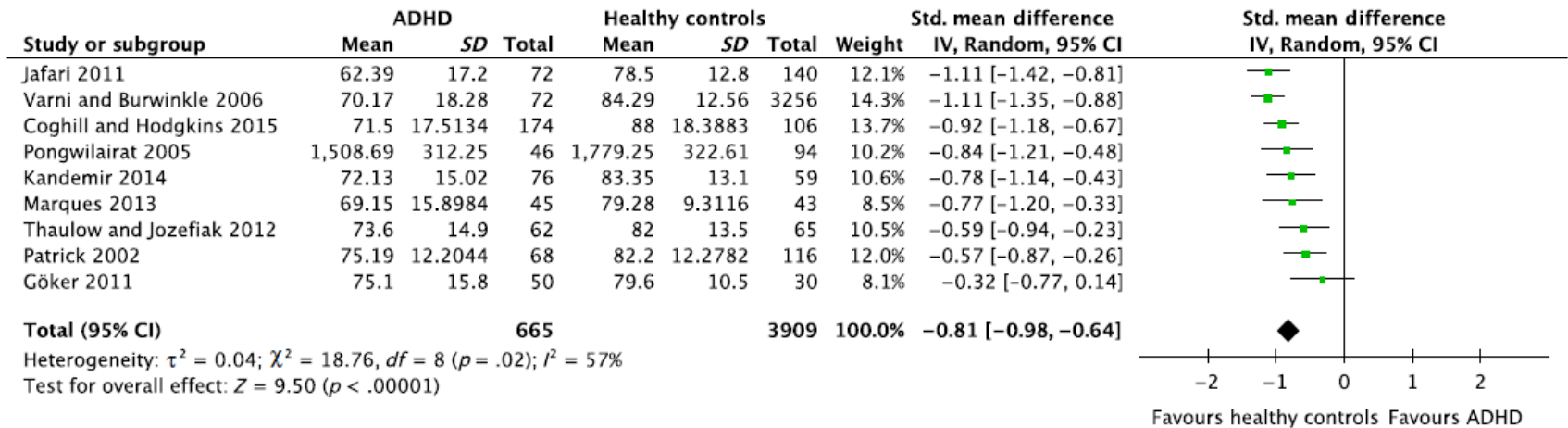


Figure 2 Self-reported quality of life in children with attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder, as compared to healthy controls [Colour figure can be viewed at [wileyonlinelibrary.com](http://wileyonlinelibrary.com)]

Self Report SMD = -0.81

# Parent-reported quality of life in children with attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder, as compared to healthy controls

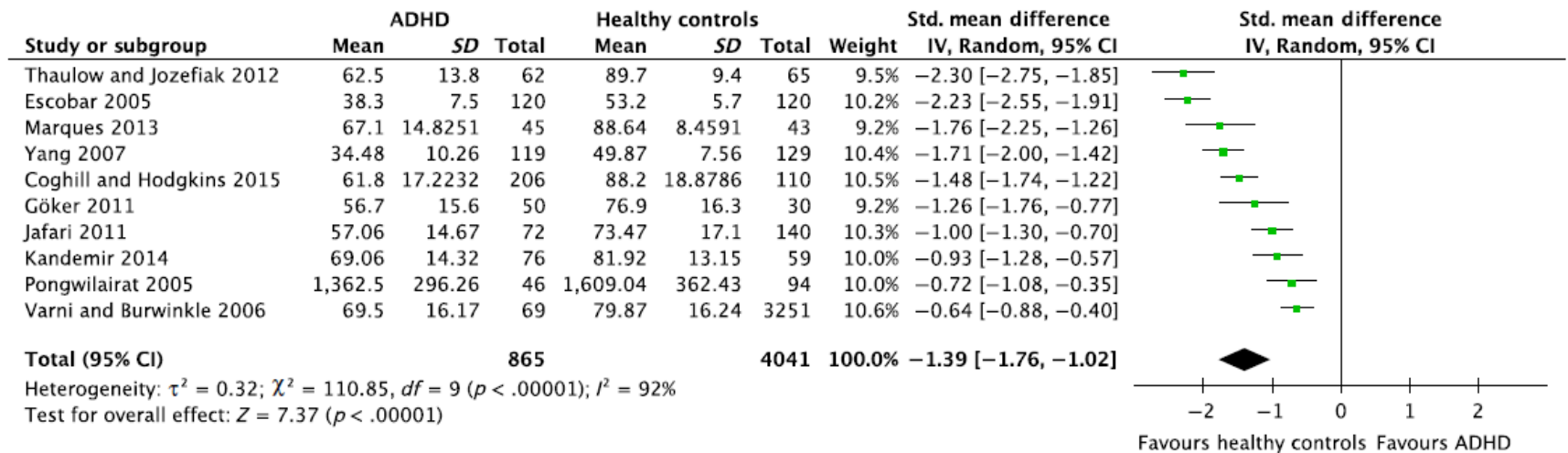
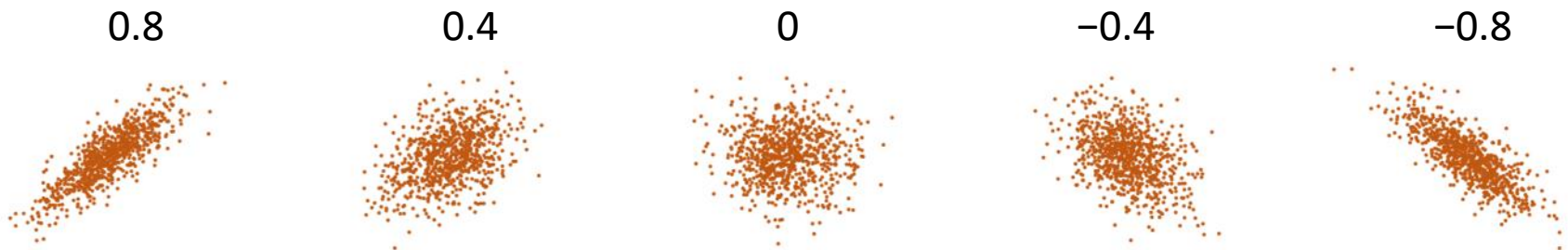


