



CLINICAL OUTCOME & MORPHOMETRY OVER 2 & 5 YEARS -

data from a treatment RCT on acute
ACL injury

R Frobell¹, W Wirth², LS Lohmander¹, M Hudelmaier², F Eckstein²

¹ Orthopedics, Clinical Sciences Lund, Lund University, Sweden

² Paracelsus Medical University, Salzburg, Austria & Chondrometrics GmbH,
Ainring, Germany

DISCLOSURES

RF & SL - Nothing to declare

FE, WW & MH – Owner, co-owner / employee at Chondrometrics GmbH, where image analysis was performed



ACL INJURY

Incidence – 80 / 100 000 inhabitants & year

(Frobell et al, SJMSS 2007)

Treatment – Early ACLR + rehabilitation

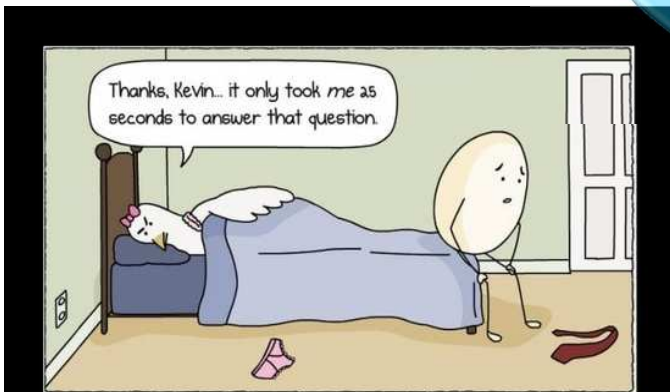
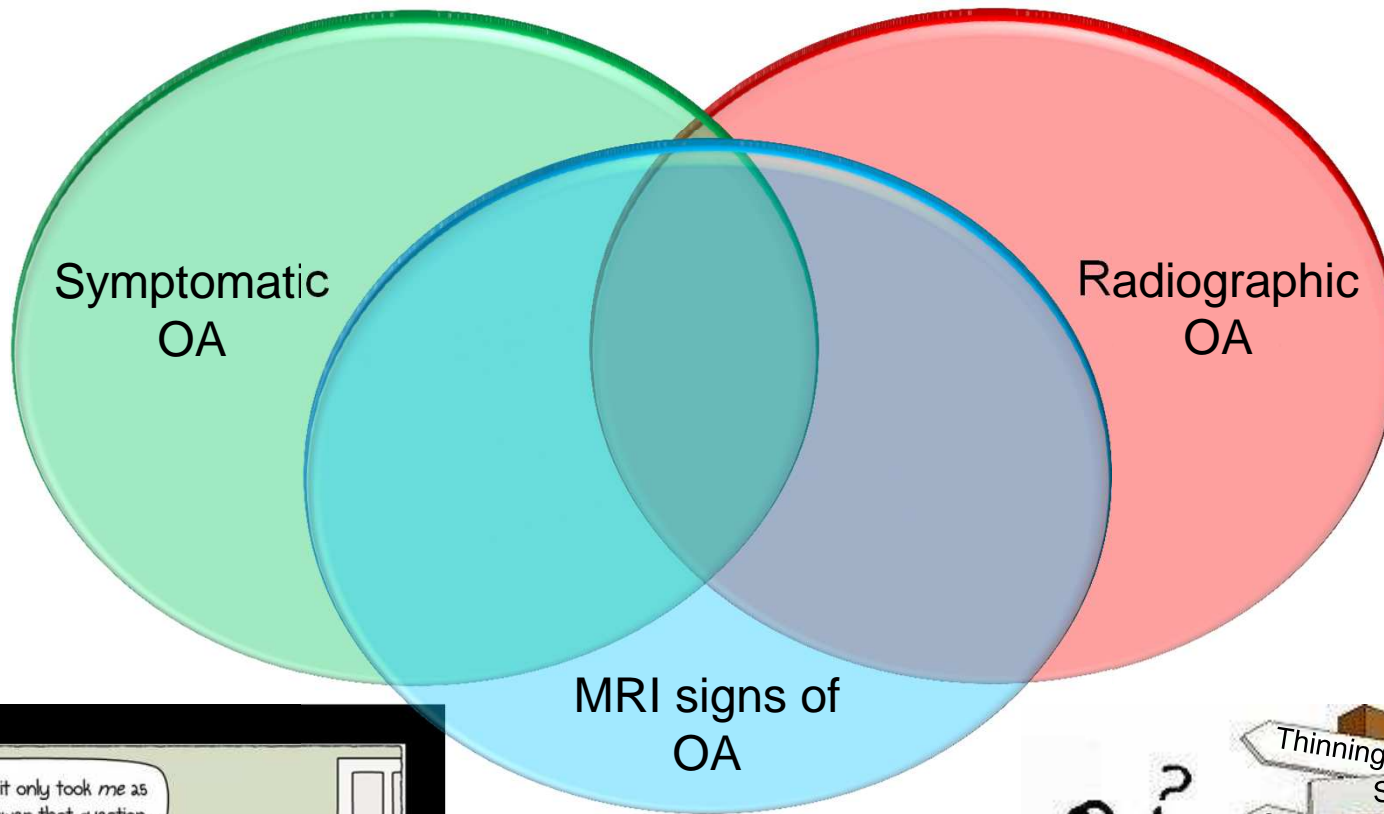
Rehabilitation + delayed ACLR if needed

Risk of OA – 0-90%, but likely 50% in general

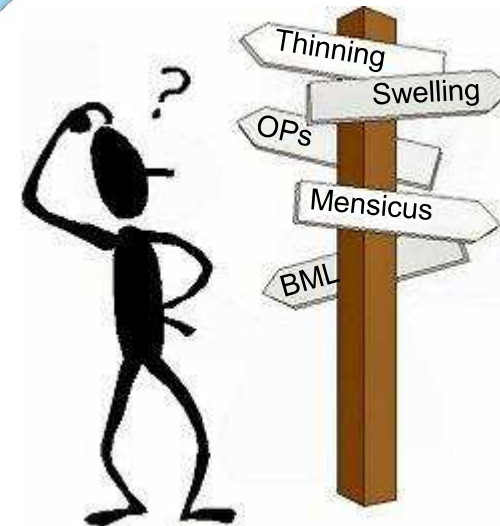
No differences in treatment for ACL injury

(Lohmander et al, AJSM 2007)





Who comes first – the hen or the egg?



