



# Balance after mild traumatic brain injury (mTBI); trends and new directions

Laurie King, PhD, PT, MCR

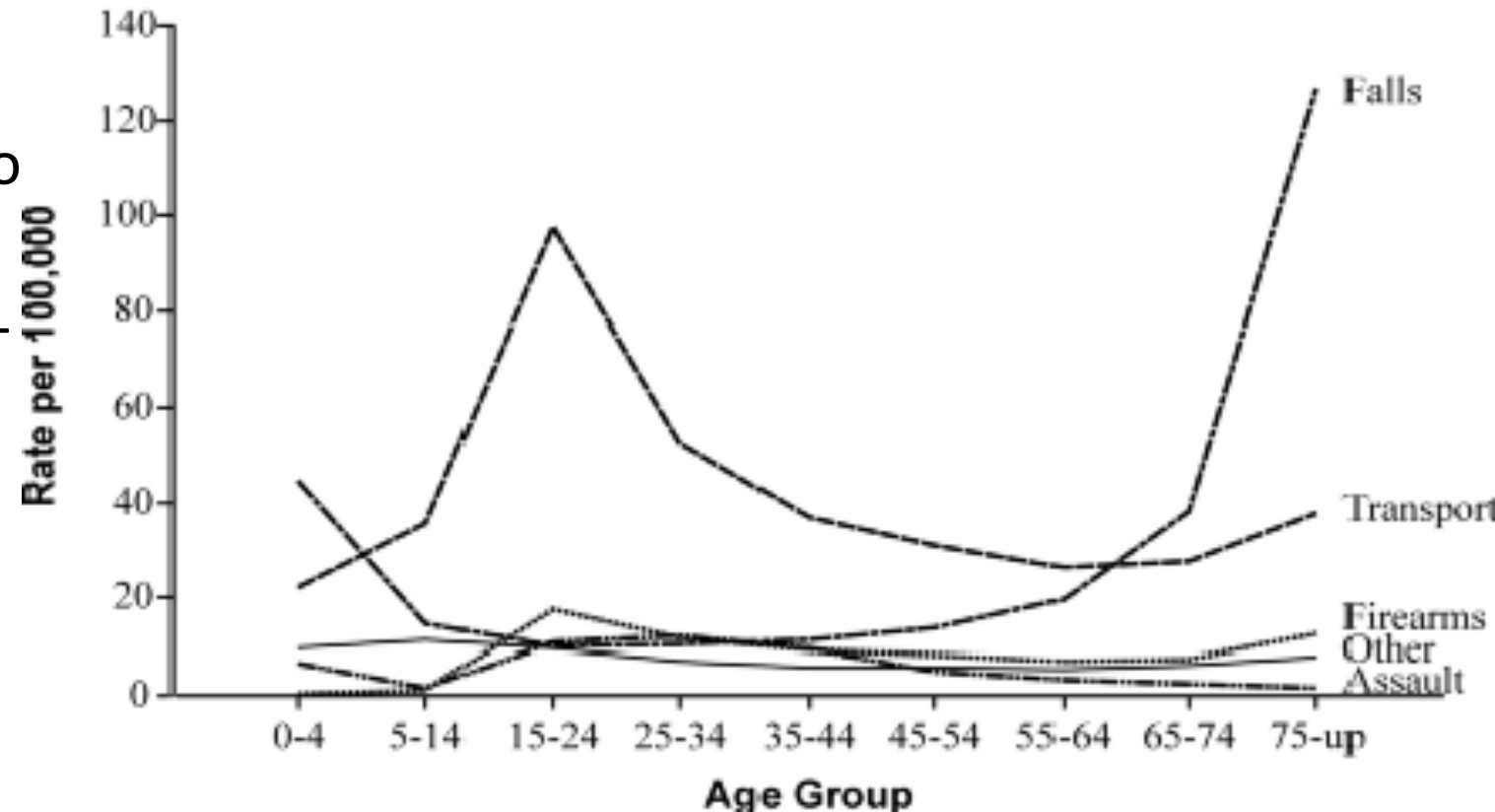
Associate Professor; Neurology; OHSU, Portland OR

# Overview for today

- Incidence and overview of mTBI
- How is balance impaired after mTBI and how do we measure?
  - Objective measures
  - Home monitoring
  - Turning
  - CSMI- motor activation
- Rehabilitation
  - Early rehabilitation?
  - Concussion subtypes
  - Biofeedback to target motor activation?

# TBI incidence

- **Worldwide:** 2016, there were approximately 27 million new cases of TBI
- TBI more common in men 2:1 Ratio
- 5.3 million people living with a TBI-related disability in the United States (2% of the U.S. population (CDC, 2015)).
- Older adolescents (ages 15 to 21 years) and older adults (ages 65 years and older) among the most likely to sustain a TBI.