Figure 3 Parent-reported quality of life in children with attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder, as compared to healthy controls [Colour figure can be viewed at [wileyonlinelibrary.com](http://wileyonlinelibrary.com)]

Parent Report SMD = -1.39

# Pearson R as a measure of the correlation between study outcomes

- Pearson correlation coefficient (R) is a measure of the strength of a linear relationship between paired data
  - Ranges from 0 (no correlation) to  $\pm 1$  (perfect correlation)



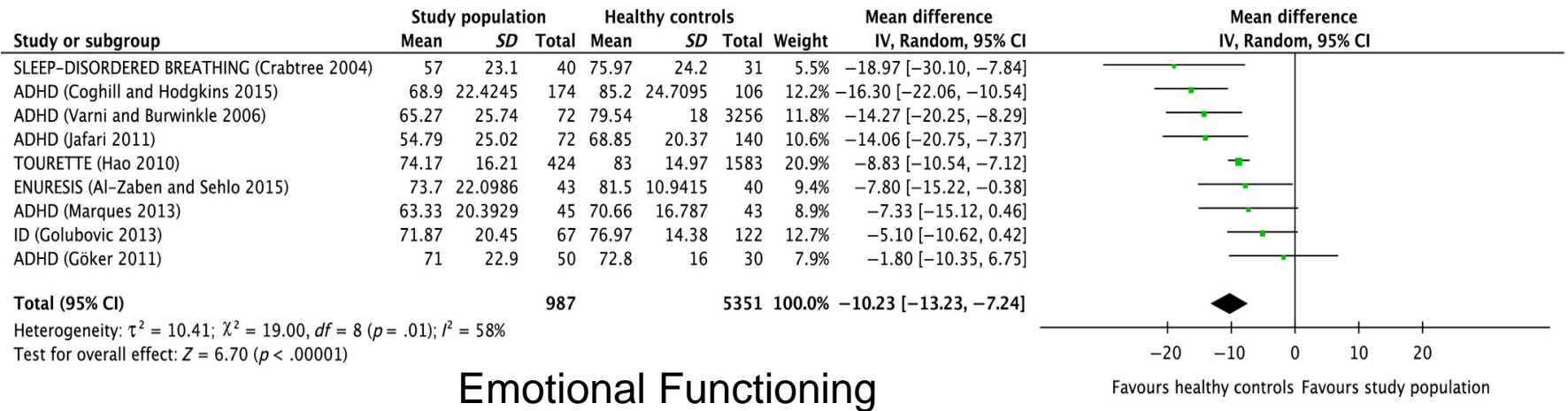
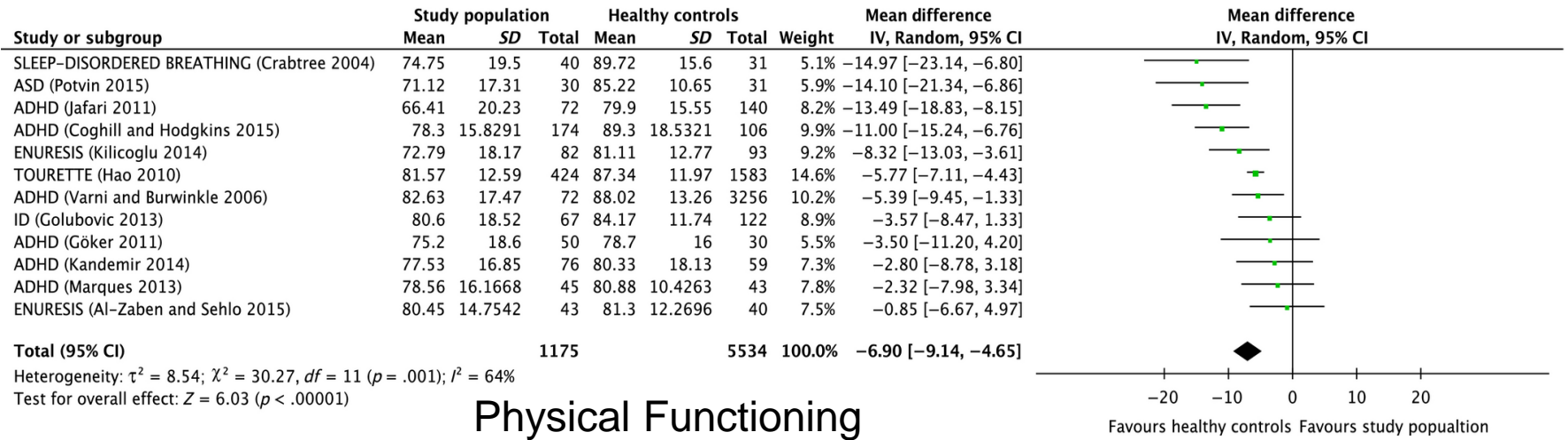
- The following tables use shading to show the strength of R

