

MINDS MATTER: SEEING CONCUSSION THROUGH NEW EYES

Christina L. Master, MD, FAAP, CAQSM, FACSM, FAMSSM
Professor of Pediatrics
University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine
Co-Director, Minds Matter Concussion Program
The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

Ironman World Championship Medical Symposium
Kona, Hawaii
21 October 2024



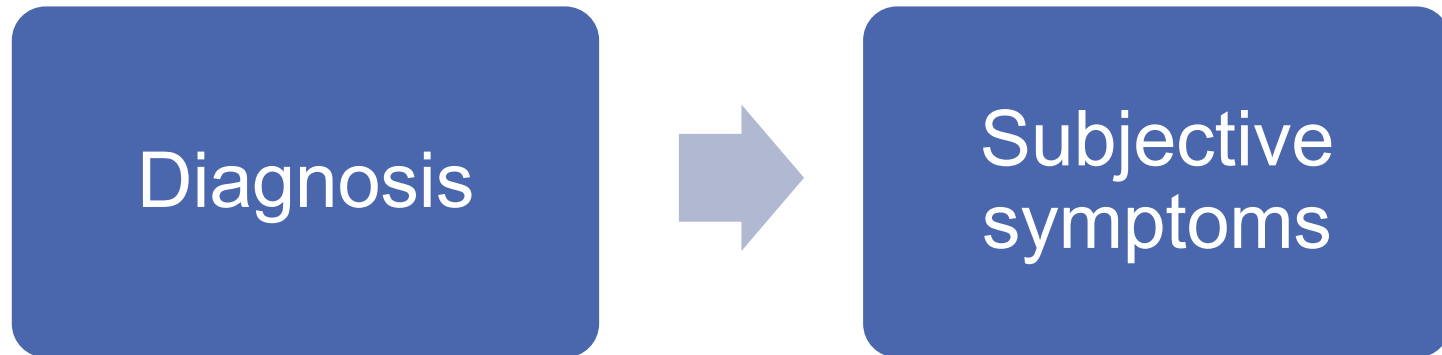
**I have no financial relationships to
disclose or conflicts of interest to
resolve.**

Our research is/has been funded by the
NIH, CDC, NCAA, DOD, PA
Department of Health, AMSSM, CHOP
Frontier Program, Toyota Way Forward
Foundation

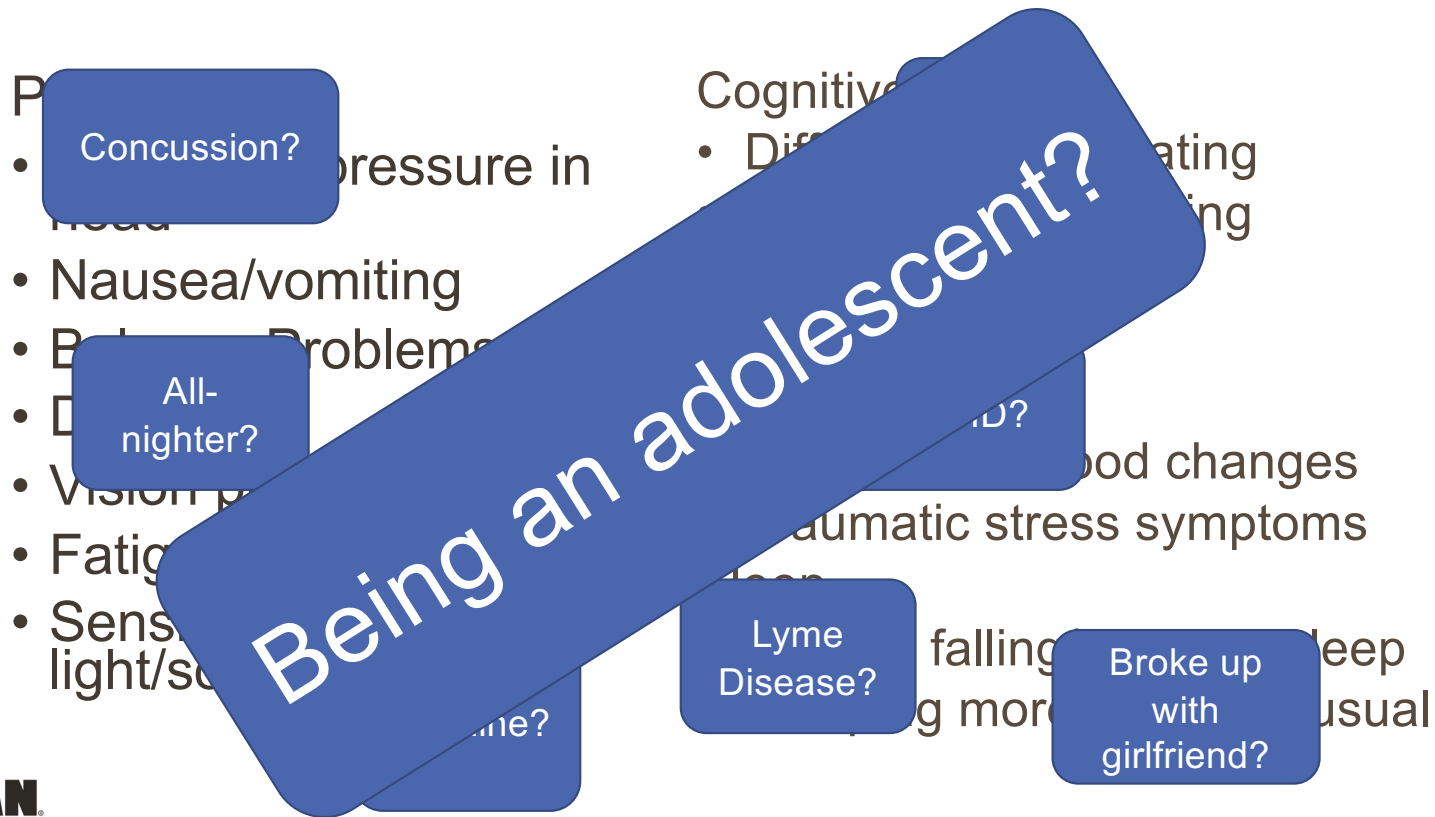
Objectives

- What have learned in the last decade about concussions?
- How can we improve upon our diagnosis of concussion?
- How has management of acute concussion changed (moved from passive to active)?
- What are the targeted treatment strategies for persistent concussion symptoms?
- What are the factors that influence differences in concussion outcomes?
- What are some of the latest developments in our understanding of biological basis of concussion?

Where are we with the diagnosis of concussion?



Symptom-based Concussion Diagnosis



What do we find if we ask more specifically about vision symptoms?

Table 2. Association of Convergence Insufficiency Symptom Score (CISS) With Vision Diagnosis.