MORPHOMETRY - CARTILAGE THICKNESS

VirtualScopics Inc.

KANON intense FUP

58 individuals

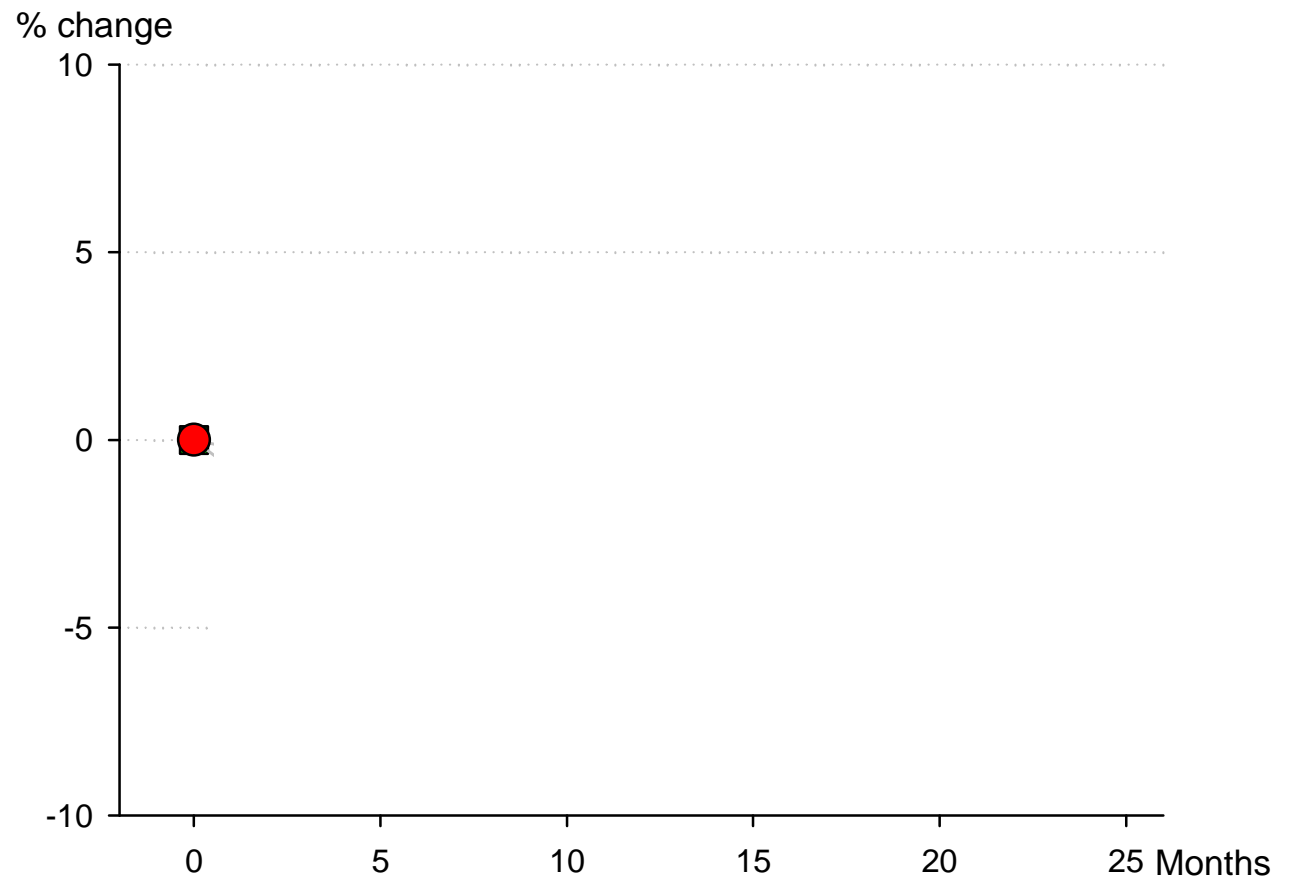
26 years

16 women

34 Early ACLR

24 Early Rehab

Frobell et al, OAC 2009



MORPHOMETRY - CARTILAGE THICKNESS

VirtualScopics Inc.