None	Weak	Moderate	Strong	Very strong	Perfect
0.0	0.2	0.4	0.6	0.8	1.0

# Correlations between parent/carer and child ratings of HRQoL measurements - Coghill & Hodgkins 2015

<b>PedsQL</b>	<b>Physical functioning</b>	<b>Emotional functioning</b>	<b>Social functioning</b>	<b>School functioning</b>	<b>Total score</b>
All children ( <i>n</i> = 335)	0.357***	0.439***	0.080	0.097	0.546***
ADHD ( <i>n</i> = 199)	0.289***	0.365***	0.081	0.107	0.440***
T1DM ( <i>n</i> = 51)	0.518***	0.395***	0.313*	0.500***	0.616***
Control ( <i>n</i> = 117)	0.231*	0.280**	0.162	0.322**	0.290**
Age group:					
6 to <11 years ( <i>n</i> = 138)	0.279***	0.390***	0.385***	0.497***	0.453***
≥11 years ( <i>n</i> = 222)	0.405***	0.475***	0.102	0.113	0.593***
<b>CHIP-CE</b>	<b>Satisfaction</b>	<b>Comfort</b>	<b>Resilience</b>	<b>Risk avoidance</b>	<b>Achievement</b>
All children ( <i>n</i> = 339)	0.274***	0.302***	0.310***	0.647***	0.517***
ADHD ( <i>n</i> = 205)	0.380***	0.325***	0.283***	0.534***	0.442***
T1DM ( <i>n</i> = 54)	0.466**	0.491**	0.320*	0.648***	0.540***
Control ( <i>n</i> = 116)	0.146	0.188*	0.205*	0.333***	0.417***
Age group:					
6 to <11 years ( <i>n</i> = 142)	0.122	0.220*	0.188*	0.483***	0.413***
≥11 years ( <i>n</i> = 231)	0.348***	0.394***	0.356***	0.719***	0.558***

# Self-reported results on the PedsQL across childhood mental disorders vs healthy controls



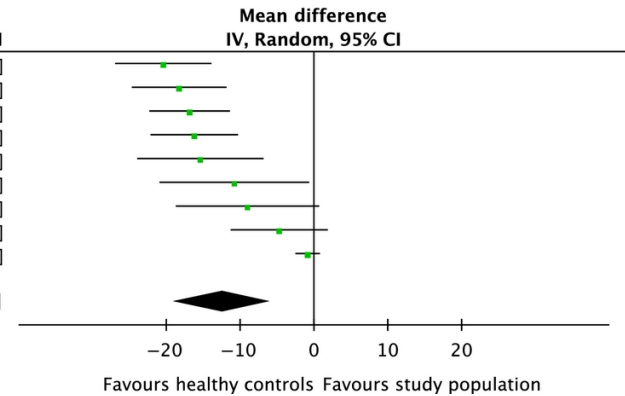
# Self-reported results on the PedsQL across childhood mental disorders vs healthy controls

Study or subgroup	Study population			Healthy controls			Weight	Mean difference	
	Mean	SD	Total	Mean	SD	Total		IV, Random, 95% CI	IV, Random, 95% CI
ADHD (Varni and Burwinkle 2006)	65.55	28.12	72	85.95	16.49	3256	11.3%	-20.40	[-26.92, -13.88]
ADHD (Jafari 2011)	66.11	24.88	72	84.37	17.19	140	11.4%	-18.26	[-24.67, -11.85]
ID (Golubovic 2013)	76.94	21.9	67	93.77	8.61	122	11.7%	-16.83	[-22.29, -11.37]
ADHD (Coghill and Hodgkins 2015)	75	22.4245	174	91.2	25.7391	106	11.5%	-16.20	[-22.13, -10.27]
ADHD (Marques 2013)	65.77	26.6316	45	81.16	11.9345	43	10.5%	-15.39	[-23.95, -6.83]
SLEEP-DISORDERED BREATHING (Crabtree 2004)	73.25	23.2	40	84.03	20.3	31	9.8%	-10.78	[-20.92, -0.64]
ENURESIS (Al-Zaben and Sehlo 2015)	73.7	26.6888	43	82.7	17.8985	40	10.0%	-9.00	[-18.72, 0.72]
ADHD (Göker 2011)	83.3	18.2	50	88	11.8	30	11.3%	-4.70	[-11.28, 1.88]
TOURETTE (Hao 2010)	89.19	16.03	424	90.04	12.85	1583	12.6%	-0.85	[-2.50, 0.80]
<b>Total (95% CI)</b>			<b>987</b>			<b>5351</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>-12.42</b>	<b>[-19.00, -5.83]</b>