Vision Diagnosis	CISS <16	CISS ≥16
(-) Any vision diagnosis	19	12
(+) Any vision diagnosis	15	54
	$P = .0002$	
(-) Convergence insufficiency	24	27
(+) Convergence insufficiency	10	39
	$P = .006$	
(-) Accommodative dysfunction	23	27
(+) Accommodative dysfunction	11	39
	$P = .02$	

High CISS Score
Associated with Presence
of Vision Diagnoses

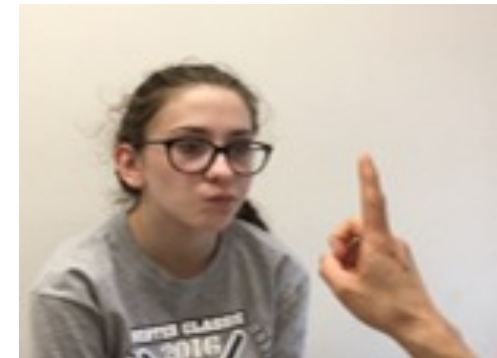
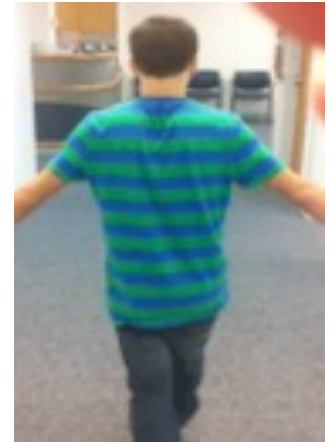
Only 29% of patients
endorsed
vision problems on Post
Concussion Symptom
Scale (PCSS)

Is there more to concussion than just symptoms?



Visio-vestibular examination

- Vision
 - Convergence (abnormal 6 cm or greater)
 - Accommodation (age-related; Hofstetter's formula)
- Vestibular-oculomotor
 - Smooth pursuit
 - Saccades (20 repetitions)
 - Vestibular-ocular reflex (20 repetitions)
- Vestibular-balance
 - Complex tandem gait
 - 5 steps, 4 conditions
 - Eyes open/closed, forwards/backwards



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uy8V5MGX8Ag>

<https://guldenophthalmics.com/product/near-point-rule/>

IRONMAN
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP
MEDICAL SYMPOSIUM

October 20-24, 2024

Outrigger Kona Resort, Kailua-Kona Hawai'i

 **Children's Hospital
of Philadelphia**
Minds Matter Concussion Program



Balance deficits after concussion



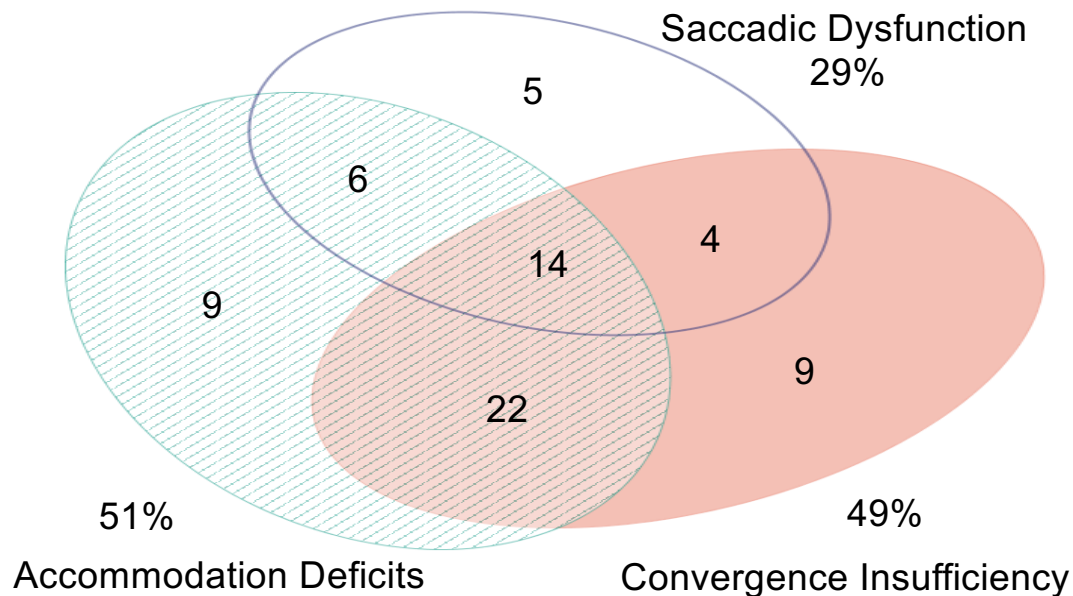
Vision deficits after concussion



Abnormal smooth pursuit



What do we find when we look for vision problems?



- N=100, 11-17 yo
- Formal vision assessment with a developmental optometrist
- H/o previous concussion not associated with vision disorder

I know you have a
concussion but your
physical exam is on
normal



POLICY STATEMENT Organizational Principles to Guide and Define the Child Health
Care System and/or Improve the Health of all Children

American Academy
of Pediatrics



DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™

Vision and Concussion: Symptoms, Signs, Evaluation, and Treatment

Christina L. Master, MD, FAAP,^{a,b,c} Darron Bacal, MD, FAAP,^{d,e} Matthew F. Grady, MD, FAAP,^{a,c} Richard Hertle, MD, FAAP,^{f,g}
Ankoor S. Shah, MD, PhD,^{h,i,j} Mitchell Strominger, MD, FAAP,^{k,l,m,n} Sarah Whitecross, MMedSci, CO,ⁱ
Geoffrey E. Bradford, MD, MS, FAAP,^{o,p} Flora Lum, MD,^q Sean P. Donahue, MD, PhD,^r

AAP SECTION ON OPHTHALMOLOGY; AMERICAN ACADEMY OF OPHTHALMOLOGY; AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR PEDIATRIC
OPHTHALMOLOGY AND STRABISMUS; and AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF CERTIFIED ORTHOPTISTS

IRONMAN
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP
MEDICAL SYMPOSIUM

October 20-24, 2024

Outrigger Kona Resort, Kailua-Kona Hawaii¹

 **Children's Hospital
of Philadelphia**
Minds Matter Concussion Program

Child SCOAT6™

Sport Concussion Office Assessment Tool

For Children Ages 8 to 12 Years



What is the Child SCOAT6?*

The Child SCOAT6 is a tool for evaluating concussions in a controlled office environment by Health Care Professionals (HCPs) typically from 72 hours (3 days) following a sport-related concussion.

The diagnosis of concussion is a clinical determination made by an HCP. The various components of the Child SCOAT6 may assist with the clinical assessment and help guide individualised management.

The Child SCOAT6 is used for evaluating athletes aged 8 - 12 years. For athletes aged 13 years and older, please use the SCOAT6.

Brief verbal instructions for some components of the Child SCOAT6 are included. Detailed instructions for use of the Child SCOAT6 are provided in an accompanying document. Please read through these instructions carefully before using the Child SCOAT6.

This tool may be freely copied in its current form for distribution to individuals, teams, groups, and organisations.

Any alteration (including translations and digital re-formatting), re-branding, or sale for commercial gain is not permissible without the expressed written consent of EMJ and the Concussion in Sport Group (CISG).