Frost, Farrer, Primosch, & Hedges, 2012; Bezarian 2007, Selassie AW et al., 2013

CDC data 2015, (Faul, Xu, Wald, & Coronado, 2010); CDC-Report to Congress: Traumatic Brain Injury in the United States.

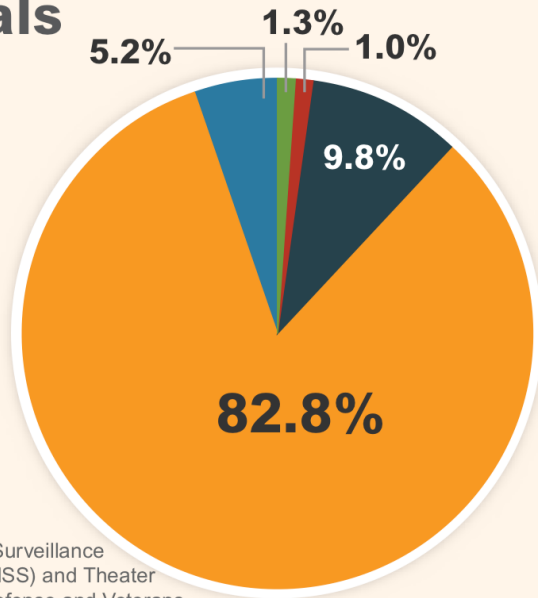
# Mild TBI accounts for most of the TBI cases



## DoD Numbers for Traumatic Brain Injury Worldwide — Totals

2000-2019 Q3

Penetrating	5,279
Severe	4,110
Moderate	40,378
Mild	342,747
Not Classifiable	21,344
<b>Total - All Severities</b>	<b>413,858</b>



Source: 2000 to 2018 Q1 data provided by the Armed Forces Health Surveillance Branch (AFHSB) using the Defense Medical Surveillance System (DMSS) and Theater Medical Data Store (TMDS); data starting 2018 Q2 provided by the Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center (DVBIC) using the MHS Data Repository (MDR).

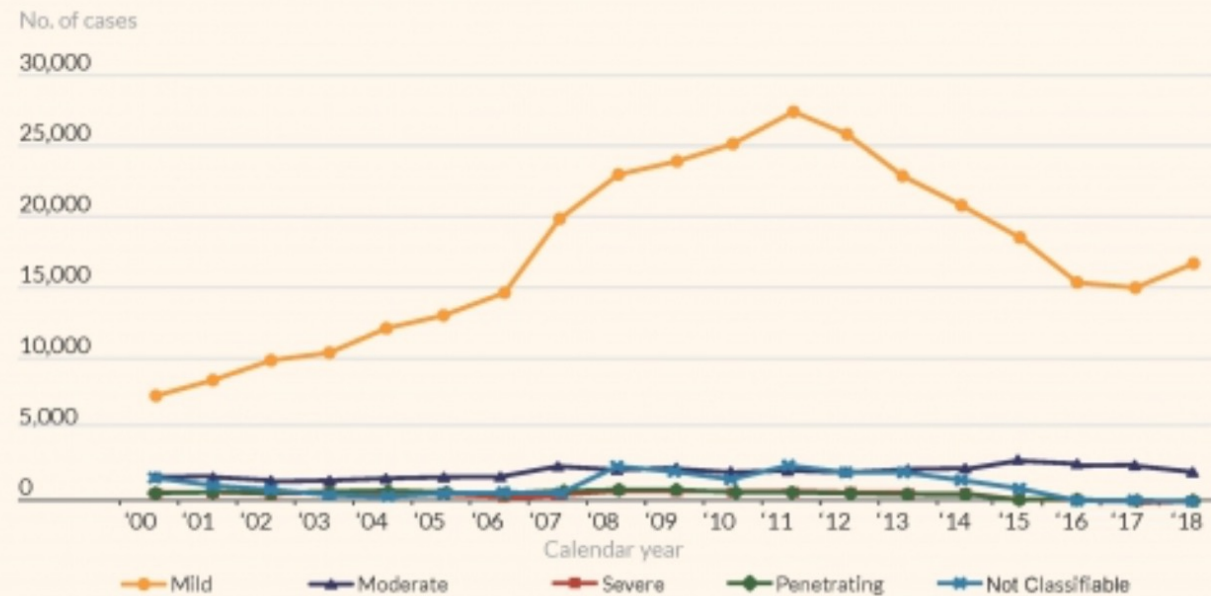
Prepared by the Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center (DVBIC)

\*Percentage may not add to 100% due to rounding.