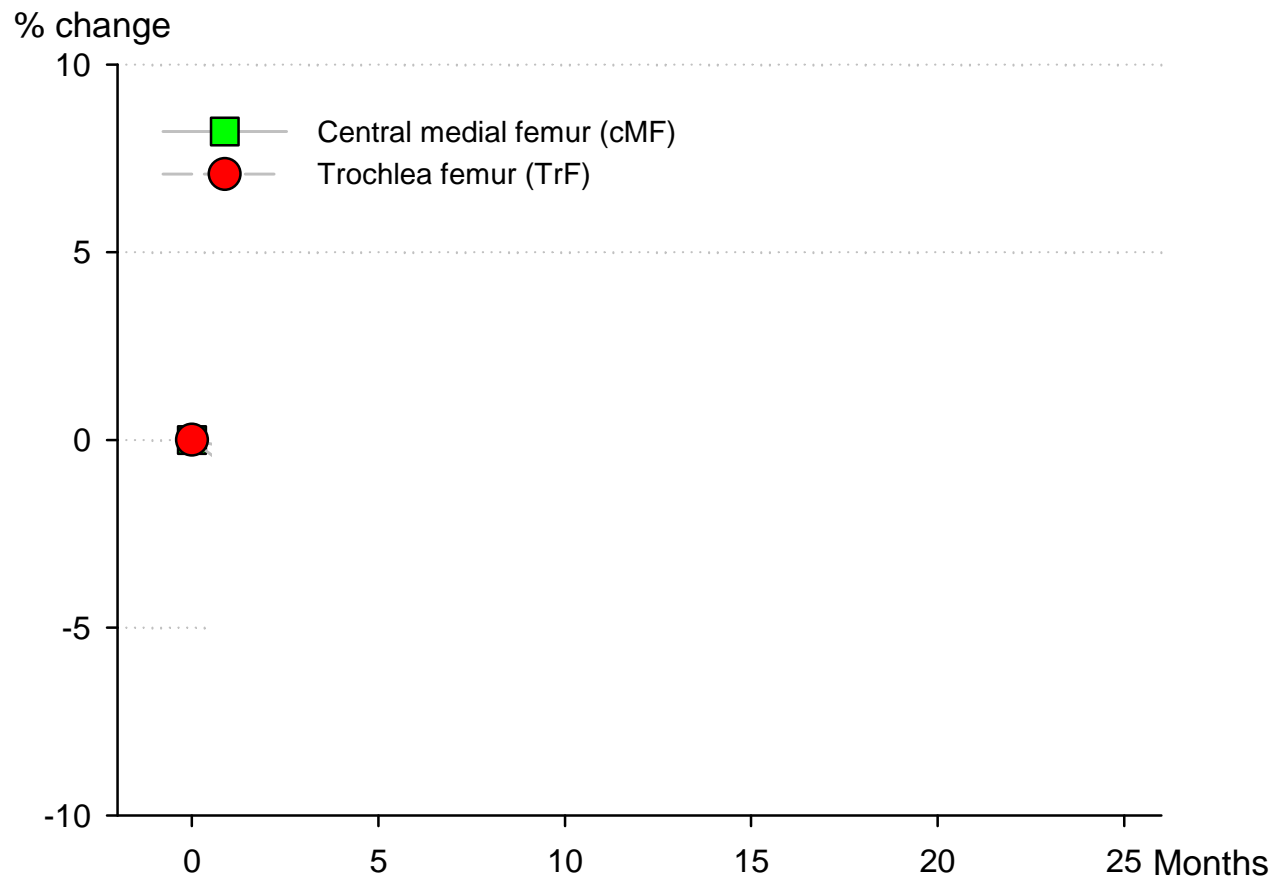
1 year

Cartilage swelling cMF

Decreased AC in TrF

Early ACLR may delay restitution

Frobell et al, OAC 2009



MORPHOMETRY - CARTILAGE THICKNESS

VirtualScopics Inc.

2 years

34 Early ACLR

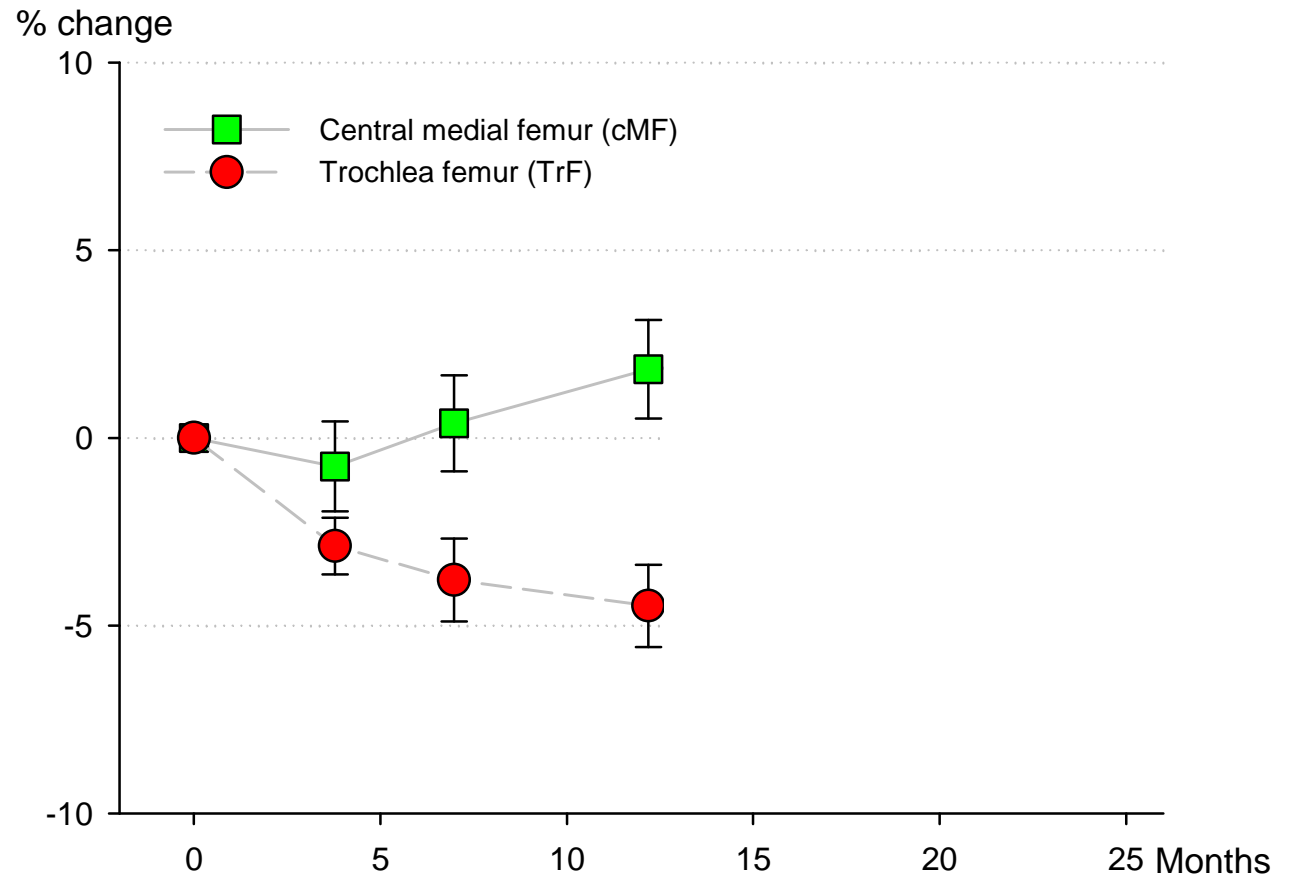
11 Delayed ACLR

16 Rehab alone

Cartilage swelling cMF
Decreased AC in TrF

No difference between
treatment groups

Frobell, JBJS 2011



OBJECTIVES

Within a treatment RCT, we followed patients with an acute ACL injury to a previously uninjured knee:

- To investigate the association between patient relevant outcomes and changes in cartilage thickness (ThC) and total area of subchondral bone (tAB) of the total femurotibial joint at 2 and 5 years
- To explore these associations in subgroups of treatment actually received