Completion Guide

Blue: Complete only at first assessment

Green: Recommended part of assessment

Orange: Optional part of assessment

Athlete's Name:	
Date of Birth:	Sex: Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer Not To Say <input type="checkbox"/>
Sport:	
Age First Played Contact Sport:	School Class/Grade/Level:
Handedness (Writing): L <input type="checkbox"/> R <input type="checkbox"/> Ambidextrous <input type="checkbox"/>	Handedness (Sport): L <input type="checkbox"/> R <input type="checkbox"/> Ambidextrous <input type="checkbox"/>
Dominant Leg (Sport): L <input type="checkbox"/> R <input type="checkbox"/> Ambidextrous <input type="checkbox"/>	
Name of Accompanying Parent/Carer:	
Examiner:	Date of Examination:
Referring Physician's Name:	
Referring Physician's Contact Details:	

* In reviewing studies informing the SCOAT6 and Child SCOAT6, the period defined for the included papers was 3-30 days. HCPs may choose to use the Child SCOAT6 beyond this timeframe but should be aware of the parameters of the review.

For use by Health Care Professionals Only

Child SCOAT6™

Developed by: The Concussion in Sport Group (CISG)

Supported by:

So what?

- How does this help us help our patients with self-efficacy?
 - Understand their injury?
 - Manage their symptoms?
- How do we support and help them adjust activities?
 - School or work?
 - Sports?

IRONMAN
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP
MEDICAL SYMPOSIUM
October 20-24, 2024
Outrigger Kona Resort, Kailua-Kona Hawaii



Implications of visio-vestibular deficits

- Smooth Pursuit - Visual tracking initiated by a moving target
 - Trouble with moving objects, i.e., ball sports, driving
- Saccades - Coordinated jump eye movements, used in scanning
 - Horizontal – trouble with reading
 - Vertical – trouble with smartboard or monitor, note-taking
- Near point of convergence - Coordinated binocular inward movement of eyes in to maintain focus at near distance
 - Contribution from monocular accommodation
 - Trouble with focus at near distance, double vision, visual fatigue with prolonged focus at near, words moving on page, loss of place, slow reading
- Accommodation - Under autonomic control, changes lens shape and pupil size
 - Contributes to convergence and focus at near
 - Blurry vision
- VOR/Gaze stability – maintaining visual target while moving
 - Sensitive to motion or moving visual stimuli



Relevant visio-vestibular accommodations

- Extra time or untimed tasks
- Pacing breaks, especially visual
- Pre-printed notes and hard copy/audio/recorded formats vs. electronic format
- Enlarged font materials (18 point or larger)
- Extra time in hallways



Treatment of acute concussion

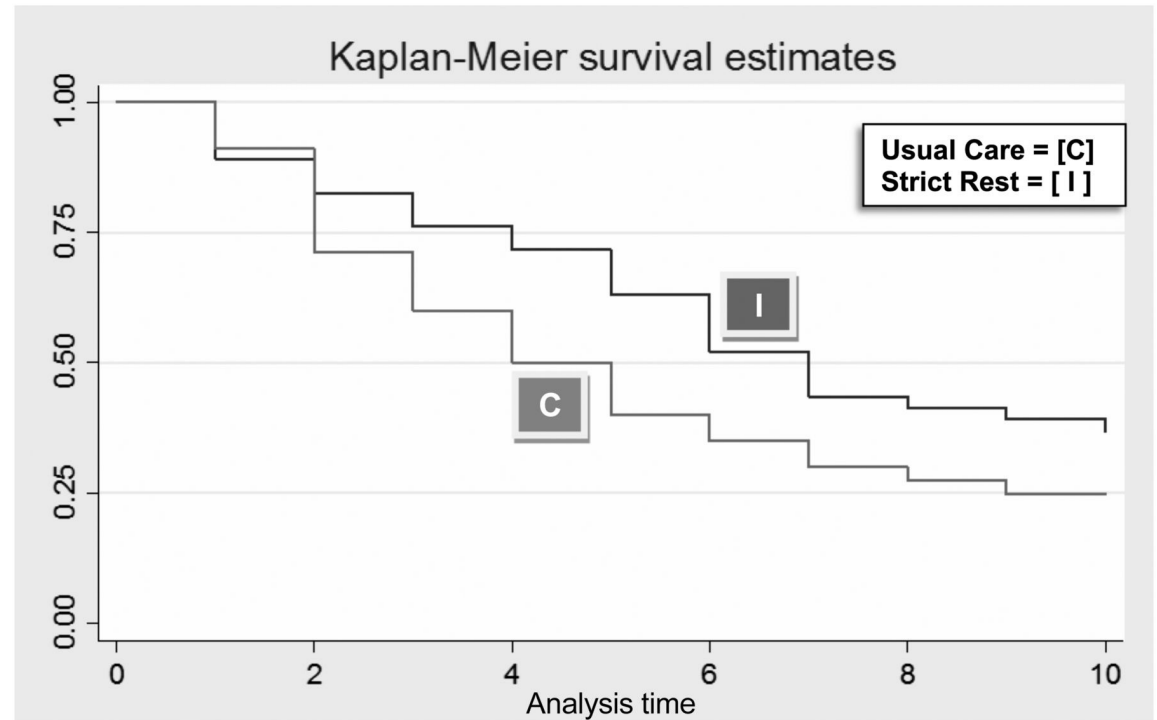
“After a brief period of rest during the acute phase (24–48 hours) after injury, patients can be encouraged to become gradually and progressively more active . . . The exact amount and duration of rest is not yet well defined in the literature and requires further study.”



“Relative (not strict) rest, which includes activities of daily living and reduced screen time, is indicated immediately, and for up to the first 2 days after injury. Individuals can return to light-intensity physical activity (PA), such as walking, that does not more than mildly exacerbate

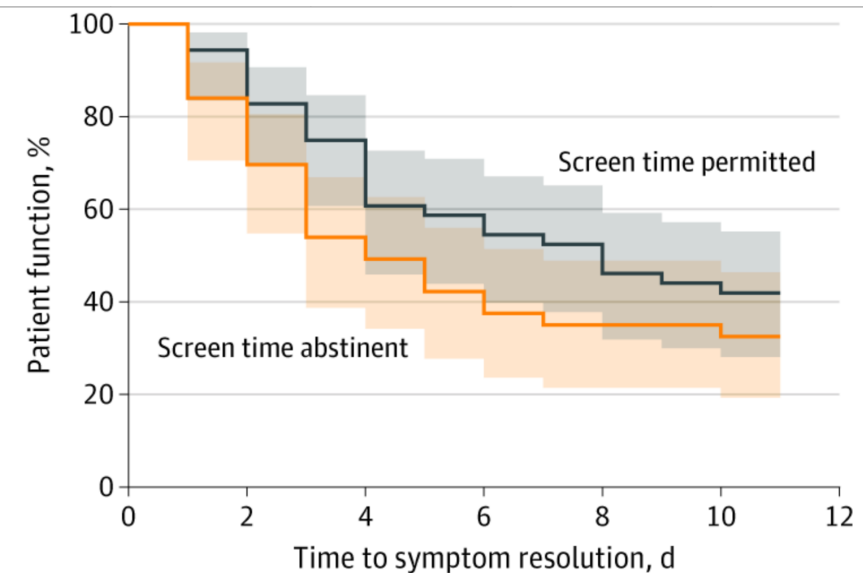
Physical activity: Evidence for “brief period of rest”

- N = 99; RCT of 11-22 yo from ED
 - 1-2 vs. 5 days rest then gradual return to activity
 - 5 day rest group had greater concussion symptom burden and slower symptom resolution