2000-2019 Q3, as of November 08, 2019



## DoD Numbers for Traumatic Brain Injury Worldwide - Incidence by Severity



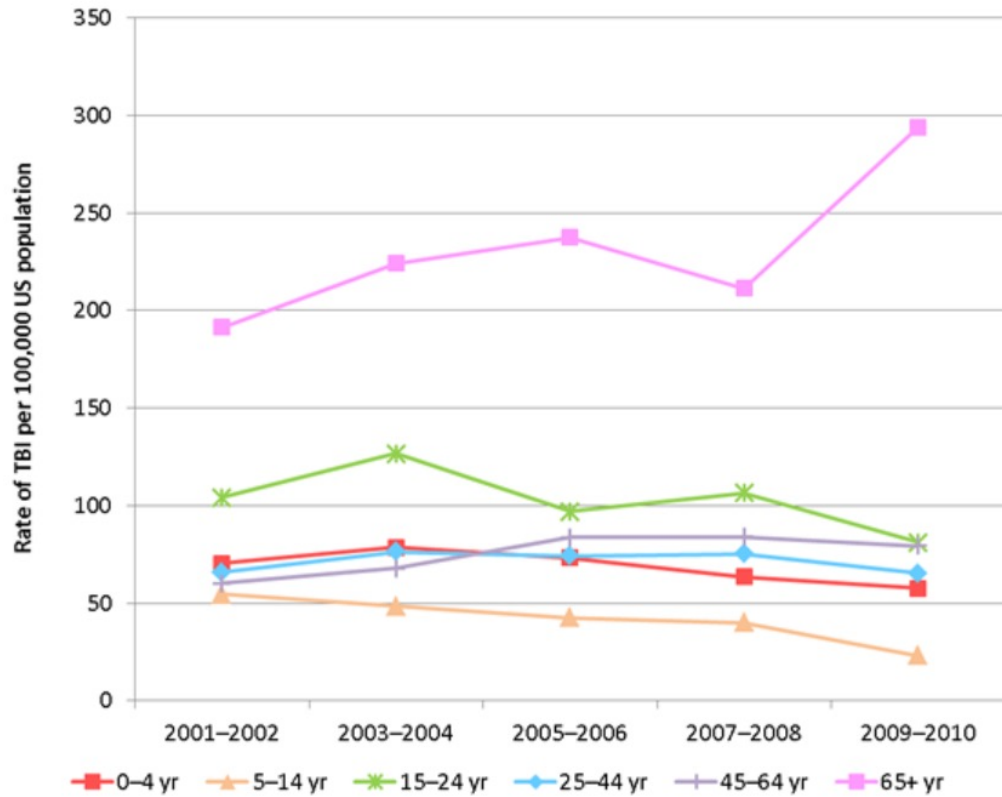
Source: 2000 to 2018Q1 data provided by the Armed Forces Health Surveillance Branch (AFHSB) using the Defense Medical Surveillance System (DMSS) and Theater Medical Data Store (TMDS); data starting 2018Q2 provided by the Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center (DVBIC) using the MHS Data Repository (MDR).

Prepared by the Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center (DVBIC)

