

# **CLINICAL PRESENTATIONS OF PEROXISOMAL DISORDERS**

**Marc Engelen and Bwee Tien Poll-The  
Academic Medical Centre  
University of Amsterdam  
Amsterdam, The Netherlands**



# Clinical diversity of genetic peroxisomal disorders



Zellweger syndrome



Neonatal adrenoleukodystrophy



Infantile Refsum disease



Rhizomelic chondrodysplasia punctata



Isolated peroxisomal  $\beta$ -oxidation defect



X-ALD



X-AMN

And many more ...

# CLASSIFICATION OF PEROXISOMAL DISORDERS

## 1. PEROXISOME BIOGENESIS DISORDERS

- Zellweger syndrome
- Neonatal adrenoleukodystrophy
- Infantile Refsum disease
- Rhizomelic chondrodysplasia punctata

Zellweger  
spectrum  
disorders

## 2. SINGLE ENZYME DEFICIENCIES

- Disorders of ether phospholipid biosynthesis (RCDP type 2/3)
- Disorders of peroxisomal  $\beta$ -oxidation
  - \* X-linked adrenoleukodystrophy
  - \* Acyl-CoA oxidase deficiency
  - \* D-bifunctional protein deficiency
  - \* 2-Methylacyl-CoA racemase deficiency
  - \* SCPx deficiency
- Disorders of peroxisomal fatty acid- $\alpha$ -oxidation (Refsum)

RCDP  
spectrum  
disorders

# **THE CLINICAL SPECTRUM OF**

**Zellweger Spectrum Disorders**

**+ Acyl-CoA oxidase deficiency**

**D-Bifunctional Protein deficiency**

**Rhizomelic Chondrodysplasia Punctata Spectrum**

**Type 1, 2, 3**

**Type 4, 5**

**X-Linked Adrenoleukodystrophy Spectrum**

**Adrenocortical insufficiency**

**Progressive myelopathy and peripheral neuropathy  
(male and female)**

**Cerebral adrenoleukodystrophy**

# Zellweger spectrum disorders

Peroxisome biogenesis disorders  
“generalized peroxisomal disorders”



Zellweger syndrome



Neonatal adrenoleukodystrophy



Infantile Refsum disease

Phenotype variants with overlapping clinical signs

# **ZSD: Characterized by the absence of functional peroxisomes and a deficiency of multiple peroxisomal metabolic pathways**

- **Plasma**

- ↑ VLCFAs
- ↑ Pristanic acid and phytanic acid (diet and age dependent)
- ↑ DHCA and THCA (in most but not all patients)
- ↑ Pipecolic acid

- **Erythrocytes**

- ↓ Plasmalogens

- **Skin fibroblasts**

- ↓  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ -oxidation
- ↑ VLCFAs
  
- ↓ DHAPAT activity
- IF  $\alpha$ -catalase: absence of import-competent peroxisomes

# ZELLWEGER SPECTRUM DISORDERS

## CLINICAL PRESENTATION

**Most  
frequent  
combination**

- **Cognitive and motor dysfunction**
- **Retinopathy**
- **Hearing defect**
- **Liver dysfunction**

- **Visual impairment**
- **Very mild cognitive impairment**

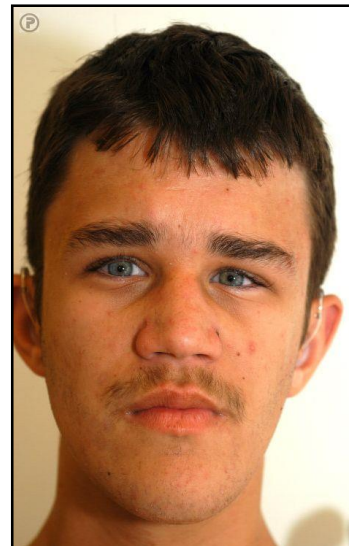
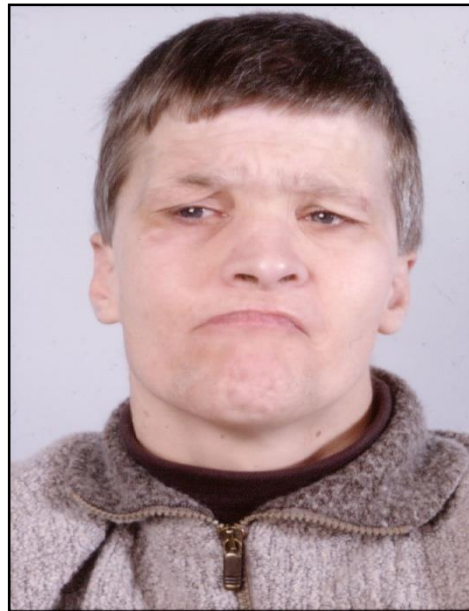
- **Ataxia**
- **Polyneuropathy**