Cognitive activity: Evidence for “brief period of rest”

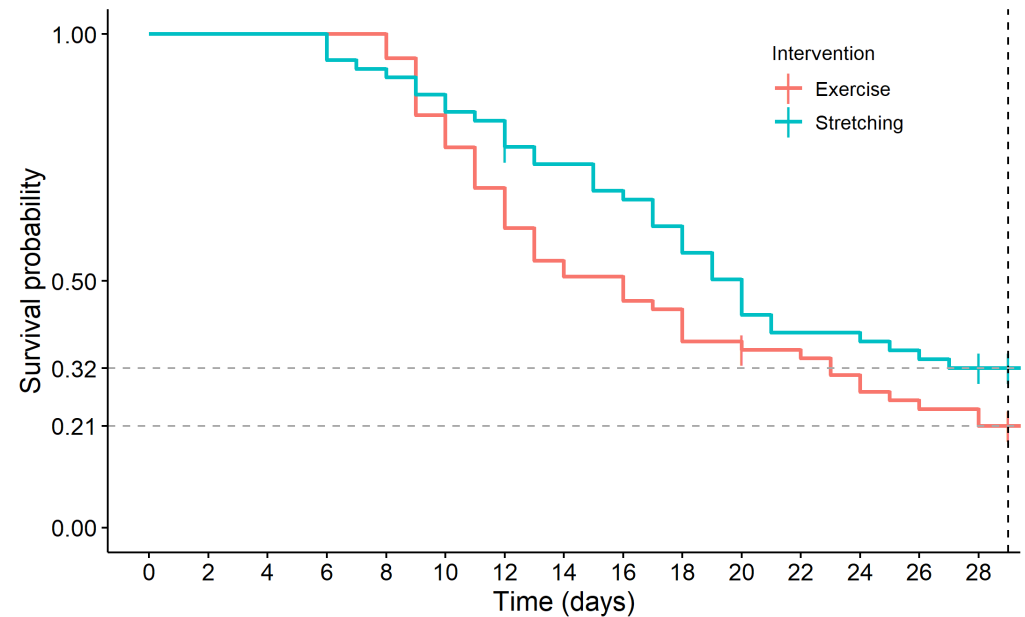
- N = 125, RCT of 12-25 yo from ED
 - Screen time permitted vs. abstained for 48 hours
 - 620 vs. 130 minutes difference between groups
 - Screen time permitted group took longer to symptom recovery (8 days vs. 3.5 days)



No. at risk						
Screen time permitted	53	49	37	28	25	21
Screen time abstinent	50	41	23	18	14	14

Aerobic exercise prescription prevents persistent symptoms

- RCT heart rate-targeted aerobic exercise vs. placebo stretching
- Fewer participants in the aerobic exercise arm had persistent symptoms at 28 days vs placebo stretching arm ($p = 0.042$)
- Dotted lines represent percentage of sample not recovered by Day 29 for each intervention.



N = 118

Return to School

- N = 1630, 5-18 yo, mean age 11.8 years, 38% early return to school
- Early return associated with lower symptoms at 14 days for
- 875 early return to school (days)



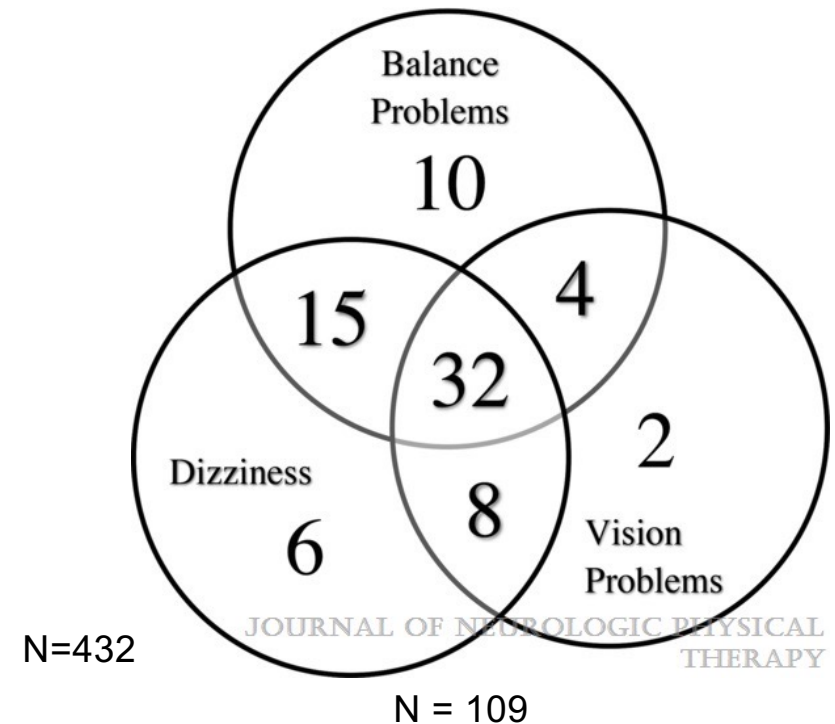
Active rehabilitation strategies for persistent symptoms

- Vestibular
 - Habituation and desensitization
 - Increase motion tolerance
 - Improve balance
- Exercise
 - Safe and beneficial
 - Timing? Acute and chronic
- Cognitive
 - School as therapy with adequate accommodations
 - Formal speech/OT with executive function training
- Vision
 - Address specific visual symptoms
 - Increase visual stamina

Vestibular therapy improves symptoms and signs in children with persistent symptoms



- Mean age 11.8 years, 46% F
- Presented to sports med office median = 24 days
- Referred/started vestibular PT median = 55 days, completed median 7 visits/56 days
- 80% symptomatic with saccades, ~50% symptomatic with gaze stability, 77.6% with abnormal complex tandem gait, 26% receded NPC, 34.7% abnormal accommodation
- Concussion symptoms, visio-vestibular clinical assessment and BESS improved
- NPC did not