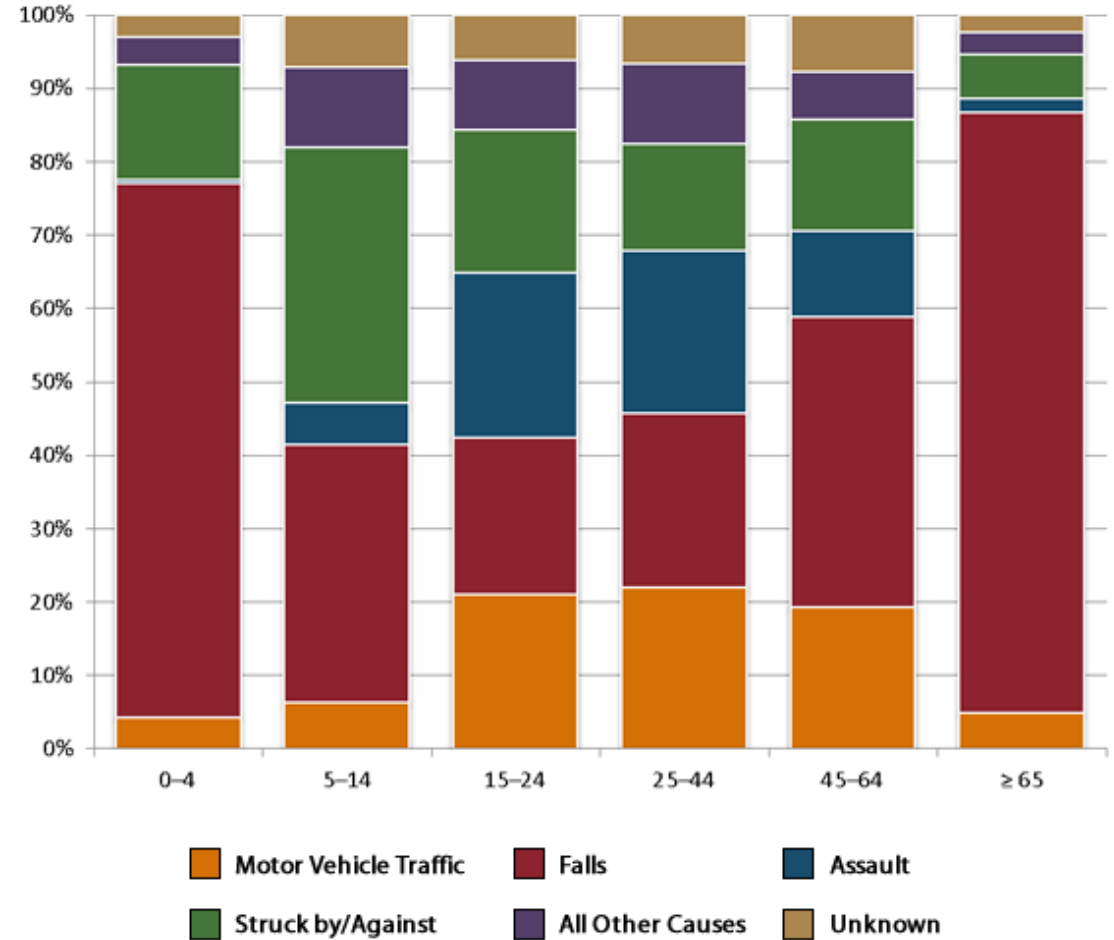
2000-2018 as of May 29, 2019

# TBIs occur across the lifespan

Rates of TBI-related Hospitalizations by Age Group — United States, 2001–2010



Percent Distributions of TBI-related Emergency Department Visits by Age Group and Injury Mechanism — United States, 2006–2010



CDC Traumatic Brain Injury and Concussion, 2016

[https://www.cdc.gov/traumaticbraininjury/data/rates\\_nosp\\_byage.ntm](https://www.cdc.gov/traumaticbraininjury/data/rates_nosp_byage.ntm)

[https://www.cdc.gov/traumaticbraininjury/data/dist\\_ed.html](https://www.cdc.gov/traumaticbraininjury/data/dist_ed.html)

# High risk groups for mTBI

- **Contact athletes** Between 1.6-3.8 million per year (CDC)
  - (many don't seek treatment so hard to know)
- **Military** Veterans: an estimated 320,000 service members deployed between 2001-2007 screened positive for TBI (blast most common)
  - A survey of deployed troops in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom found that 17% reported MTBI during deployment, and of these, 59% reported more than one MTBI (Wilk et al., 2012).
- **Victims of domestic abuse**
  - At least 5 million acts of domestic violence occur annually
  - 87% of patients in the study reported more than one brain injury from abuse
  - TBI from domestic violence may affect 6% of population
  - Underreporting



# American Medical Society for Sports Medicine position statement on concussion in sport

Kimberly G Harmon,<sup>1</sup> James R Clugston,<sup>2</sup> Katherine Dec,<sup>3</sup> Brian Hainline,<sup>4</sup>  
Stanley Herring,<sup>5</sup> Shawn F Kane,<sup>6</sup> Anthony P Kontos,<sup>7</sup> John J Leddy,<sup>8</sup> Michael McCrea,<sup>9</sup>  
Sourav K Poddar,<sup>10</sup> Margot Putukian,<sup>11,12</sup> Julie C Wilson,<sup>13</sup> William O Roberts<sup>14</sup>

2014;49(2):245–265  
Athletic Trainers' Association, Inc

## National Athletic Trainers' Association Position Statement: Management of Sport Concussion

P. Broglio, PhD, ATC\*; Robert C. MD†; Gerard A. Gioia, PhD‡; Kevin M. wicz, PhD, ATC, FNATA, FACSM§; Kutcher, MD\*; Michael Palm, MBA, Tamara C. Valovich McLeod, PhD, ATC, AT

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### POSITION STATEMENT ON CONCUSSION IN YOUTH SPORTS

The American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (AAPM&R) is the national medical society representing more than 8,000 physiatrists - physicians who are specialists in the field of physical medicine and rehabilitation. With a focus on restoring function, physiatrists treat children and adults. Physiatrists treat persons with acute and chronic pain, acute sports injuries including concussion as well as chronic injury, persons who have experienced catastrophic events resulting in paraplegia, quadriplegia, or traumatic brain injury, musculoskeletal injuries, and individuals with neurologic disorders such as stroke, multiple sclerosis, or any other disease process that results in impairment and/or disability. PM&R physicians treat any disability resulting from disease, sports-related activities or injury involving any organ system and their goal is to decrease pain and enhance performance without surgery. AAPM&R strongly supports public policies that reduce injuries, including concussions, in youth sports.