# ZSD – Liver phenotype



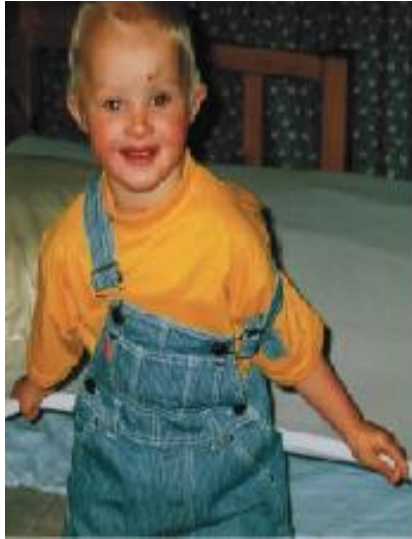


# Zellweger spectrum disorders – Mild phenotype



# ZSD

## Progressive neurological manifestations



3 years



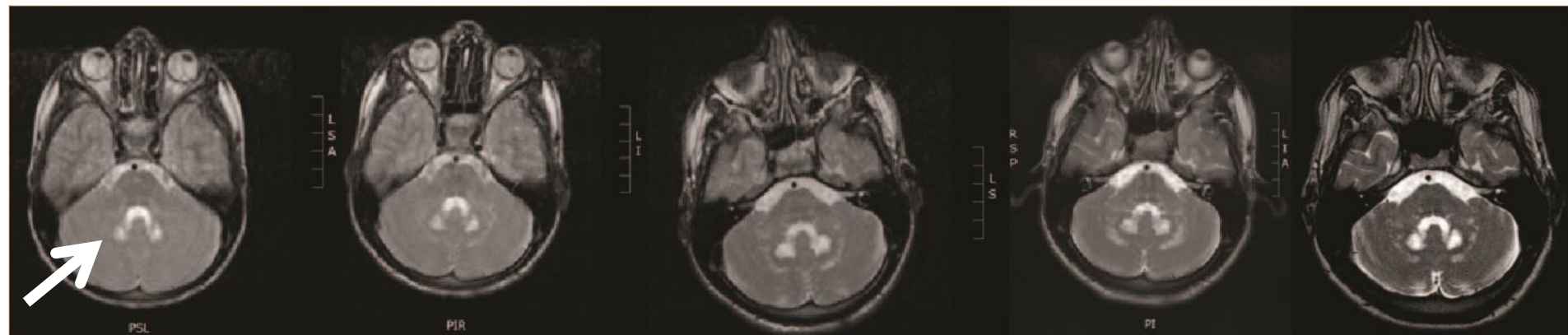
14 years



16 years



22 years



11 years

14 years

17 years

18 years

22 years

# ZSD

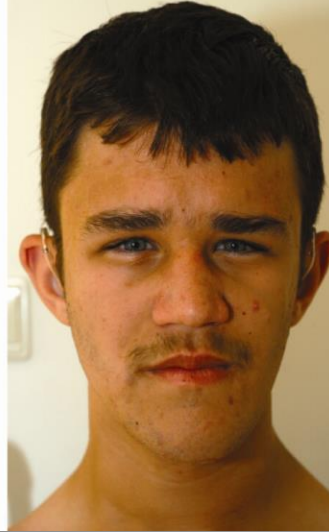
## Progressive neurological manifestations Normalization of biochemical abnormalities