Heterogeneity:  $\tau^2 = 88.63$ ;  $\chi^2 = 101.32$ ,  $df = 8$  ( $p < .00001$ );  $I^2 = 92\%$

Test for overall effect:  $Z = 3.70$  ( $p = .0002$ )

## Social Functioning

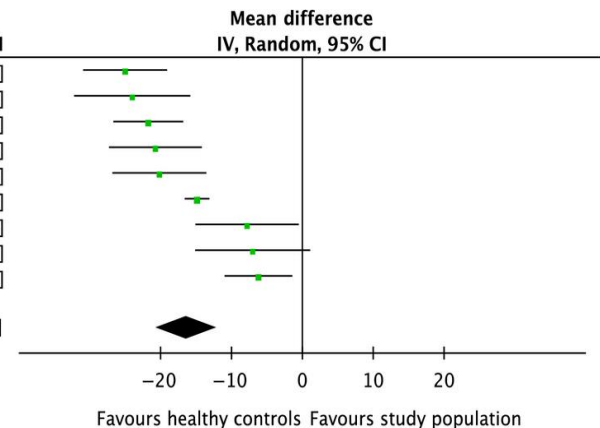


Study or subgroup	Study population			Healthy controls			Weight	Mean difference	
	Mean	SD	Total	Mean	SD	Total		IV, Random, 95% CI	IV, Random, 95% CI
ADHD (Coghill and Hodgkins 2015)	61	22.4245	174	86	25.7391	106	11.3%	-25.00	[-30.93, -19.07]
SLEEP-DISORDERED BREATHING (Crabtree 2004)	61	20.7	40	85	14.5	31	9.4%	-24.00	[-32.20, -15.80]
ADHD (Varni and Burwinkle 2006)	59.76	21.23	72	81.5	16.1	3256	12.1%	-21.74	[-26.67, -16.81]
ADHD (Marques 2013)	63.22	18.5146	45	83.95	12.328	43	10.7%	-20.73	[-27.28, -14.18]
ADHD (Jafari 2011)	59.86	25.23	72	80.03	19.04	140	10.7%	-20.17	[-26.80, -13.54]
TOURETTE (Hao 2010)	70.35	16.96	424	85.21	13.25	1583	14.1%	-14.86	[-16.60, -13.12]
ADHD (Göker 2011)	71.1	19.3	50	78.9	13.8	30	10.1%	-7.80	[-15.08, -0.52]
ENURESIS (Al-Zaben and Sehlo 2015)	75.43	23.7379	43	82.44	12.7124	40	9.4%	-7.01	[-15.13, 1.11]
ID (Golubovic 2013)	75.45	17.23	67	81.64	13.61	122	12.2%	-6.19	[-10.97, -1.41]
<b>Total (95% CI)</b>			<b>987</b>			<b>5351</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>-16.37</b>	<b>[-20.60, -12.15]</b>

Heterogeneity:  $\tau^2 = 32.18$ ;  $\chi^2 = 48.10$ ,  $df = 8$  ( $p < .00001$ );  $I^2 = 83\%$

Test for overall effect:  $Z = 7.59$  ( $p < .00001$ )

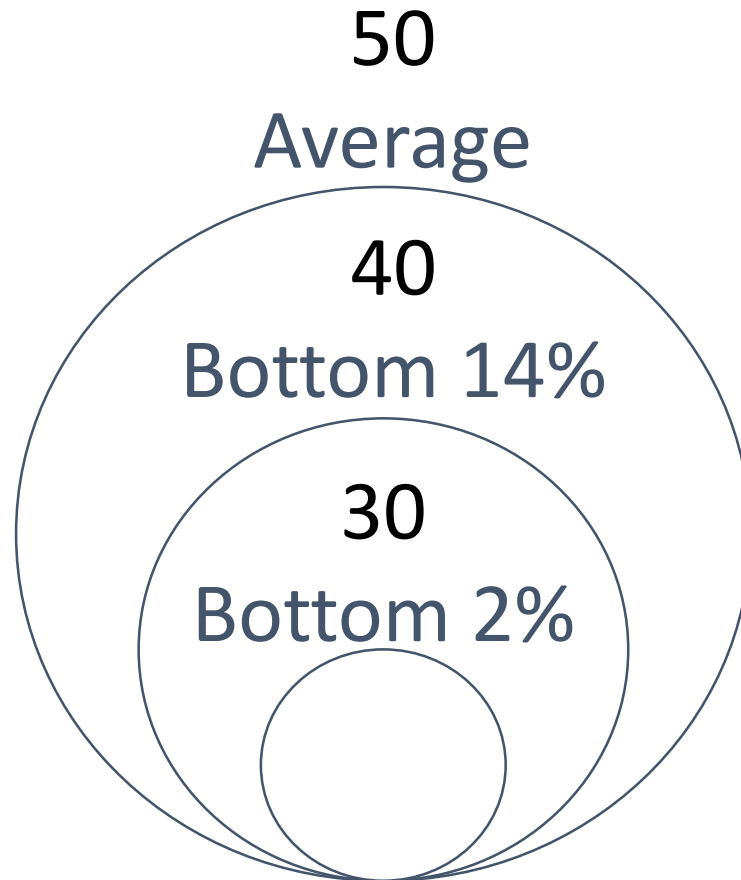
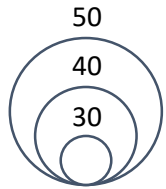
## School Functioning