American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

Physicians Adding Quality to Life®

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\*\*\*\*\*EMBARGOED UNTIL 12PM ET, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2010\*\*\*\*\*

### AMERICAN ACADEMY OF NEUROLOGY POSITION STATEMENT ON SPORTS CONCUSSION

Concussion crosses many domains of practice reflected in multiple Position Statements and Consensus Statements

- American Academy Neurology
- American Academy PMR
- American Medical Society Sports Medicine
- National Athletic Training Association
- Concussion in Sports Group international consensus

### Statement

## Consensus statement on concussion in sport—the 5<sup>th</sup> international conference on concussion in sport held in Berlin, October 2016

Paul McCrory,<sup>1</sup> Willem Meeuwisse,<sup>2</sup> Jiří Dvorak,<sup>3,4</sup> Mark Aubry,<sup>5</sup> Julie Steven Broglio,<sup>7</sup> Robert C Cantu,<sup>8</sup> David Cassidy,<sup>9</sup> Ruben J Echemen Rudy J Castellani,<sup>12</sup> Gavin A Davis,<sup>13,14</sup> Richard Ellenbogen,<sup>15</sup> Caroly

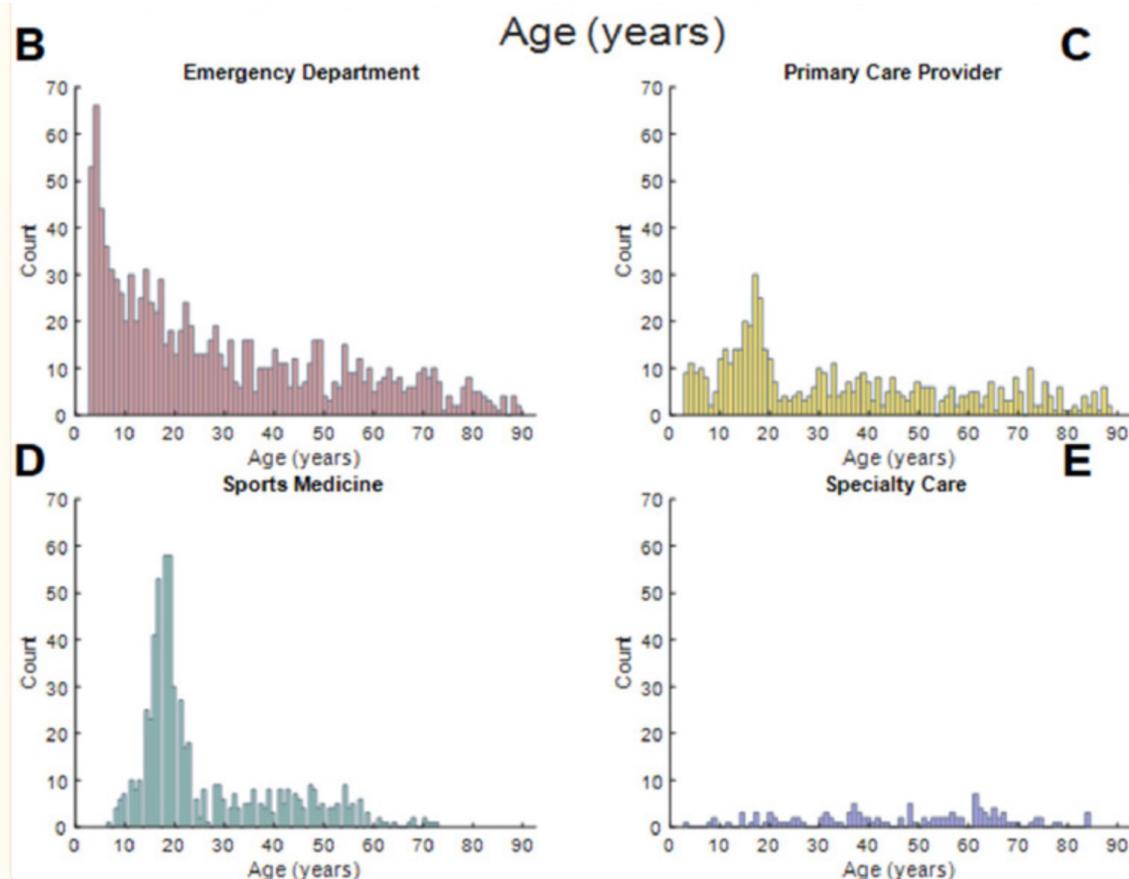


SPORT SCIENCE INSTITUTE™

INTERASSOCIATION CONSENSUS:

DIAGNOSIS AND MANAGEMENT OF SPORT-RELATED CONCUSSION BEST PRACTICES

# Older people unlikely to be seen by sports medicine where most rehabilitation referrals occur



**Fig 2**  
Histograms displaying the age distributions for (A) all points of entry (N=2417), (B) ED (n=1137), (C) primary care provider (n=554), (D) sports medicine (n=607), and (E) specialty departments (n=119).