3 years



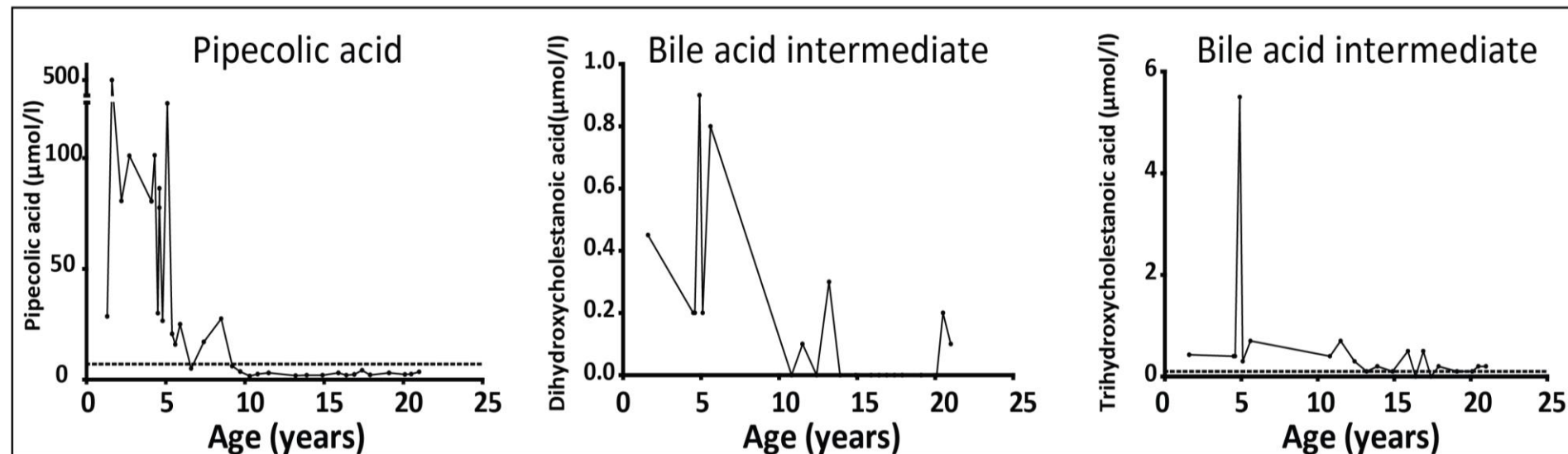
7 years



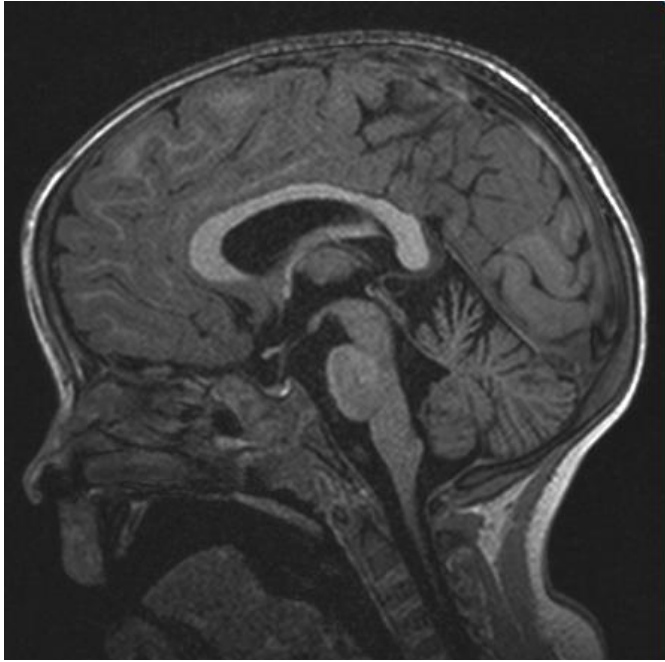
15 years



23 years



# Zellweger spectrum disorder – Ataxia



5 yrs



8 yrs

- T<sub>1</sub>-weighted mid sagittal MRI
- Progressive atrophy of the vermis



6 yrs

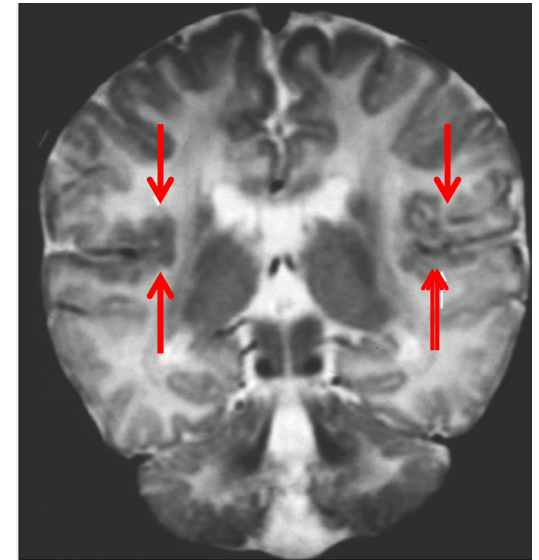


- **D-Bifunctional protein deficiency**

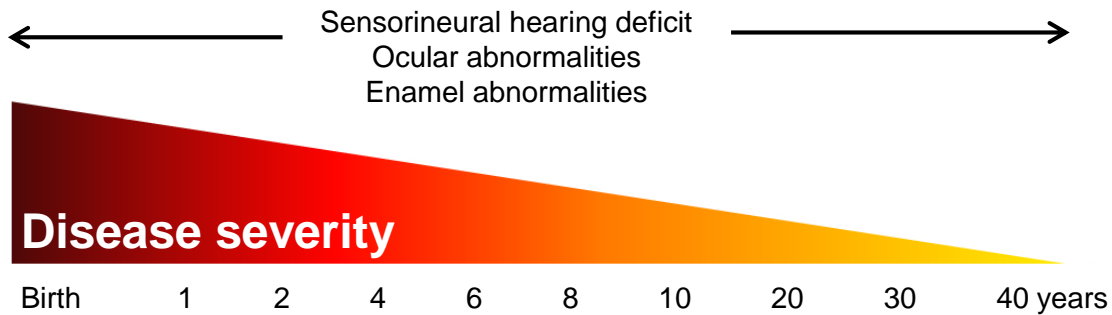
- **Most frequent single enzyme defect that mimics Zellweger spectrum phenotypes**
- **Differs fundamentally from peroxisome assembly disorders – single enzyme defect, peroxisomes intact**

# D-bifunctional protein deficiency

- **Early onset clinical symptoms**
- **Often neonatal hypotonia / seizures**
- **Severe developmental delay and peripheral neuropathy**
- **Often neuronal migration abnormality and cerebellar pathology (88%)**



T<sub>2</sub>-weighted MRI,  
perisylvian polymicrogyria



**Presentation**

Neonatal-infantile	Childhood	Adolescent-adult
Severe hypotonia Epileptic seizures Neuronal migration defects Hepatomegaly Hepatic dysfunction (hyperbilirubinaemic jaundice) Craniofacial dysmorphism	Mild hypotonia Leukodystrophy Mental retardation Developmental delay Failure to thrive Hepatomegaly Hepatic dysfunction (vitamin K-dependent coagulopathy) Craniofacial dysmorphism Adrenal insufficiency	Developmental delay Peripheral neuropathy Cerebellar ataxia Leukodystrophy Adrenal insufficiency



# Rhizomelic chondrodysplasia punctata spectrum



## Severe type

- NEAR ABSENCE OF DEVELOPMENT
- PLASMALOGENS < 5% IN RBC



## Milder type

- UNSUPPORTED WALKING
- TELEGRAM STYLE SENTENCES
- PLASMALOGENS > 35% IN RBC

# RCDP

- Growth retardation, rhizomelia
- Cataracts
- Developmental delay
- PLASMALOGENS ↓