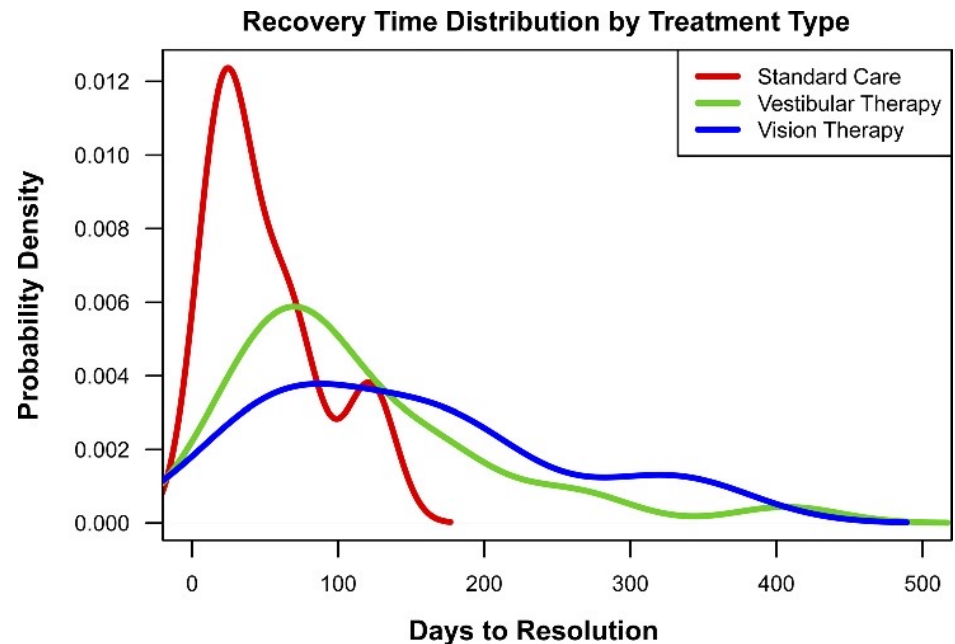
Before and after vestibular therapy



Vision rehabilitation for receded near point of convergence



- Of 275 concussions, 67 had receded NPC
- 46% resolved spontaneously median 4.5 weeks
 - 65% of these received visio-vestibular home exercise program
- 41% with vestibular therapy
 - Referred median = 30 days post-injury
 - Recovered median = 11 weeks after injury
- 13% with vestibular and vision therapy
 - Referred to vision therapy median = 52 days
 - Recovered median = 23 weeks post-injury



N = 67

Before vision rehabilitation



After vision rehabilitation

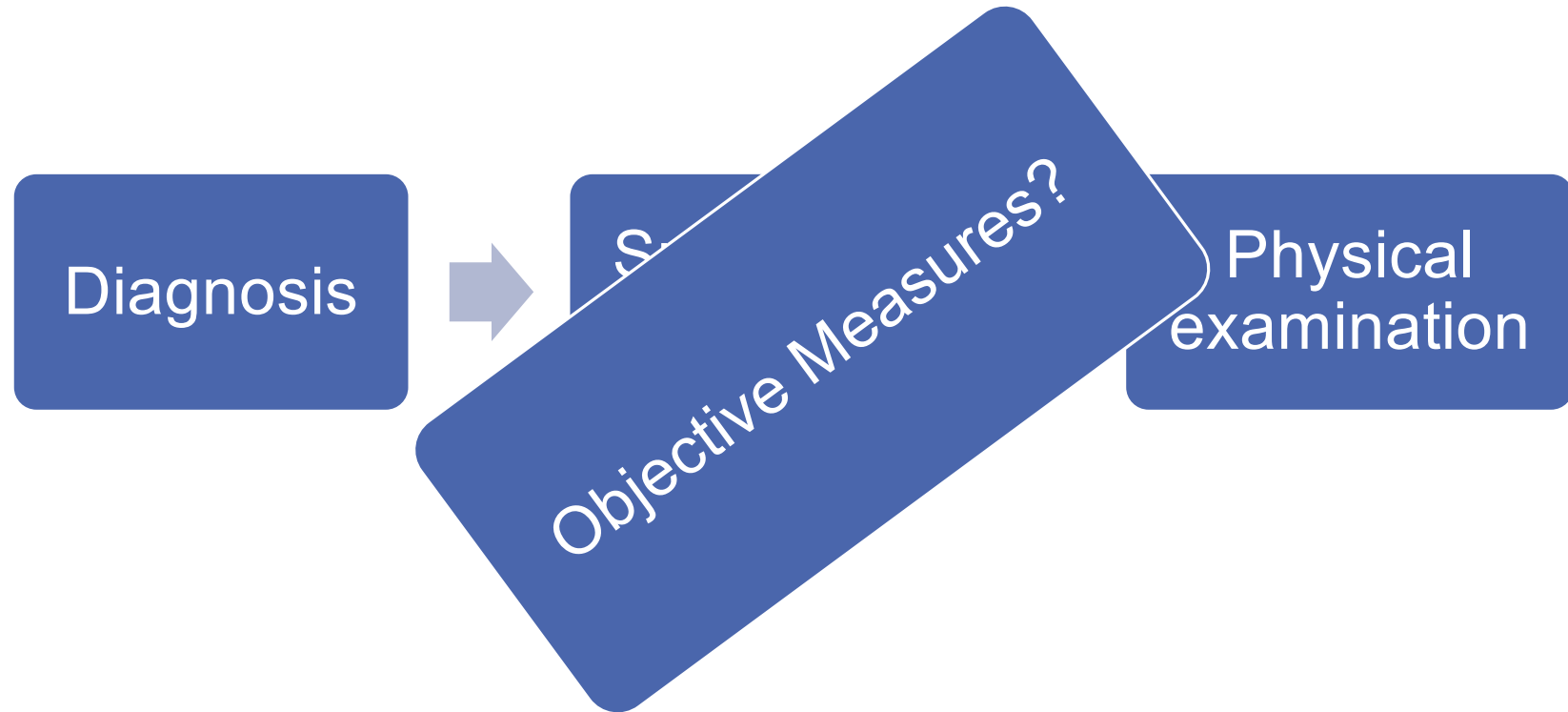


What about mental health and well-being?

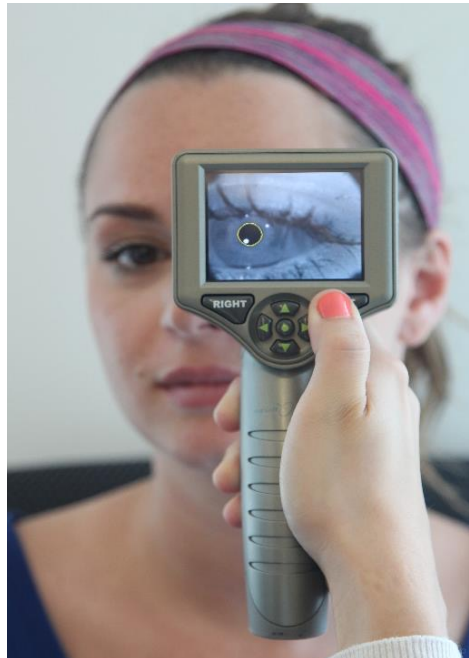
- In a retrospective administrative database cohort in Canada (N = 448,803)
 - Those with sustained a concussion were 40% more likely to develop a mental health issue than orthopedic controls (aHR 1.38; 95% CI, 1.37-1.40)¹
- In our prospective CHOP Minds Matter registry (N = 3105)
 - Those with pre-injury history of mental health issues had greater post-injury emotional symptom burden (M>F), visio-vestibular dysfunction, later return to exercise, and longer recovery in a dose-response fashion²



Can we do even better?



Think outside the box: more than just blood biomarkers



IRONMAN
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP
MEDICAL SYMPOSIUM
October 20-24, 2024
Outrigger Kona Resort, Kailua-Kona Hawaii

CH Children's Hospital
of Philadelphia
Minds Matter Concussion Program

Eyes are a window to the brain?