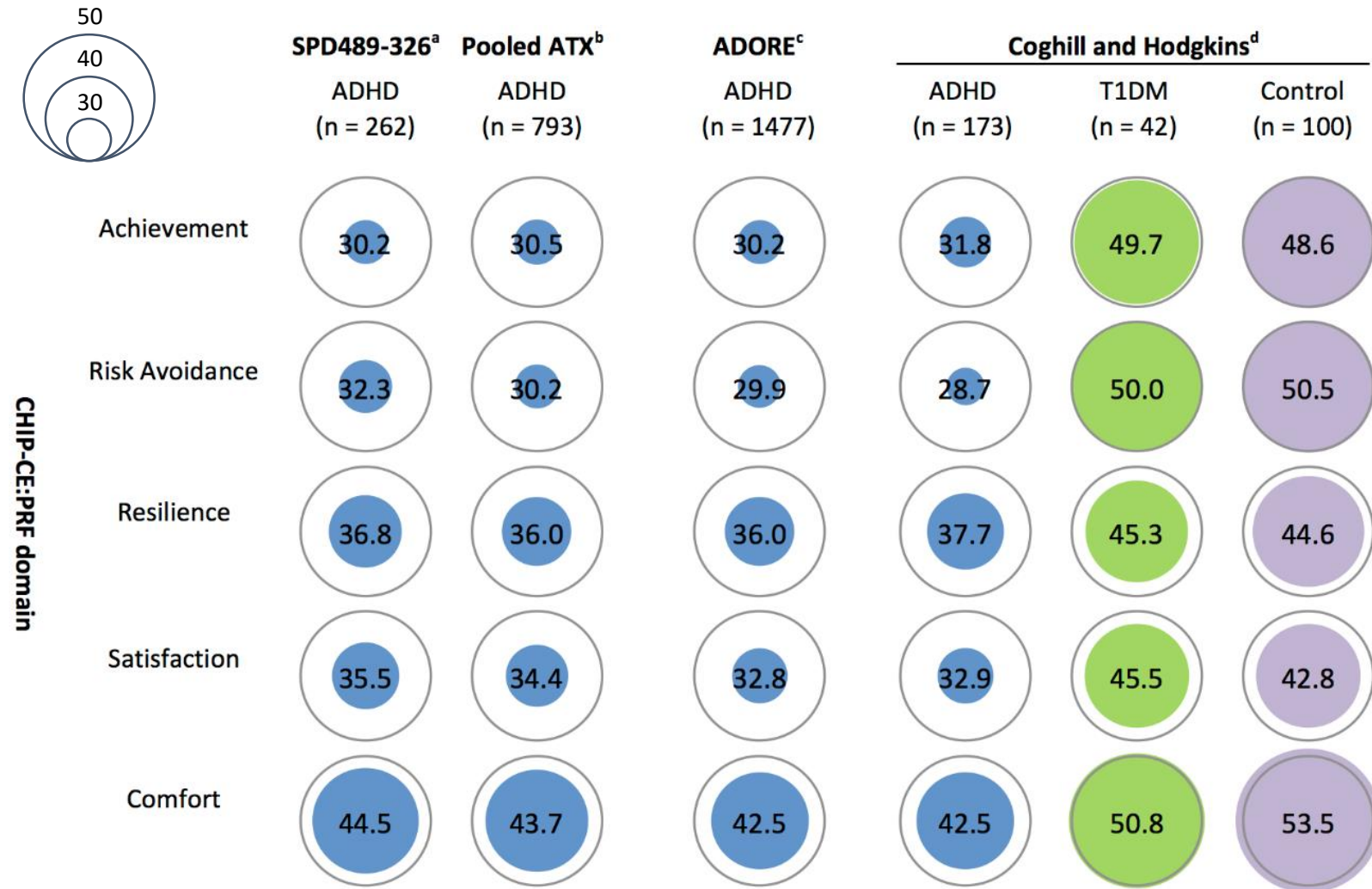
# ADHD IS IMPAIRING

Pre-treatment T-scores for Quality of Life in four ADHD study populations and controls