11 years



1 day old  
punctate stippling

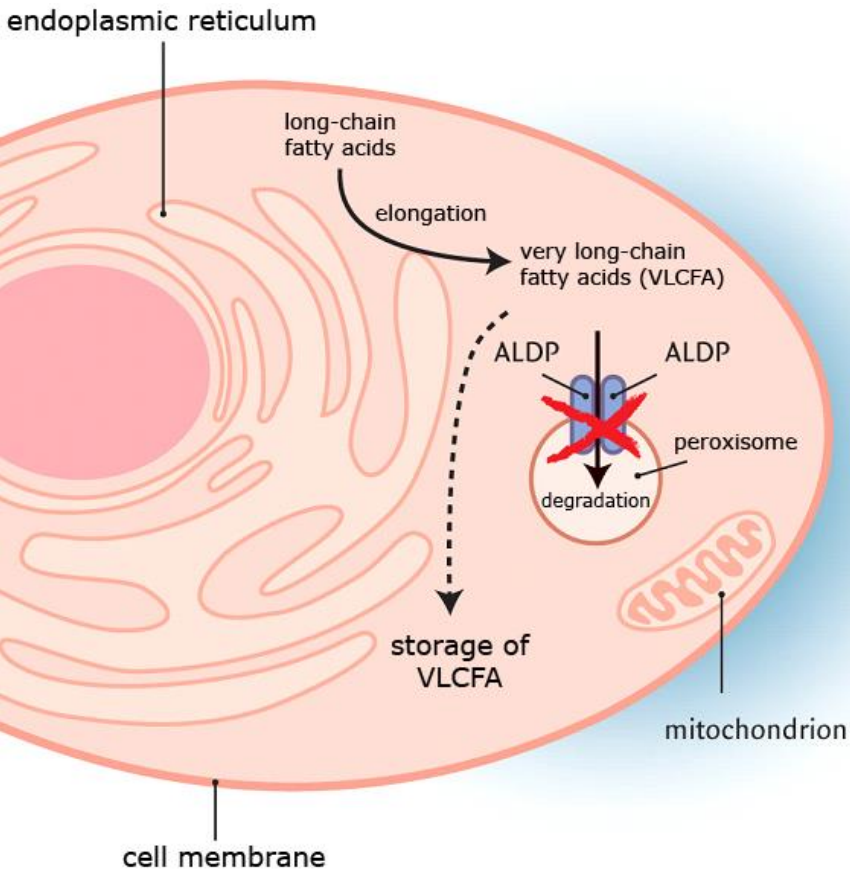
# Rhizomelic chondrodysplasia punctata type I: severe type



# Summary

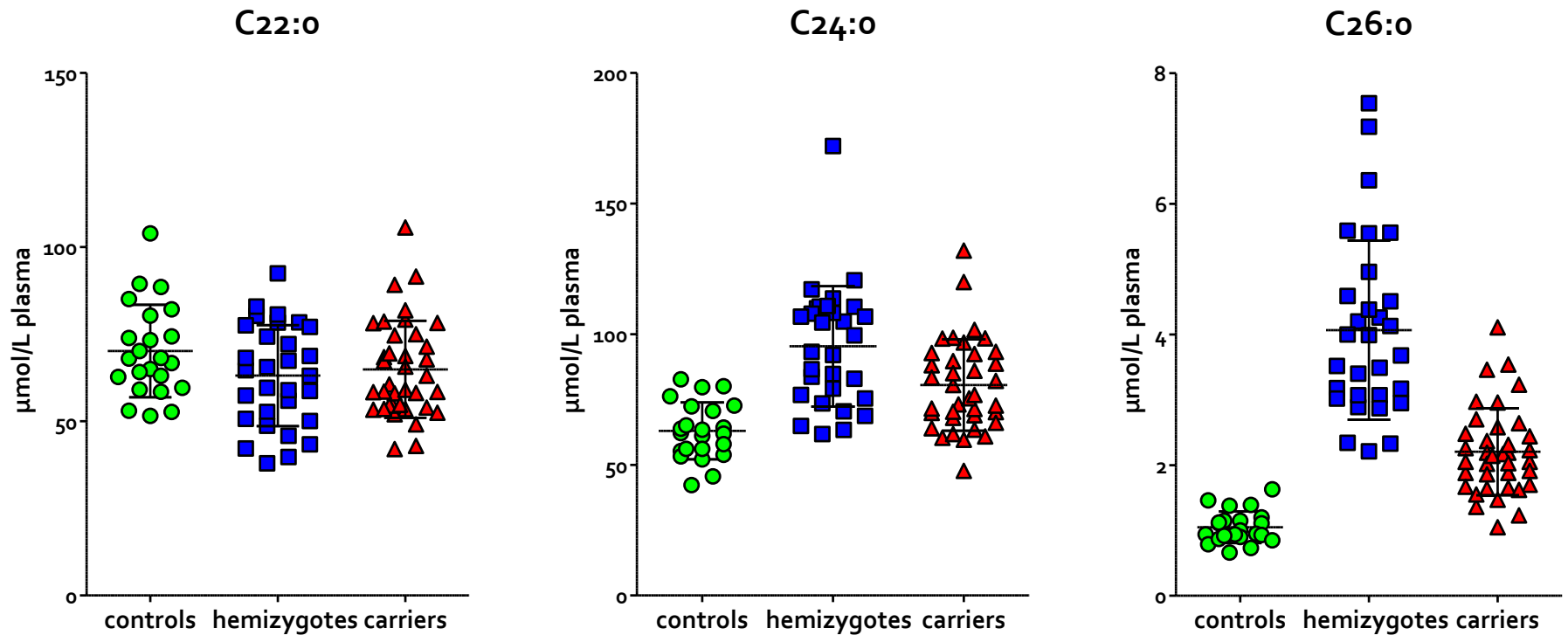
- Variability in **Zellweger** spectrum disorders and **RCDP** spectrum disorders is much larger than generally appreciated
- Biochemical abnormalities can fluctuate to normalize with time in Zellweger spectrum disorders
- Patients present a (slowly) progressive disease course