SAMPLE

The KANON-trial, a randomized controlled trial comparing:
Early surgical treatment strategy (n=62)
Delayed surgery if needed strategy (n=59)

Similar rehabilitation in both groups

No differences in PRO or activity level @ 2 years

Frobell et al, NEJM 2010

No differences in PRO, activity level or ROA @ 5 years

Frobell et al, under revision July 2012



MATERIAL

107 / 121 patients of the RCT had complete set of MR images at:

Baseline

2 years

5 years

1 / 107 was lost to clinical FUP @ 5 years – leaving 106 included in study

	All N=106
Women	26 (24%)
Right knee (%)	59 (55%)
Age, yrs (SD)	26 (5)
BMI, kg/m ² (SD)	24.2 (3.0)



MATERIAL

107 / 121 patients of the RCT had complete set of MR images at:

Baseline

2 years

5 years

1 / 107 was lost to clinical FUP @ 5 years – leaving 106 included in study

	All N=106	Early ACLR n=57	Delayed ACLR n=25	Rehab alone n=24
Women	26 (24%)	12 (21%)	8 (32%)	6 (25%)
Right knee (%)	59 (55%)	29 (51%)	16 (64%)	13 (54%)
Age, yrs (SD)	26 (5)	27 (5)	25 (5)	26 (5)
BMI, kg/m ² (SD)	24.2 (3.0)	24.5 (3.2)	23.5 (2.0)	24.3 (3.1)



CLINICAL OUTCOME

Knee injury & Osteoarthritis Outcome Score
0-100; worst to best

Primary outcome of RCT

KOOS₄; (Pain + Symptoms + Sports & Rec + QOL) / 4

	All N=107	Early ACLR n=57	Delayed ACLR n=25	Rehab alone n=24
KOOS4 @ 2 yrs	76.1 (20.3)	75.1 (20.7)	72.4 (20.7)	81.4 (18.5)

Frobell et al 2010



CLINICAL OUTCOME

Knee injury & Osteoarthritis Outcome Score
0-100; worst to best

Primary outcome of RCT

KOOS₄; (Pain + Symptoms + Sports & Rec + QOL) / 4

	All N=107	Early ACLR n=57	Delayed ACLR n=25	Rehab alone n=24
KOOS ₄ @ 2 yrs	76.1 (20.3)	75.1 (20.7)	72.4 (20.7)	81.4 (18.5)
KOOS ₄ @ 5 yrs	80.4 (16.6)*	79.7 (16.7)	79.0 (18.0)	83.5 (14.9)

Frobell et al 2010

Frobell et al 2012 (under revision)



MR IMAGING

1.5T Philips Intera

Sagittal FLASH sq

0.29mm IPR

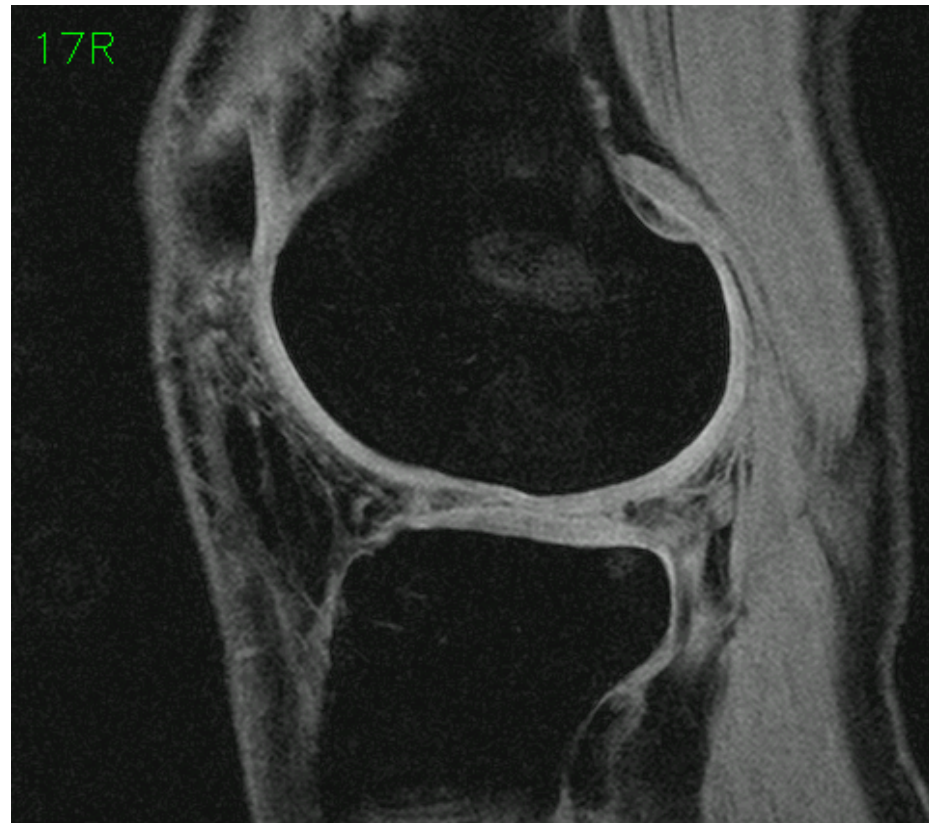
1.5mm slice spacing

Image acquisition @

BL (within 4 w of injury)