- More than just visual acuity
 - Eye movement
 - Pupillary light response
 - Visual workload



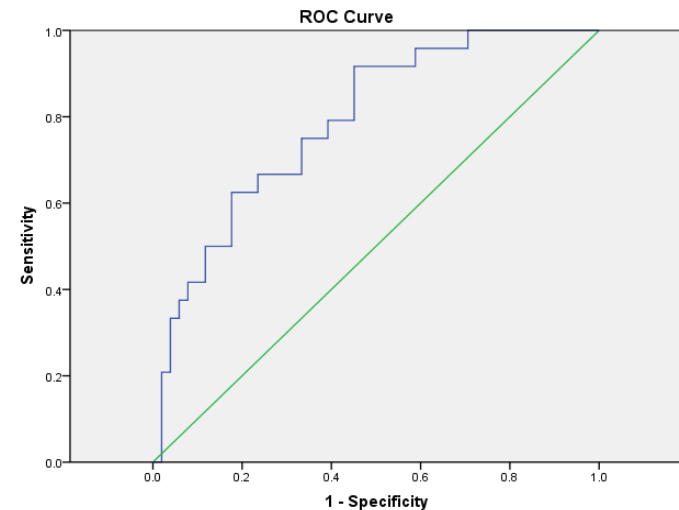
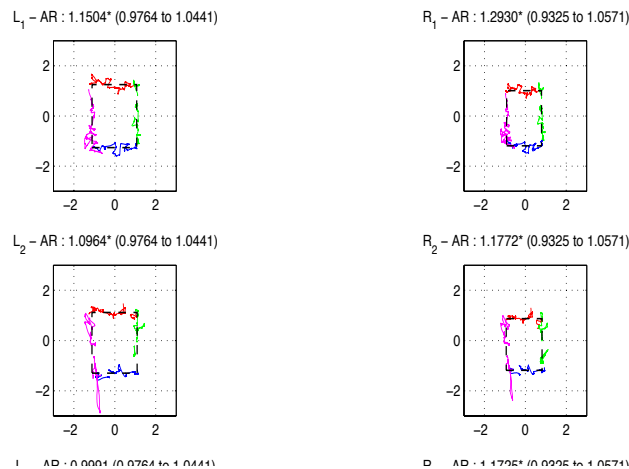
Objective infrared eye tracking



- Binocular eye movements are recorded with an eye tracker
 - Infrared camera captures each pupil
 - Subjects watch a 220-second video traveling around aperture of the monitor
 - FDA-clearance for concussion

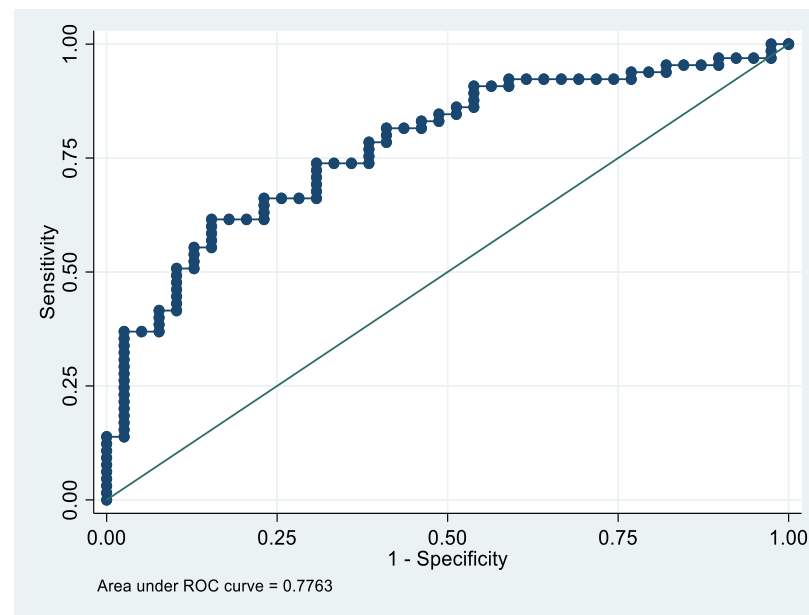
Eye tracking as a biomarker of concussion

- 12 metrics to differentiate concussed from healthy :
 - AUC = 0.854 in derivation cohort (N = 64)
 - AUC = 0.789 in validation cohort (N = 75)
- 6 metrics appear specific to pediatric populations



Objective eye tracking distinguishes concussion-related vision disorder (CRVD)

- N=108, 12 weeks after injury with PPCS
- 62% with vision disorder (CI, AI, SD)
 - Higher CISS scores
 - Symptomatic with eye tracking
 - Receded NPC
 - Greater symptoms with horizontal saccades and gaze stability
 - More balance errors on complex tandem gait, forward eyes closed
 - BOX score higher
 - Multivariable model with 8 eye tracking variables discriminate CRVD with AUC = 0.78
 - Clinical VVE AUC=0.73; VVE+BOX score AUC=0.81



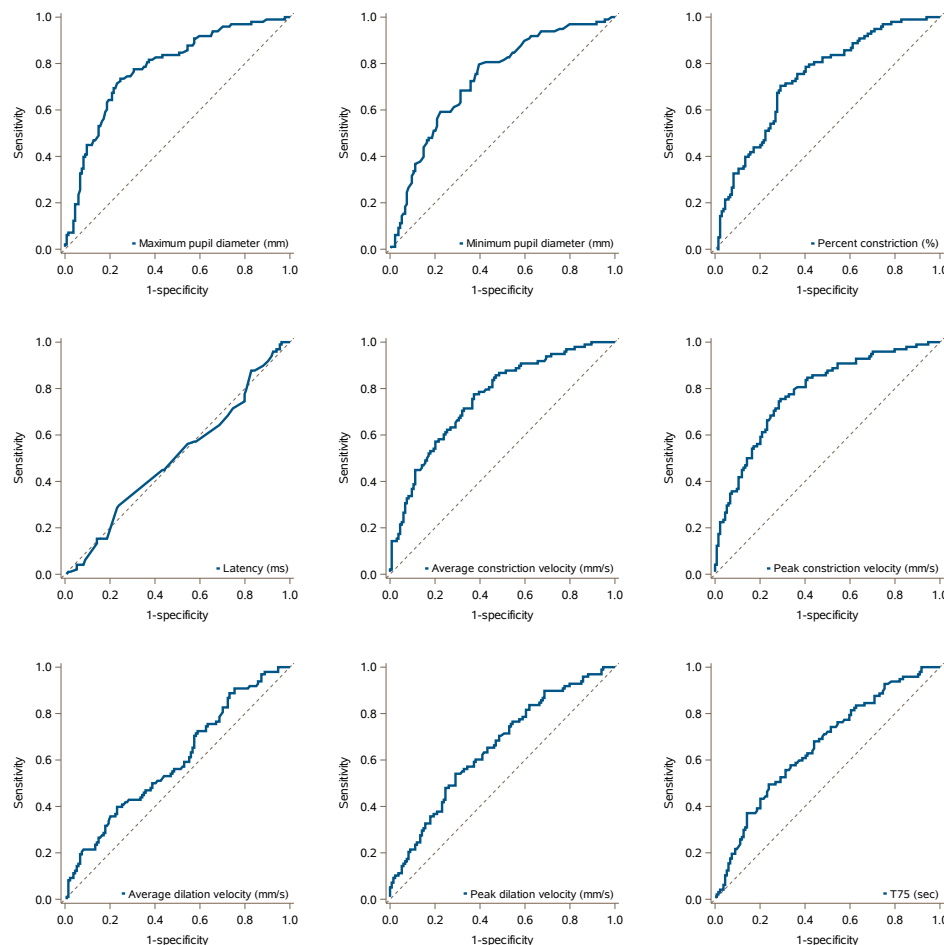
Pupillometry

- Obtained in response to a brief step-input, white light stimulus
 - 154 msec duration
 - 180 micro watts power
- Performed prior to the athlete's sport season and after concussion
- Examine 9 parameters
- Min/max pupil diameter, latency, %constriction, Avg/peak constriction/dilation velocity, T75
- Concussed = 134, Healthy = 98