# Introduction: genetics and biochemistry of ALD



- Peroxisomal metabolic disease
- Mutation in *ABCD1* gene (X-linked)
- Accumulation of C26:0
- >10.000 patients in Europe
- Clinical spectrum
- Men and women affected

# Introduction: genetics and biochemistry of ALD



# Introduction: clinical features of ALD

1910

Aus dem pathol.-anatom. Universitätsinstitute (Vorstand: Hofr. Prof. Weichselbaum) und dem Karolinen-Kinderspitale (dirig. Primararzt:

## **Die Encephalitis periaxialis diffusa** (nebst Bemerkungen über die Apraxie des Lidschlusses).

Von

**Paul Schilder.**

Mit 11 Textabbildungen.

*(Eingegangen am 19. März 1924.)*

~~BRONZEKRANKHEIT UND SKLEROBIRENDE ENCEPHALOMYELITIS.~~  
(Diffuse Sklerose.)

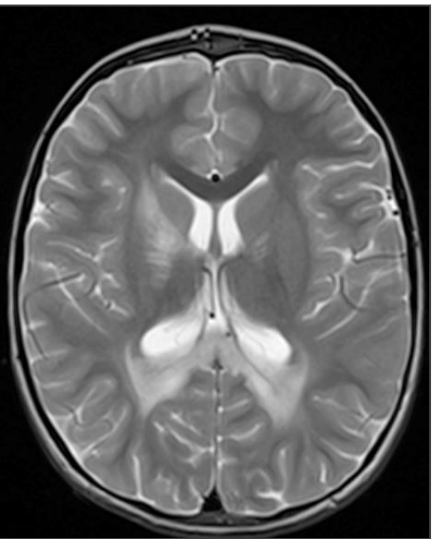
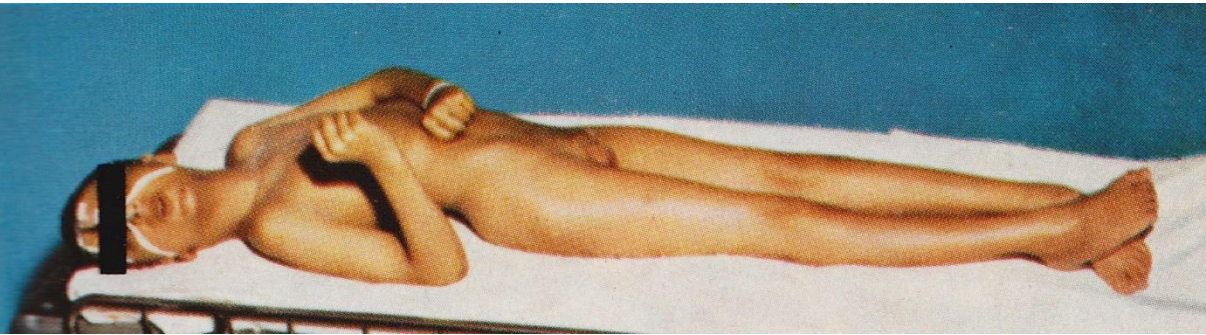
Von

**E. Siemerling und H. G. Creutzfeldt.**

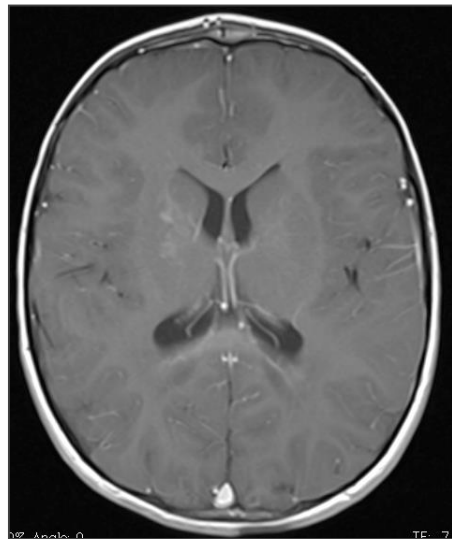
Mit 10 Textabbildungen.