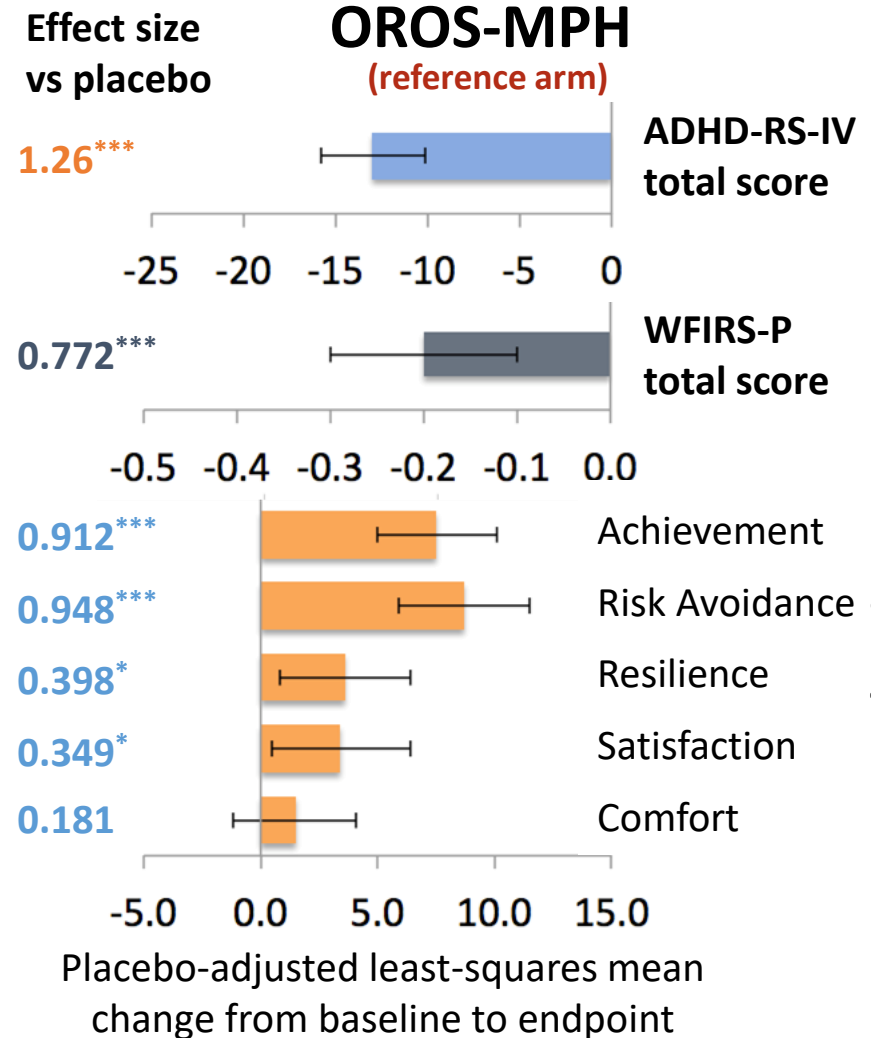
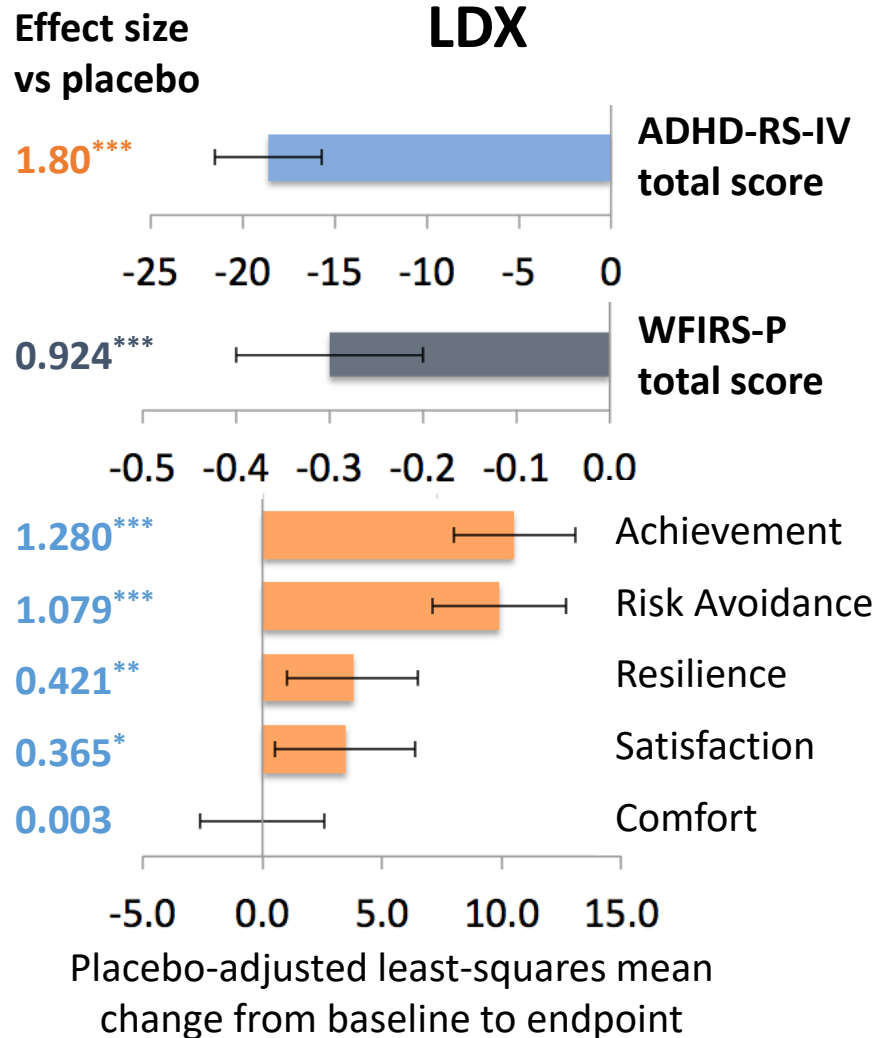
# ADHD IS IMPAIRING