**Table 1**

Odds ratios for rehabilitation referrals

	Odds Ratio	95% Confidence Interval	P Value
Sex (ref=male)	1.92	1.54-2.39	<.0001
Point of entry (ref=ED)			
Primary care provider	7.98	4.67-13.61	<.0001
Sports medicine	75.05	45.87-122.79	<.0001
Specialty care	7.62	3.64-15.99	<.0001
Comorbidity diagnosis (ref=no comorbidity)*	2.12	1.70-2.66	<.0001



# Balance deficits after mTBI/concussion

- Balance and dizziness are common after mTBI- typically resolve within 2-4 weeks
- Approximately 20% of people who sustain an mTBI have chronic (> 3 months) balance deficits
- Impaired balance, even subtle, can interfere with return to work, duty, sport
- Documentation of balance deficits depend on how 'balance' is measured

# How do we measure balance?

## Symptom-based

### STEP 2: SYMPTOM EVALUATION

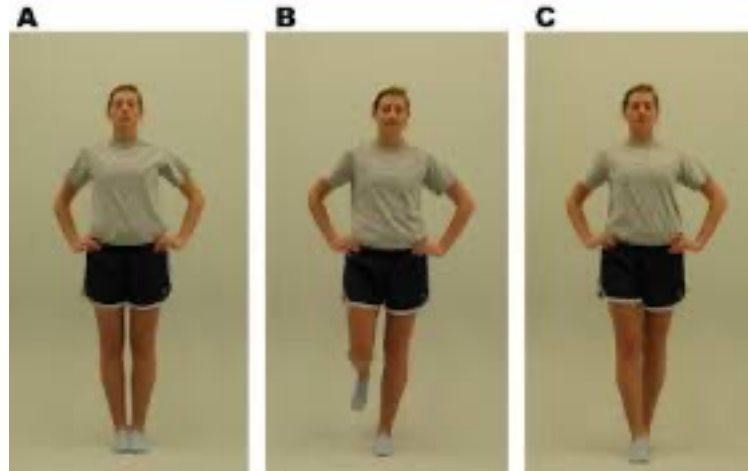
The athlete should be given the symptom form and asked to read this instruction paragraph out loud then complete the symptom scale. For the baseline assessment, the athlete should rate his/her symptoms based on how he/she typically feels and for the post injury assessment the athlete should rate their symptoms at this point in time.

Please Check:  Baseline  Post-Injury

Please hand the form to the athlete

	none	mild	moderate	severe			
Headache	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
"Pressure in head"	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
Neck Pain	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
Nausea or vomiting	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
Dizziness	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
Blurred vision	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
Balance problems	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
Sensitivity to light	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
Sensitivity to noise	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
Feeling slowed down	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
Feeling like "in a fog"	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
"Don't feel right"	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
Difficulty concentrating	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
Difficulty remembering	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
Fatigue or low energy	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
Confusion	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
Drowsiness	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
More emotional	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
Irritability	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
Sadness	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
Nervous or Anxious	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
Trouble falling asleep (if applicable)	0	1	2	3	4	5	6