*(Eingegangen am 28. Dezember 1922.)*

# Introduction: Clinical features of ALD



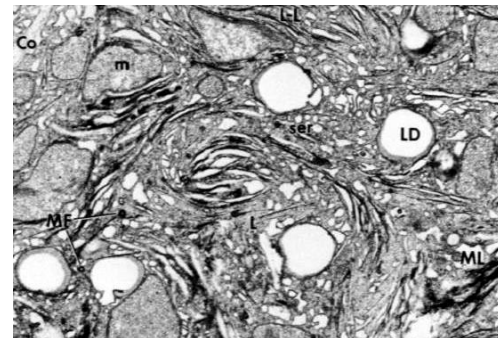
T2



T1 gadolinium

1972: inclusions in adrenal glands

1976: accumulation of VLCFA





# Introduction: Clinical features of ALD

- > 80% of male patients develop adrenocortical failure < 18 years
- Often only glucocorticoid deficient, in contrast to auto-immune Addison
- Often first symptom of X-ALD

# Introduction: Clinical features of ALD

Reports of hereditary spastic paraparesis with adrenal failure

In the 1970s identified as ALD by two different groups

*J. Neurol.* 213, 237—250 (1976)  
© by Springer-Verlag 1976

## **Spastic Paraplegia Associated with Addison's Disease: Adult Variant of Adreno-Leukodystrophy**

H. Budka, E. Sluga, and W.-D. Heiss

Neurological Institute and Neurological Clinic, University of Vienna

Received May 13, 1976

Extension of the phenotype thanks to the biomarker!

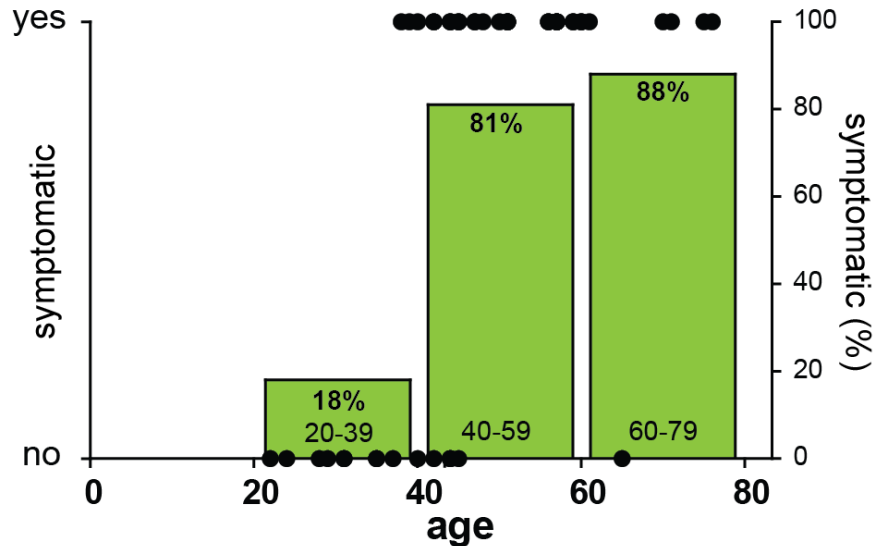
# Introduction: Clinical features of ALD

- Onset variable but usually in the 3<sup>rd</sup> decade
- Thin hair, early balding
- Slowly progressive myelopathy with prominent dorsal column and spinothalamic tract involvement
- Neurophysiological testing: (axonal) peripheral neuropathy, clinically less relevant
- Arms are not affected



# Introduction: Clinical features of ALD

## Women with ALD



Myelopathy (prominent fecal incontinence)

Peripheral neuropathy (clinically less relevant)

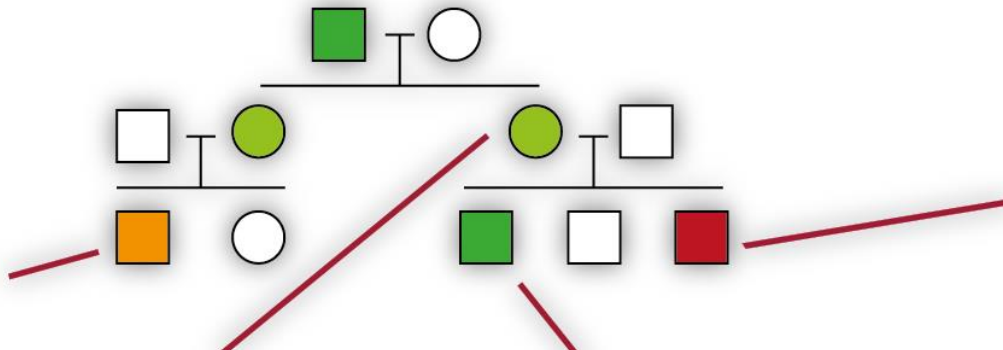
Symptomatic status highly age dependent

Women are patients!

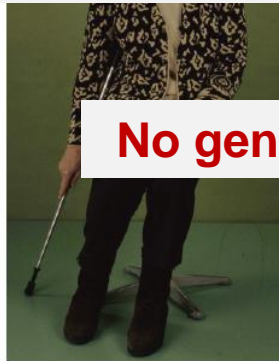
# Clinical spectrum of ALD: “classic view”



adrenal  
insufficiency



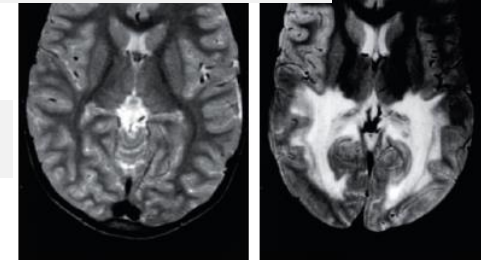
**Is this true?**  
**Do we know natural history?**



symptomatic carrier



adrenomyeloneuropathy



childhood cerebral ALD

# Cerebral ALD is not rare in adulthood

## Frequent occurrence of cerebral demyelination in adrenomyeloneuropathy

Marlijn de Beer, MD  
Marc Engelen, MD, PhD  
Björn M. van Geel, MD,  
PhD

### ABSTRACT

**Objective:** To study the frequency of additional cerebral demyelination in Dutch patients with adrenomyeloneuropathy (AMN).