Pre-treatment T-scores for Quality of Life in four ADHD study populations and controls



CHIP CE Domains

# SPD489-325 published outcomes: symptoms, functioning and HRQoL



CHIP-CE:PRF domain T-score

CHIP-CE:PRF domain T-score

\* $p < 0.05$ , \*\* $p < 0.01$ , \*\*\* $p < 0.001$  versus placebo (nominal except for LDX ADHD-RS-IV and Achievement)

Banaschewski T *et al.* *CNS Drugs* 2013;27:829–40; Coghill D *et al.* *Eur Neuropsychopharmacol* 2013;23:1208–18

# Post hoc Pearson correlation coefficients for changes in symptoms, functioning and HRQoL

Symptoms

**ADHD-RS-IV  
total score**

SPD489-325 ADHD-RS-IV vs WFIRS-P	
LDX	OROS-MPH
0.51	0.49

Functional  
impairment

**WFIRS-P  
total score**

- All correlations were weak to moderate
- CHIP-CE:PRF correlations were strongest in Achievement and Risk Avoidance

SPD489-325 ADHD-RS-IV vs CHIP-CE:PRF		
LDX	OROS-MPH	
-0.36	-0.48	Achievement
-0.44	-0.42	Risk Avoidance
-0.29	-0.01	Resilience
-0.25	-0.31	Satisfaction
-0.39	-0.31	Comfort

SPD489-325 WFIRS-P vs CHIP-CE:PRF		
	LDX	OROS-MPH
Achievement	-0.65	-0.59
Risk Avoidance	-0.62	-0.62
Resilience	-0.37	-0.24
Satisfaction	-0.50	-0.44
Comfort	-0.42	-0.33

HRQoL

**CHIP-CE:PRF  
domain T-scores**

Shading key

0.0	0.2	0.4	0.6	0.8	1.0
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Shading indicates value of Pearson R; grey text indicates descriptive  $p > 0.05$