2 years

5 years

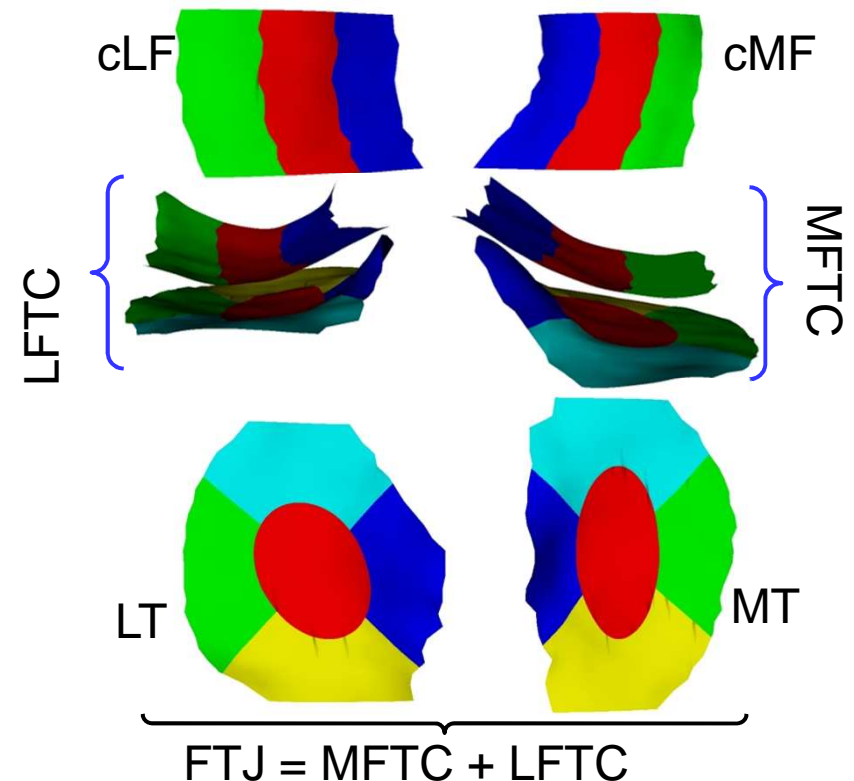
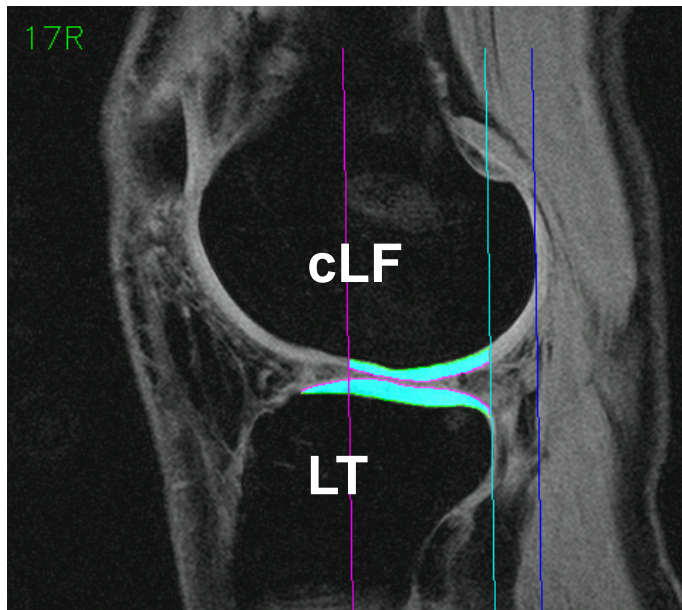


SEGMENTATION & COMPUTATION

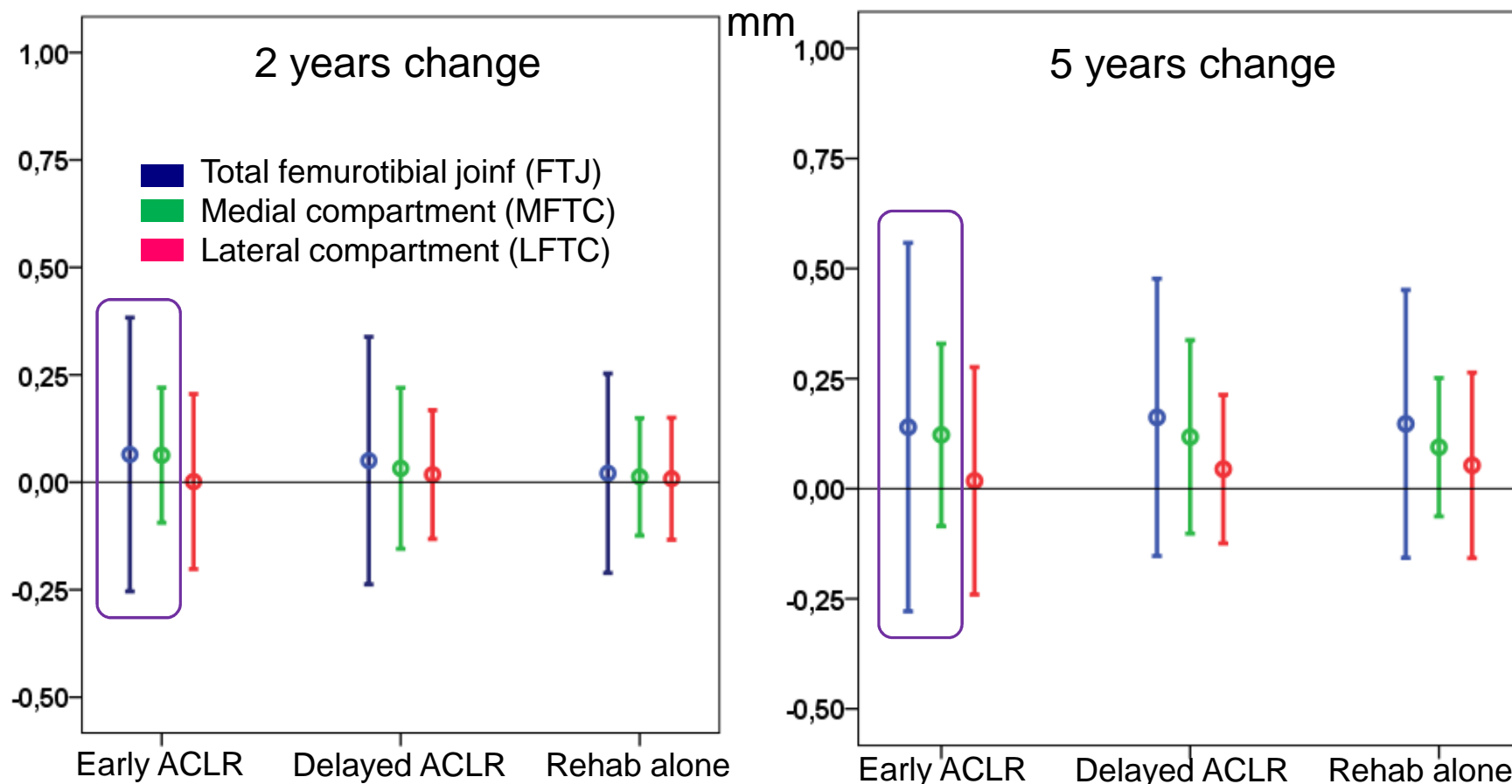
Segmentation of cartilages in femorotibial joint (FTJ):