**Methods:** Consecutive patients with AMN from the Dutch X-linked adrenoleukodystrophy cohort

# Women with ALD develop symptoms

doi:10.1093/brain/awt361

Brain 2014; 137; 693–706 | 693

**BRAIN**  
A JOURNAL OF NEUROLOGY

## X-linked adrenoleukodystrophy in women: a cross-sectional cohort study

Marc Engelen,<sup>1,2</sup> Mathieu Barbier,<sup>3,\*</sup> Inge M. E. Dijkstra,<sup>4</sup> Remmelt Schür,<sup>2</sup> Rob M. A. de Bie,<sup>1</sup> Camiel Verhamme,<sup>1</sup> Marcel G. W. Dijkgraaf,<sup>5</sup> Patrick A. Aubourg,<sup>3,6</sup> Ronald J. A. Wanders,<sup>4</sup> Bjorn M. van Geel,<sup>7</sup> Marianne de Visser,<sup>1</sup> Bwee T. Poll-The<sup>1,2</sup> and Stephan Kemp<sup>2,4</sup>

---

>60 years: about 90% of women have symptoms

# Men still develop myelopathy after successful HSCCT

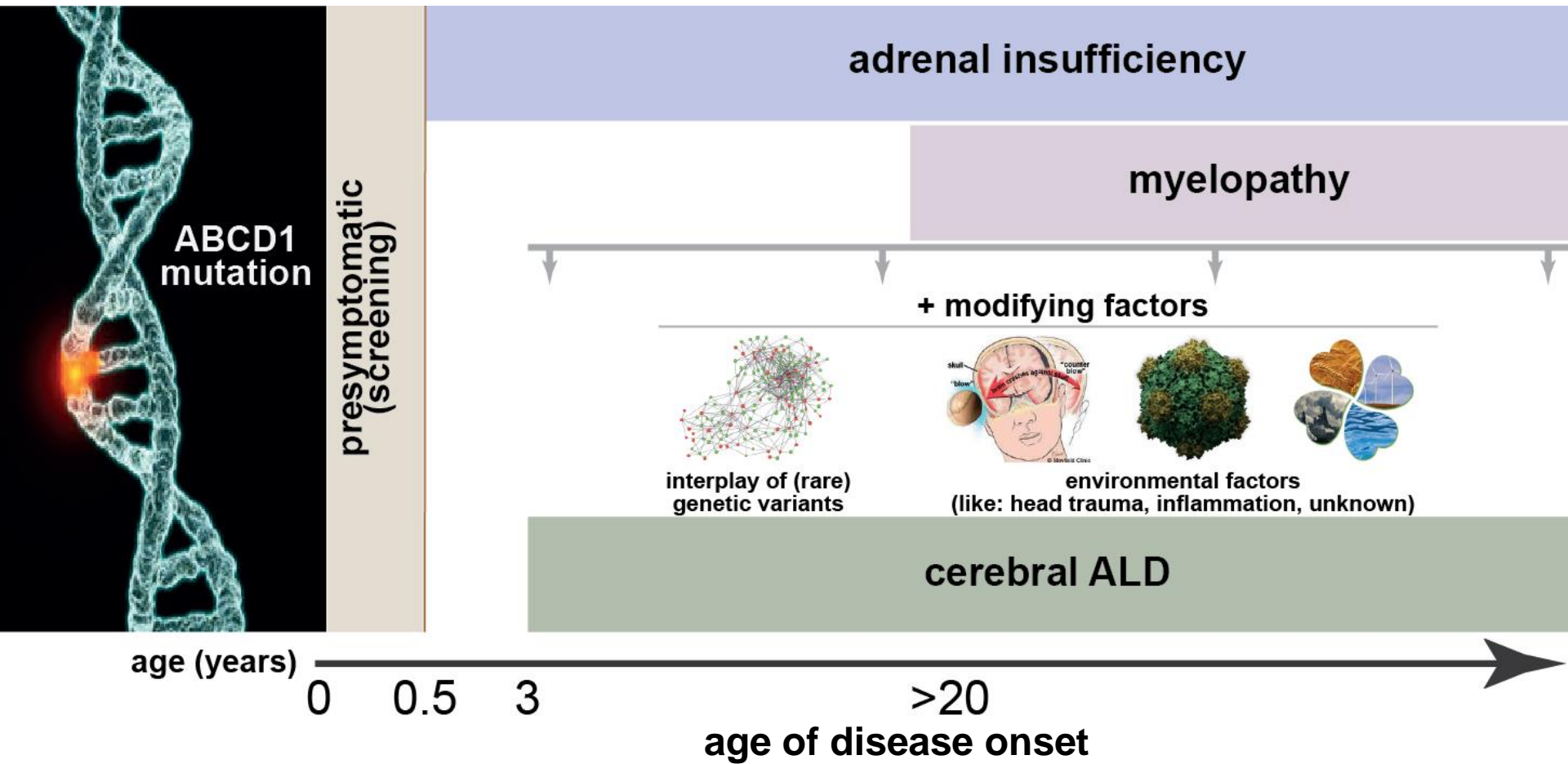
**Table 1** Summary of clinical characteristics of the five patients