# Relationship between ADHD symptoms and QoL

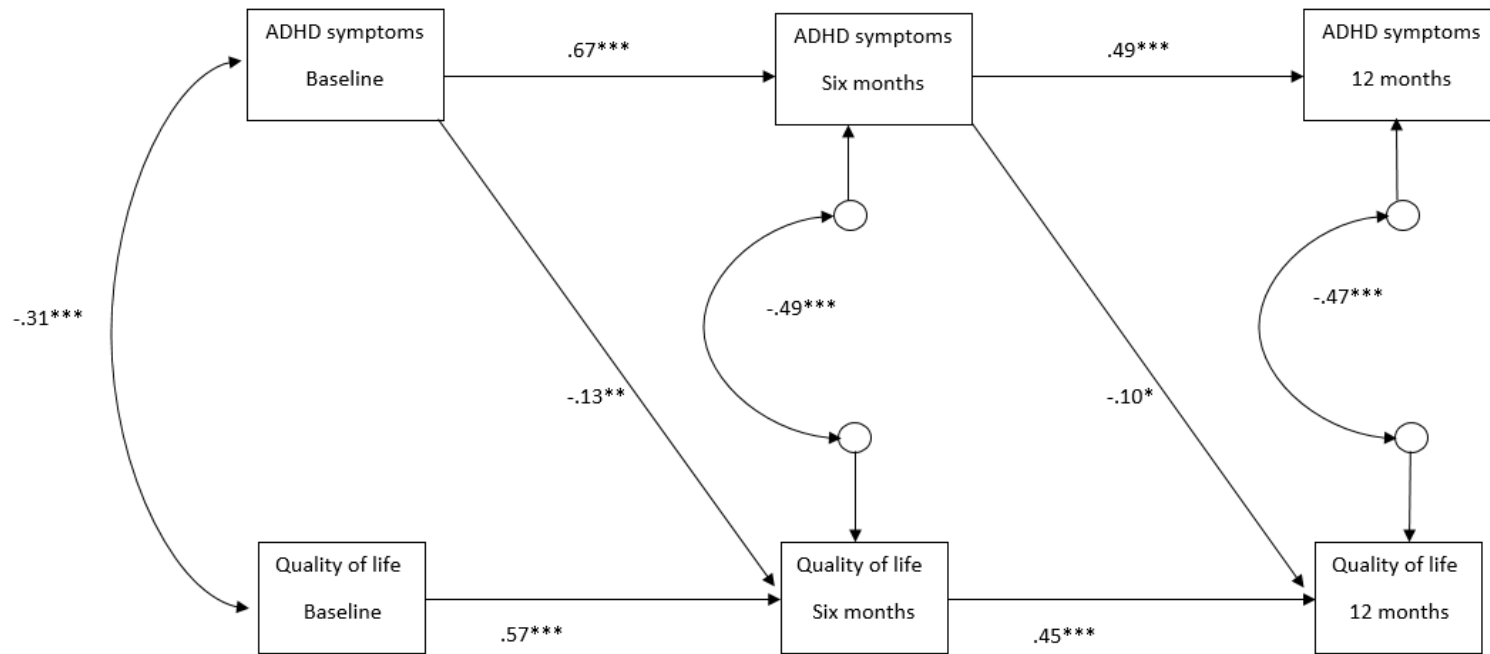
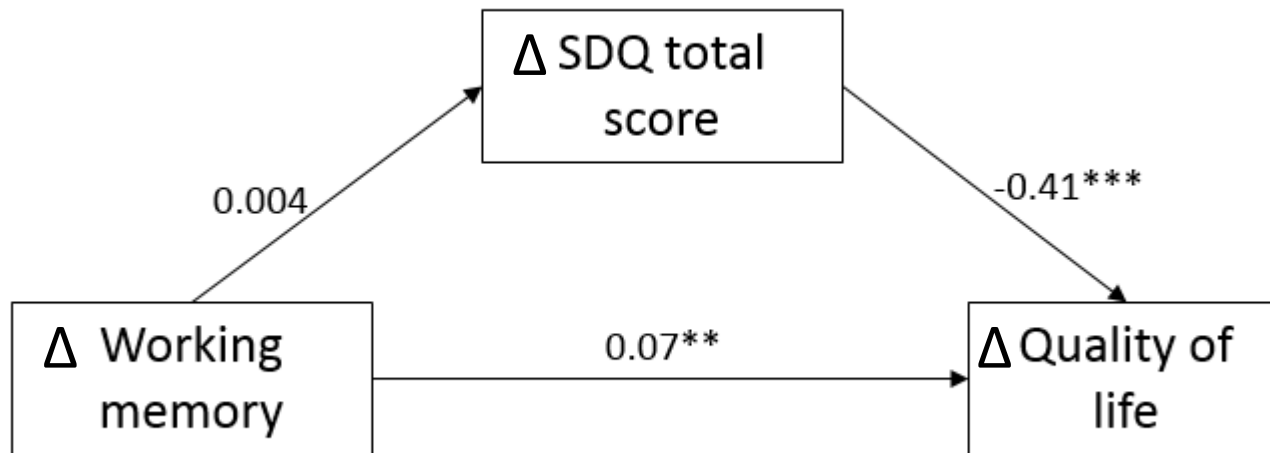


Figure 1. Standardized parameter estimates from the final model for the relations between parent-reported ADHD symptoms and psychosocial quality of life across a 12 month period.

The presence of sleep problems moderated the relationship between parent-reported ADHD symptoms and QoL so that ADHD symptoms predicted later QoL for children with no/mild sleep problems but not for children with moderate/severe sleep problems.

# Cognition, symptoms and QoL



Data from a longitudinal study with time interval of 2 years

# Ongoing Challenges (Jonsson et al 2017)

1. There are still major gaps in the literature in terms of non- and under investigated childhood disorders and their QoL profiles
  - Non NDD
  - Head to Head studies
2. There is a nontrivial risk of bias in available studies
  - Under representation of females
  - Family composition
  - Other social/sociodemographic variables
  - Comorbidities
3. The generalizability of the results across contexts and heterogeneous diagnostic groups is unclear
  - E.g. clinical vs population samples
4. There are several threats to the validity of the measurements of QoL.
  - What do QoL measures actually measure?
  - Perhaps link with EMA

# Clinical Relevance

- Impact of ADHD on Quality of Life is very significant and consistent
- It does however vary across domains
- ADHD symptoms are one, but not the only factor impacting on QoL
- Treatment can improve QoL along with symptoms and functioning but these are not strongly correlated which suggests that treatments should aim not only to relieve symptoms, but also to reduce functional impairment and improve HRQoL



# Quality of Life should be considered as a core outcome for clinical work

- As an adjunct to assessment
- When setting treatment baseline
- Monitoring progress