Medial and lateral tibia (MT/LT)

Central 75% of the medial and lateral femoral condyle (cMF/cLF)



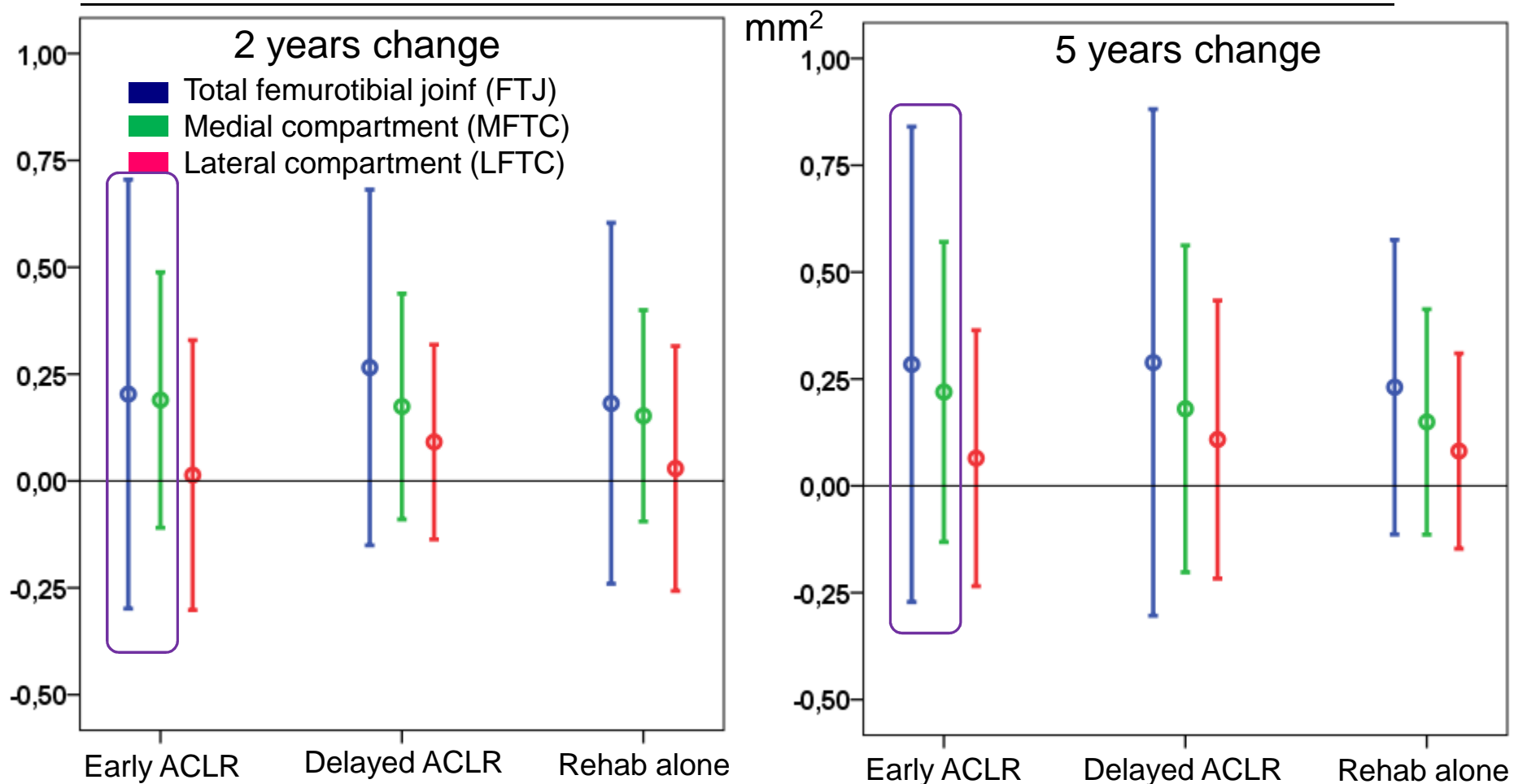
RESULTS – ThCtab



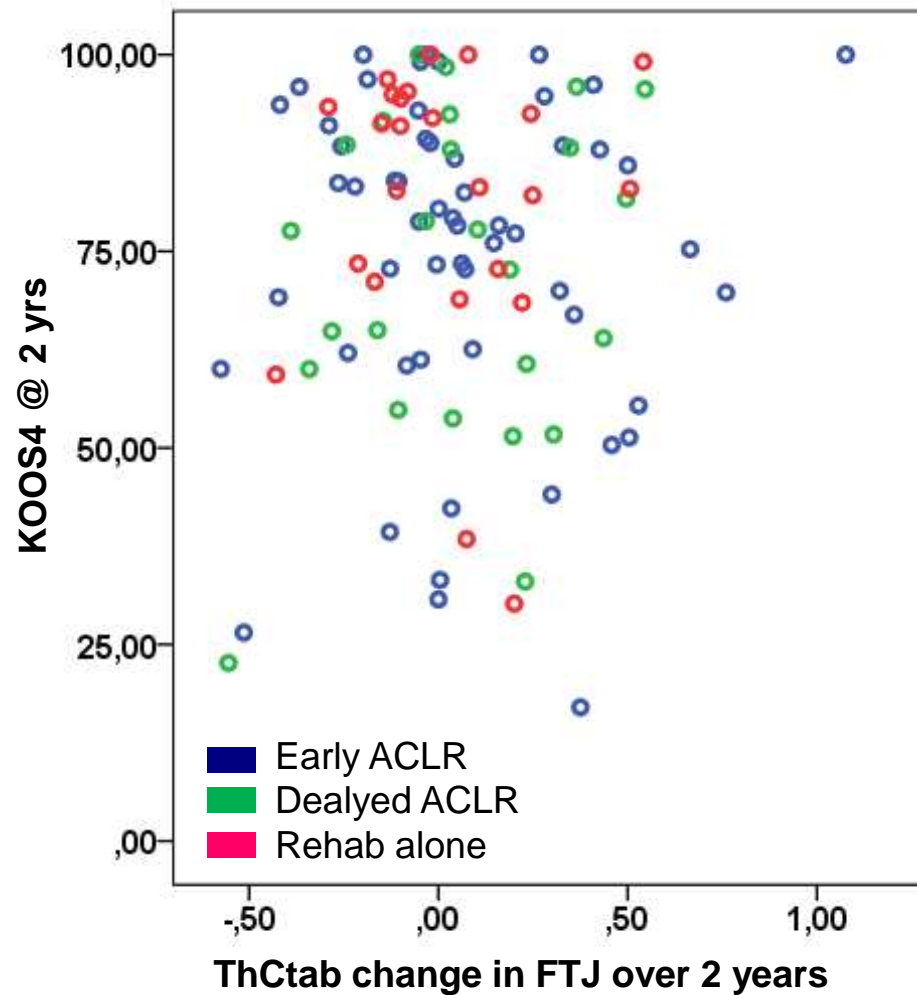
Abstract #10, W Wirth, Friday 11:15 AM



RESULTS – tAB



CARTILAGE THICKNESS - CLINICAL OUTCOME



Cartilage thickness @ 2 & 5 years

No significant correlations between
KOOS4 @ 2 & 5 years