Transplantation					VLCFA pre-Tx		VLCFA post-Tx		Examination			
Patient	Age Tx	Donor	Chimerism	GvH	C26:0	C26/C22	C26:0	C26/C22	Age	AI	myelopathy	Mutation
A	4	sib	100 %	No	2.26	0.06	2.48	0.05	23	+	+	p.Ile657del
B	6	MUD	n.a.	No	2.56	0.08	1.6	0.08	18	+	-	not known
C1	9	MUD	100 %	No	n.a.	n.a.	0.77	0.02	25	+	+	p.Pro543Leu
C2	7	MUD	100 %	No	5.17	0.07	1.7	0.03	22	+	+	p.Pro543Leu
D	6	sib	100 %	No	1.75	0.06	2.73	0.05	23	+	-	p.Leu220Pro

Attenuated?



# Clinical spectrum of ALD: current view

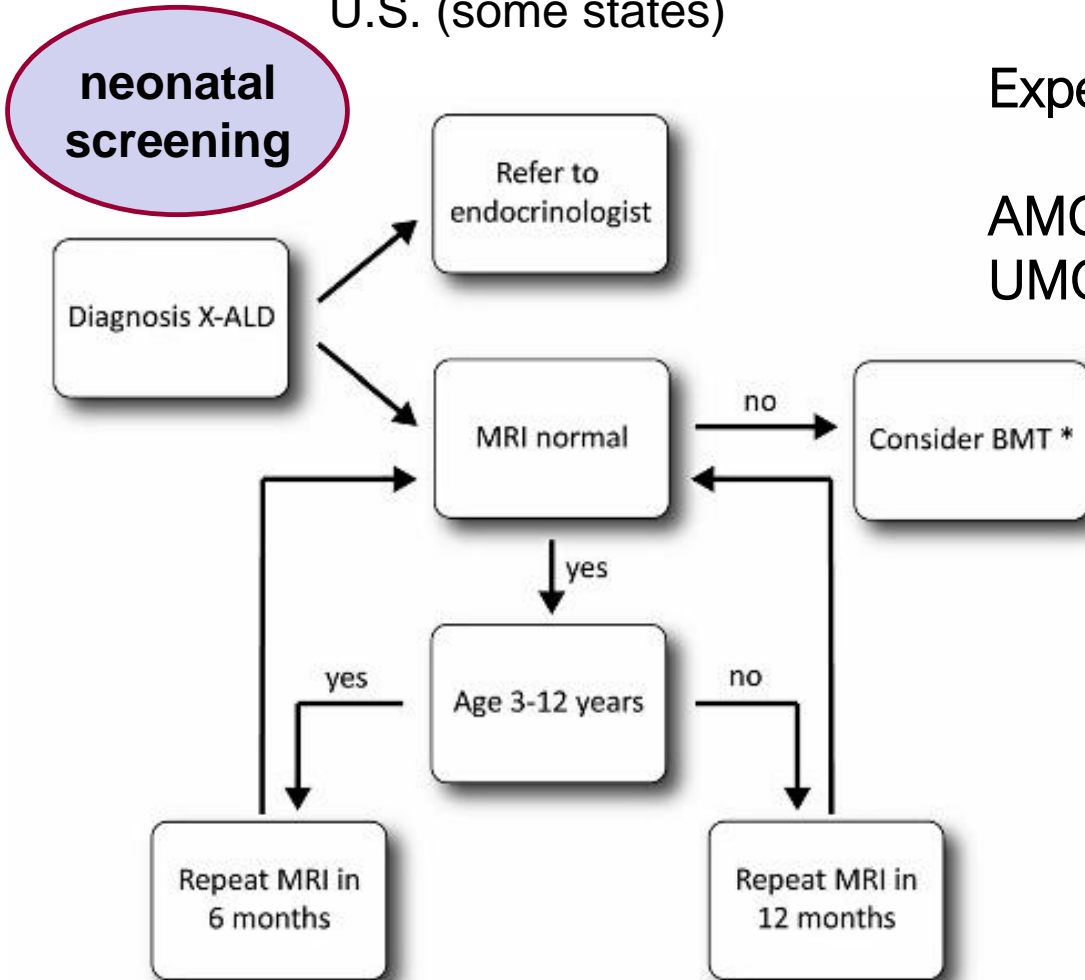


# Follow-up

U.S. (some states)

Expert centers

AMC: follow-up  
UMCU: HSCT



neonatal screening

Diagnosis X-ALD

Refer to endocrinologist

MRI normal

no

Consider BMT \*

yes

Age 3-12 years

no

Repeat MRI in 6 months

Repeat MRI in 12 months

## Key clinical problems

- Clinical course unpredictable

*Intensive follow-up while not all men develop cerebral ALD*

- Natural history not well known on quantitative outcomes

*Clinical trial readiness*

- No curative treatment for the majority of patients



Medicijnstudie bij patienten met X-ALD

[m.engelen@amc.uva.nl](mailto:m.engelen@amc.uva.nl)

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- **Clinic**

Kevin Berendse

Marc Engelen

Femke Klouwer

Bart Koot

Irene Huffnagel

Wouter van Ballengoij

Bwee Tien Poll-The

Monica Schouten

- **Metabolism**

Sacha Ferdinandusse

Stephan Kemp

Wim Kulik

Fred Vaz

Ronald Wanders

- **DNA**

Hans Waterham

## Patients and parents