## Clinician-rated

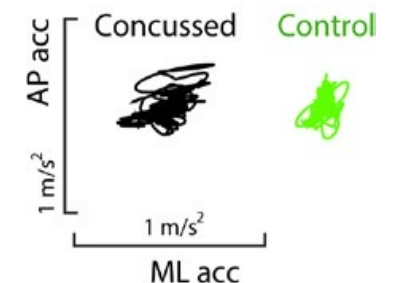


## Instrumented

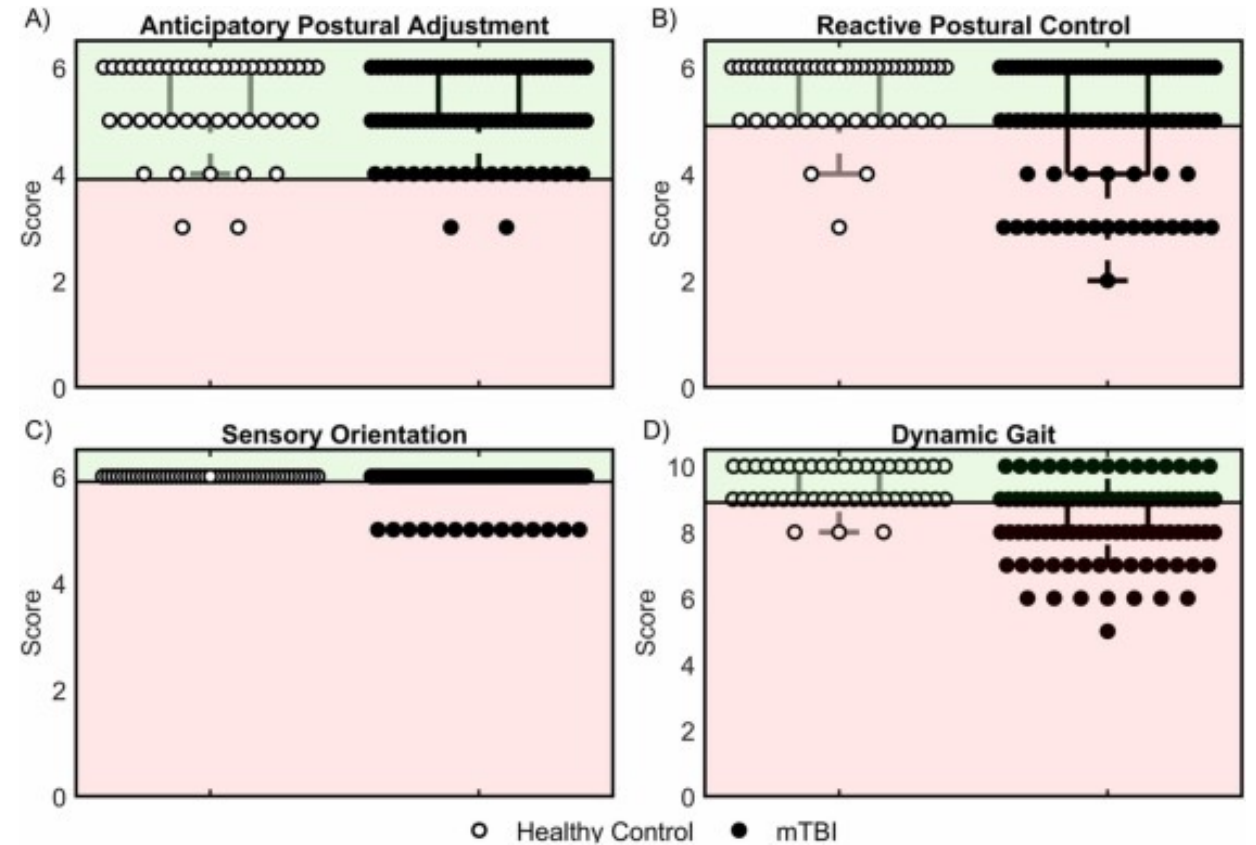
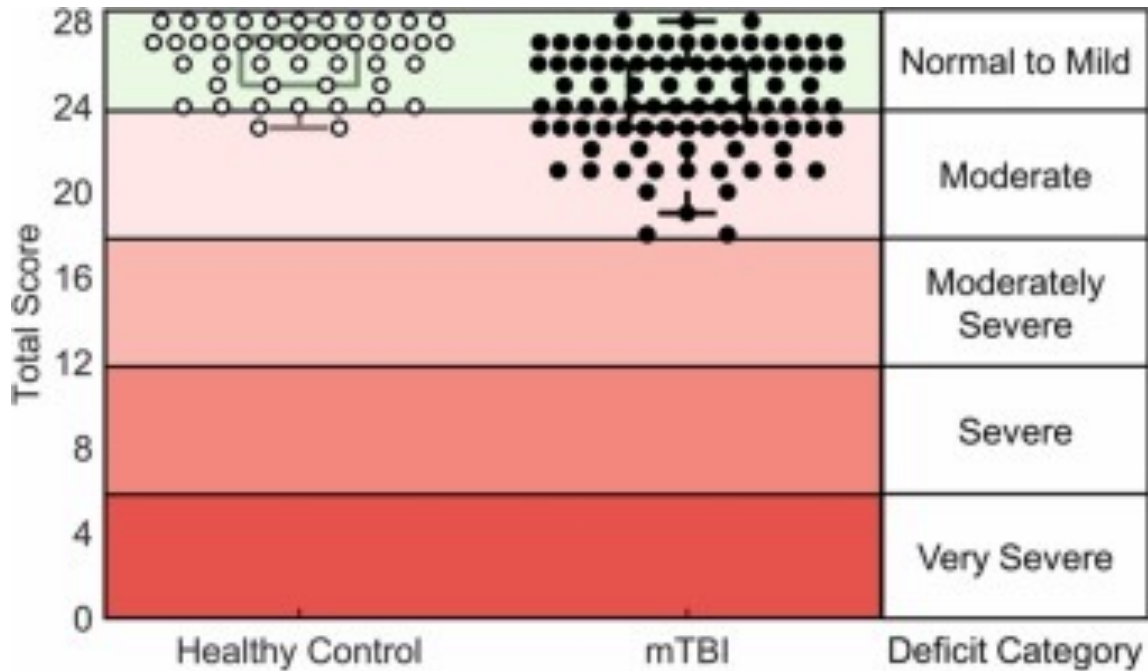
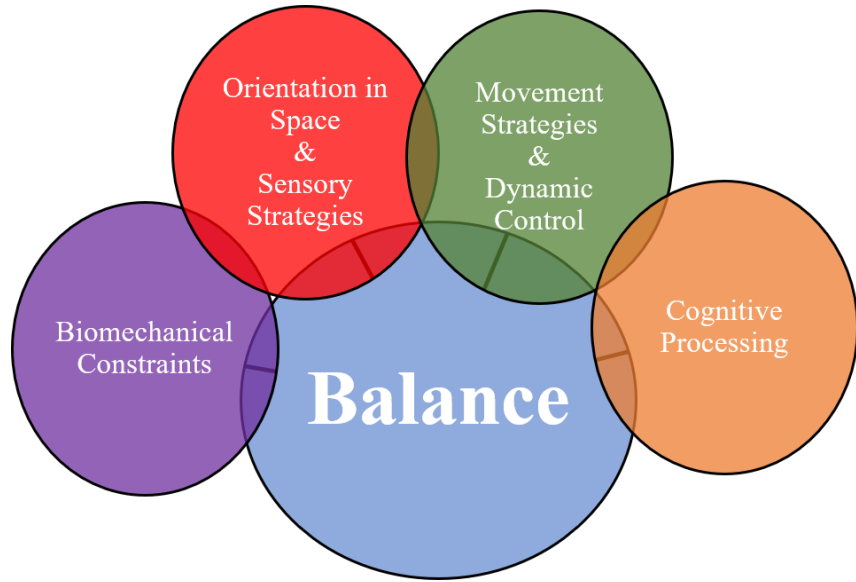