and

ThCtab change over 2 & 5 years for
FTJ
MFTC
LFTC

for entire sample
or for any treatment group



SUBCHONDRAL BONE AREA – CLINICAL OUTCOME

Full analysis set

2 years

↑ tAB medial compartment (MFTC) - ↓ KOOS₄ at 2 years
($r = -0.21$, $p = 0.03$)

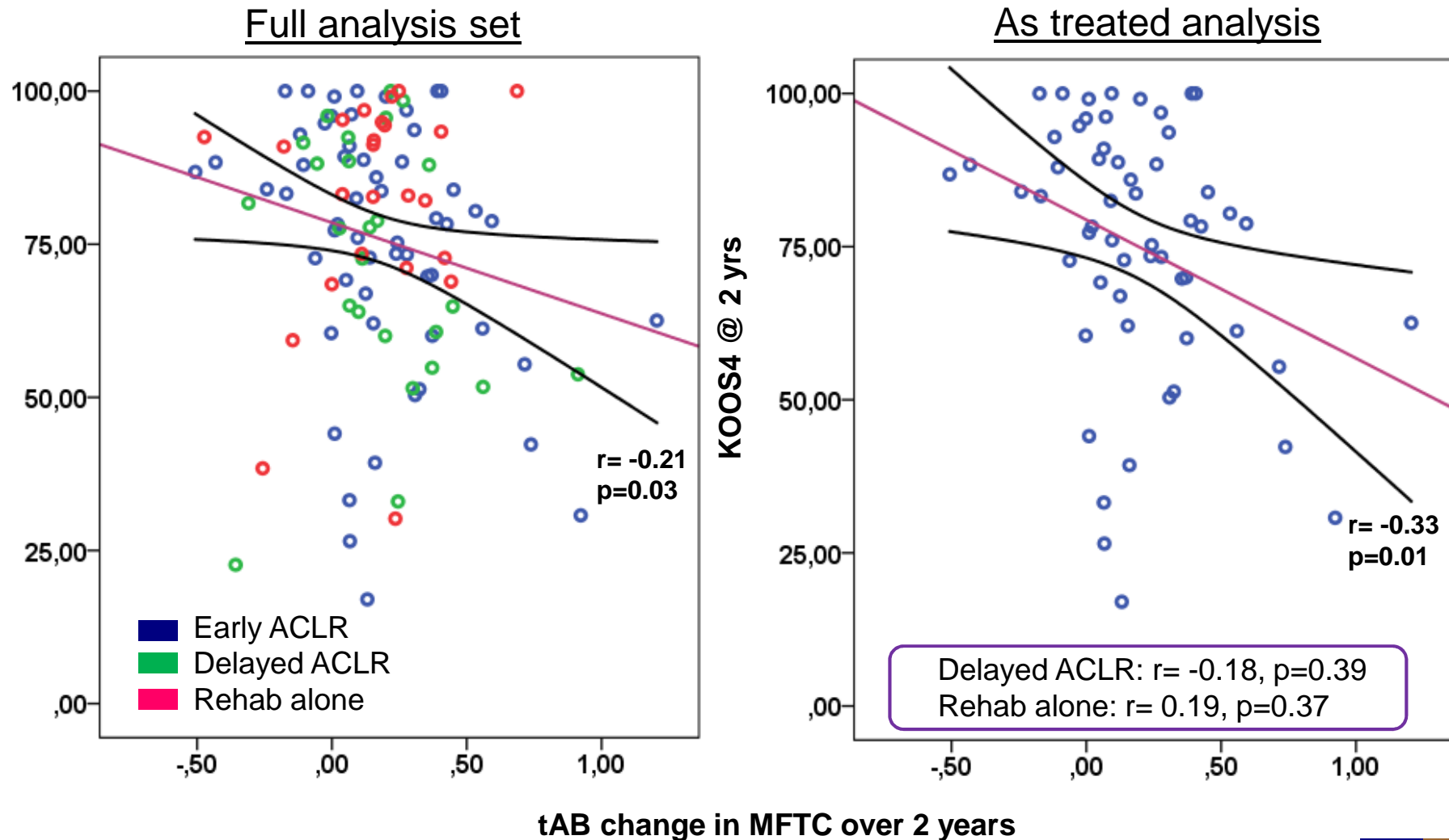
5 years

↑ tAB in total joint (FTJ) - ↓ KOOS₄ at 2 years
($r = -0.20$, $p = 0.04$)