Enhancement of pupillary response in concussion

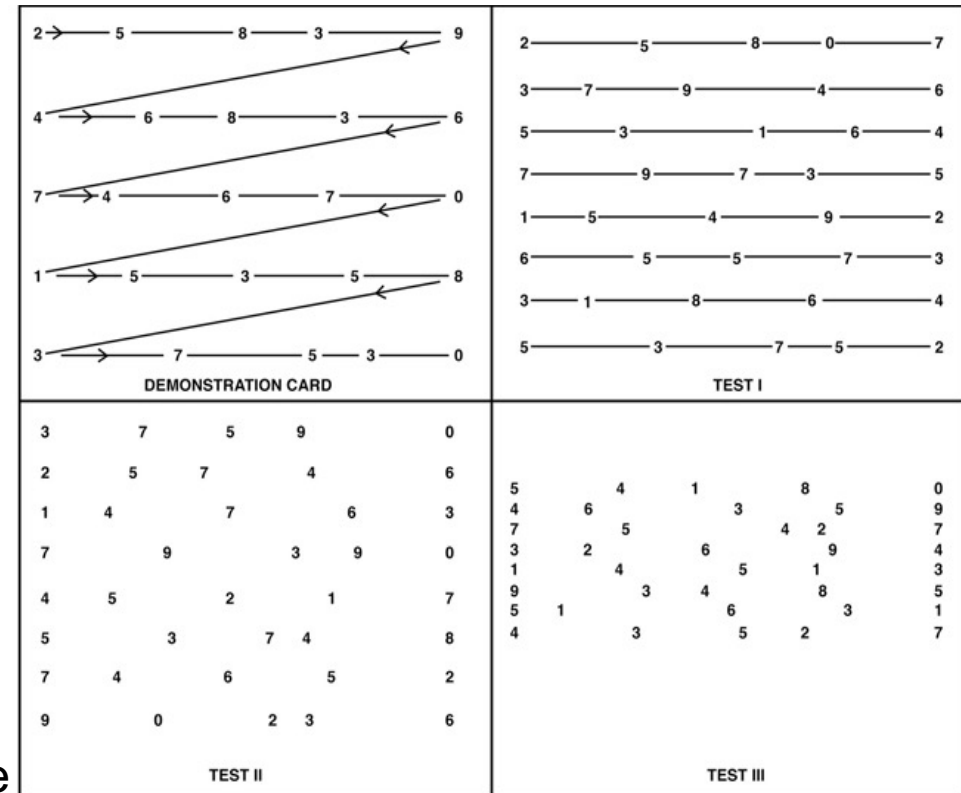
- All parameters discriminatory except for latency
- Maximum pupil diameter and peak constriction velocity with highest AUC = 0.78
- Preliminary data from ED cohort (N = 33)
 - Enhancement within 12 hours of injury
 - Latency predicts prolonged symptoms



PLR Metrics remained enhanced at clinical recovery

PLR Metric	Recovered concussed	Healthy control	Difference	99.4% CI
Min. pupil diam	2.96 mm	2.66 mm	0.31	0.17-0.44
Percent constriction	37.84%	32.91%	4.93	2.98-6.88
Avg. constriction velocity	3.09 mm/s	2.50 mm/s	0.59	0.38-0.79
Avg. dilation velocity	1.34 mm/s	1.24 mm/s	0.11	0.01-0.20
Peak dilation velocity	1.86 mm/s	1.66 mm/s	0.20	0.08-0.31
T75	1.73 s	1.46 s	0.27	0.10-0.44

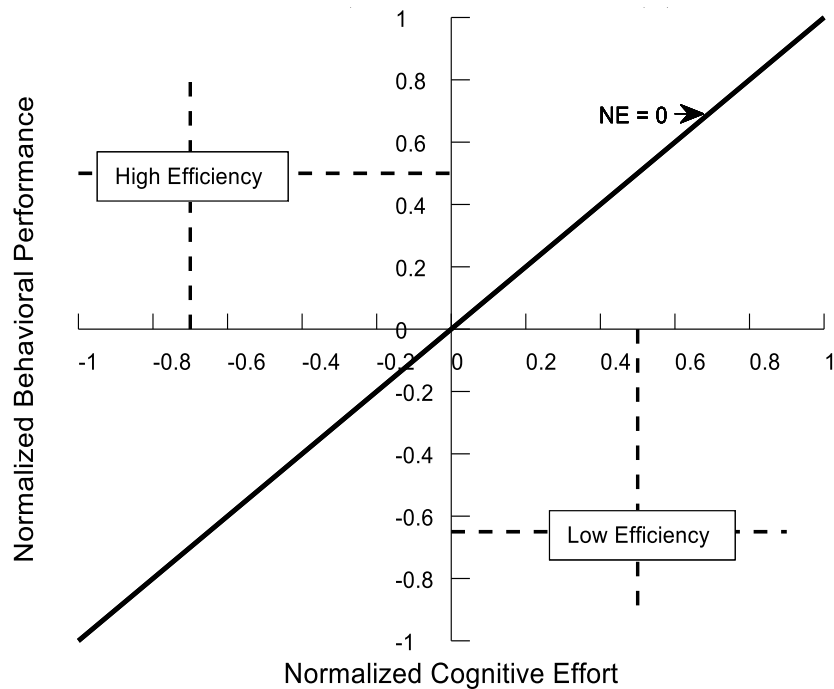
Functional near infrared spectroscopy



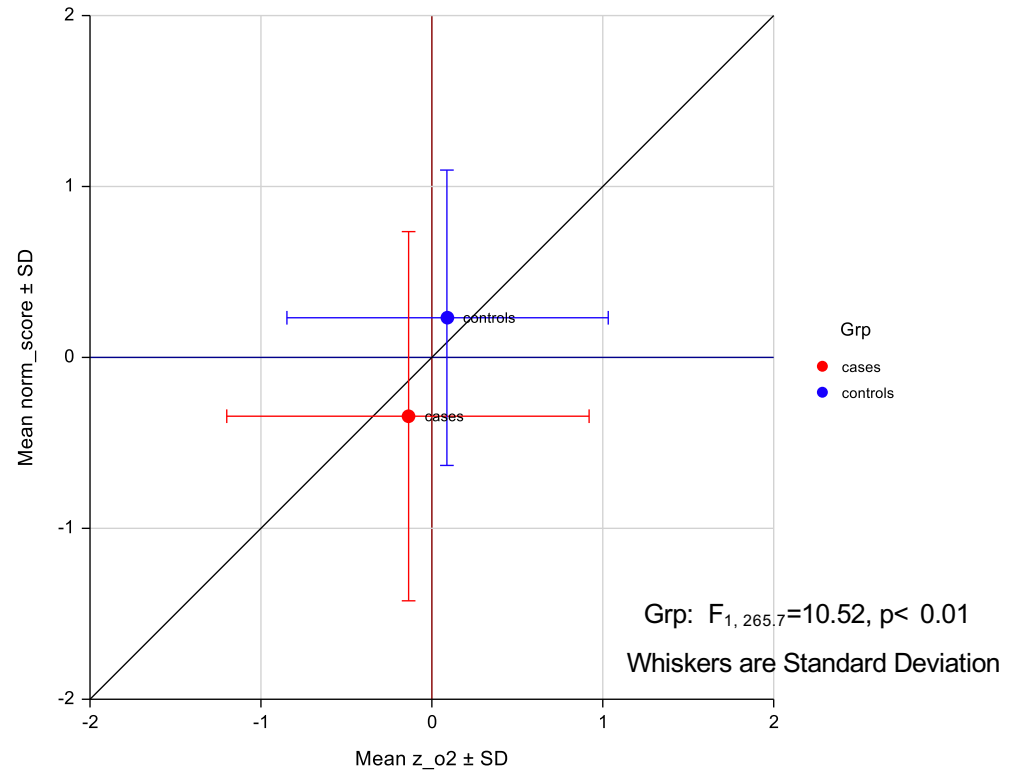
- Low-cost, noninvasive, portable
- Uses low levels of near-infrared light to measure changes in blood oxygenation in the brain
- Measures cortical activation related to hemodynamic changes