No correlations to KOOS₄ at 5 years

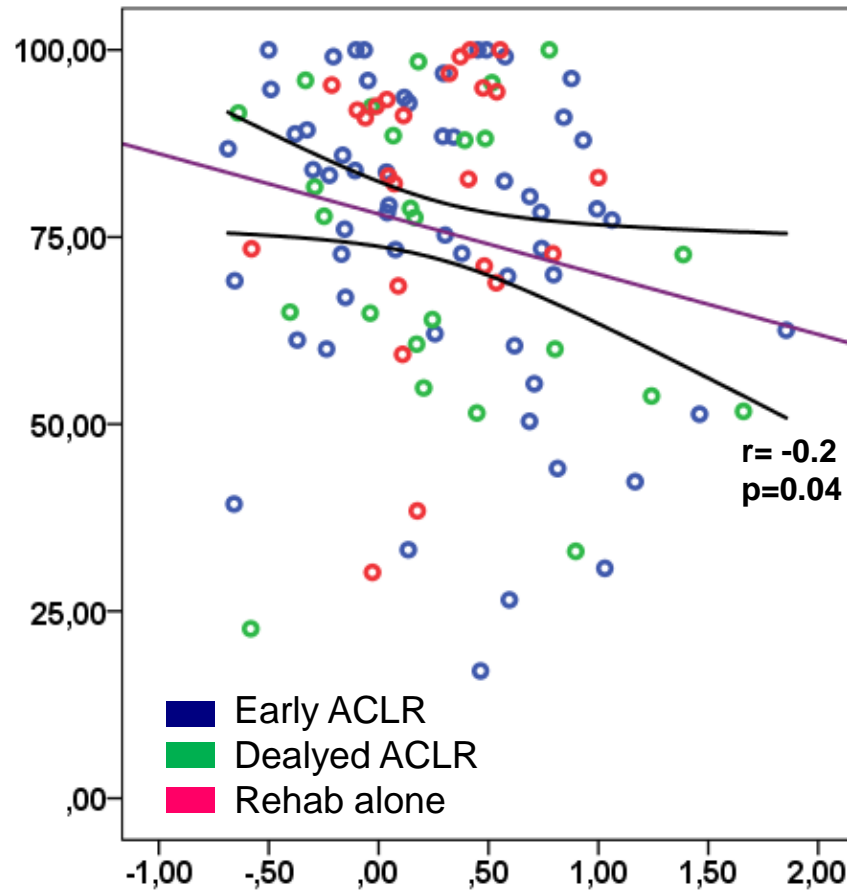


MFTC tAB 2 YR CHANGE – KOOS4 @ 2 YRS

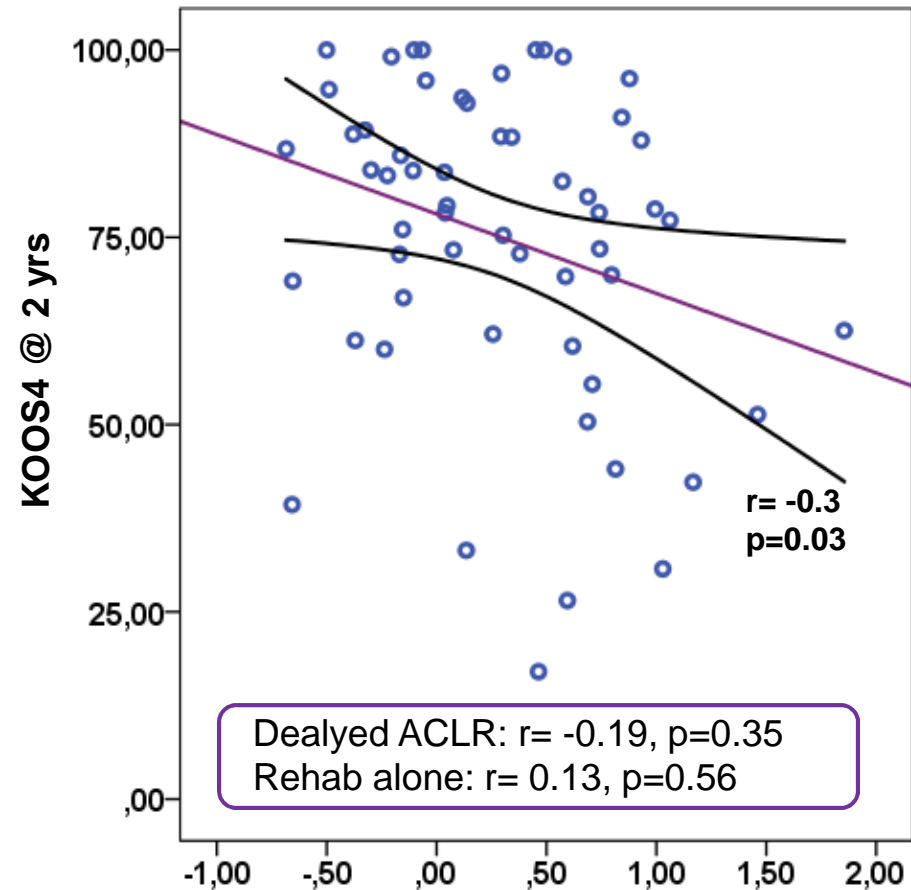


FTJ tAB 5 YR CHANGE – KOOS4 @ 2 YRS

Full analysis set



As treated analysis



tAB change in FTJ over 5 years



SUBCHONDRAL BONE AREA – CLINICAL OUTCOME

As treated analysis (but not in full analysis set)

2 years

Early ACLR

↑ tAB in total joint (FTJ) - ↓ KOOS4 at 2 & 5 years

($r = -0.33, p = 0.01$ & $r = -0.27, p = 0.04$)

Delayed ACLR & Rehab alone

No relations found



LIMITATIONS

KANON-trial is a treatment RCT – not powered to find predictors
Early ACLR group is twice as big as the other two groups

Symptoms @ 2 & 5 years may not be related to OA

We do not know who will develop ROA or SxOA



CONCLUSION

Increased tAB, but not change in ThC, may be related to worse clinical outcome 2 years after ACL injury

May be especially true for those treated with early ACLR

- where increased tAB of the total femurotibial joint was related to worse clinical outcome at both 2 & 5 years



THANK TO



Felix Eckstein
Martin Hudelmaier
Wolfgang Wirth
Techs @ Chondrometrics GmbH

Founding sources:
Swedish Research council
Zoega foundation
Gorthonfoundation
Crafoord foundation
Tore Nilsson foundation
Region Skåne
Swedish medical association
CIF

NanoDiaRA 