Neural Efficiency

$$\text{Efficiency} = (\text{Performance} - \text{Effort}) / \sqrt{2}$$



Normalized inverted Time as behav. Perf.



Take home

- Vision and vestibular deficits are common after concussion so conducting a visio-vestibular examination is important
- Implement active recovery (symptom-limited aerobic activity and gradual return to cognitive activity) for acute phase after concussion
- Consider targeted rehabilitation (vestibular, vision, aerobic) for persistent concussion symptoms
- Be aware of implicit biases that may affect how we diagnose and provide care to our patients with concussion
- Keep an eye on new developments that may help us understand what is happening in the brain after concussion and may also serve as physiologic biomarkers for diagnosis, monitoring, and determining recovery in the future

Minds Matter Concussion Resources

- Practical Content
 - Families
 - Schools
 - Coaches
 - Clinicians
 - Video FAQ
- Downloads
 - Infographics
 - Posters
 - Fact sheets

www.chop.edu/concussion



Concussion?

Temporarily modify school work,
physical activity and screen time.

IRONMAN
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP
MEDICAL SYMPOSIUM

October 20-24, 2024

Outrigger Kona Resort, Kailua-Kona Hawaii

Minds Matter Concussion Program

Principal Investigators	Research Collaborators	Research Team
 Kristy Arbogast, PhD <i>CIRP Scientific Director & Director of Engineering</i>	 Akiva Cohen, PhD <i>Anesthesia and Critical Care</i>	 Leah Gaetz, MS <i>Program Manager (CIRP)</i>
 Christina Master, MD, FAAP, CAQSM, FACSM <i>Sports Medicine, Brain Injury Medicine & General Peds</i>	 Hakon Hakonarson, MD, PhD <i>Center for Applied Genomics</i>	 Melissa Godfrey, MPH <i>Program Manager (CIRP/EM)</i>
	 Todd Kilbaugh, MD <i>Anesthesia and Critical Care</i>	 Anne Mozel, MS <i>Clinical Research Study Lead (CIRP)</i>
CIRP Co-Investigators	Communications	
 Dan Corwin, MD, MSCE <i>Associate Director, Minds Matter, ED</i>	 Suzanne Hill <i>Strategy Director (CIRP)</i>	 Kate Rownd, MS <i>Research Coordinator (CIRP)</i>
 Catherine McDonald, PhD, RN, FAAN <i>Associate Professor, Penn Nursing</i>	 Greg Fry <i>Communications Coordinator (CIRP)</i>	 Chelsea Ward McIntosh, MS <i>Project Manager (CIRP)</i>
 Declan Patton, PhD <i>Scientist (CIRP)</i>		 Jelsia Cottone, BS <i>Research Assistant (CIRP)</i>
 James Wilkes, PhD <i>Scientist (CIRP)</i>	 Daniele Fedonni, MS <i>Biostatistician</i>	 Madeline Consuelos, BA <i>Research Assistant (CIRP)</i>
	 Joe Wu <i>Data Scientist</i>	 Olivia Fedio <i>Research Coordinator</i>
 Grace Ren, PhD <i>Post-Doc (CIRP)</i>	 Pete Camacho, MS <i>Data Manager</i>	 Kruthika Kunam <i>Research Coordinator</i>
 Olivia Podolak, PhD <i>Research Associate (CIRP)</i>	 Ian Barnett, PhD <i>Penn CCEB</i>	 Jenna Ratka, MS, ATC <i>Penn Athletics</i>

Clinical Team	Clinical Team	Clinical Team
 Jeffrey Albaugh, PT, MS, ATC <i>Program Manager</i>	 Mary Iampietro, PhD <i>Neuropsych</i>	 Justin Cobb, ATC <i>Ortho</i>
 Matt Grady, MD <i>Minds Matter Co-Clinical Director</i>	 Jamie Shoop, PhD <i>Psychology</i>	 Kate Easby, DAT, ATC <i>Ortho</i>
 Naomi Brown, MD <i>Ortho</i>	 Lindsey Calandra, MSN, CRNP <i>Ortho</i>	 Colleen Ford, ATC <i>Ortho</i>
 Mary Daley, MD <i>Ortho</i>	 Roni Robinson, MSN, CRNP <i>Ortho</i>	 Helen Gallagher, ATC <i>Ortho</i>
 Brian Vernau, MD <i>Ortho</i>	 Kelsy Stenger, BSN, RN <i>Ortho</i>	 Pam Grondski, ATC <i>Ortho</i>
 Edward Re, MD <i>Ortho</i>	 Lindsey Perno, OD <i>Ophthalmology</i>	 Ian McGinnis, ATC <i>Ortho</i>
 Thomas Swaffield, MD <i>Ortho</i>	 Megan Beam, PT, DPT, PCS <i>Rehab</i>	 Dzovig Parsehian, ATC <i>Ortho</i>
 Michael Beasley, MD <i>Ortho</i>	 Alyssa Butkus, PT, DPT <i>Rehab</i>	 Liz Poturalski, ATC <i>Ortho</i>
 Michael Nance, MD <i>Trauma</i>	 Michael Karl, PT, DPT, OCS, FAAOMPT <i>Rehab</i>	 Kerri Schmanek, ATC <i>Ortho</i>
 Natali Baner, MD <i>Neurology</i>	 Jordan Porter, MS, OTR/L <i>Rehab</i>	 Mary Stein, ATC <i>Ortho</i>
 Carlyn Patterson-Gentile, MD, PhD <i>Neurology</i>	 Colleen McCabe, Nurse Navigator	
 Christina Szperka, MD, MSCE <i>Neurology</i>	 Laura Keyes, Social Work	

Minds Matter Team



Thank you!

masterc@chop.edu

 @drtinamaster

www.chop.edu/concussion



IRONMAN
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP
MEDICAL SYMPOSIUM
October 20-24, 2024
Outrigger Kona Resort, Kailua-Kona Hawai'i