Figure 7. Sensor placement. On the left, foot sensor attached to

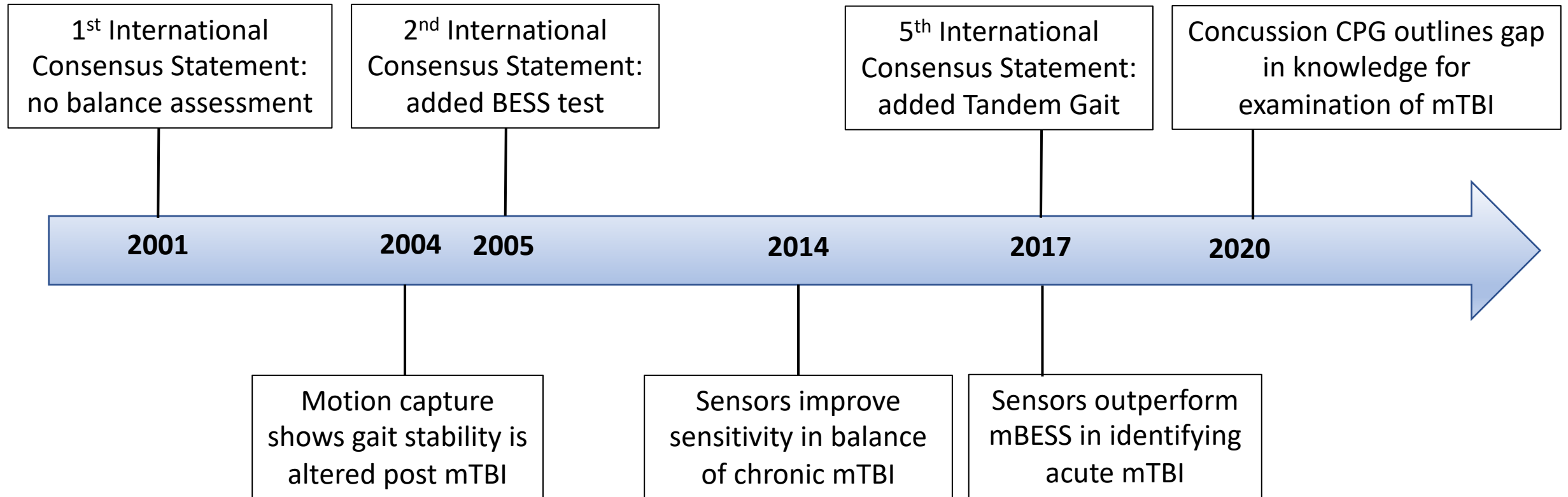
### Double Stance



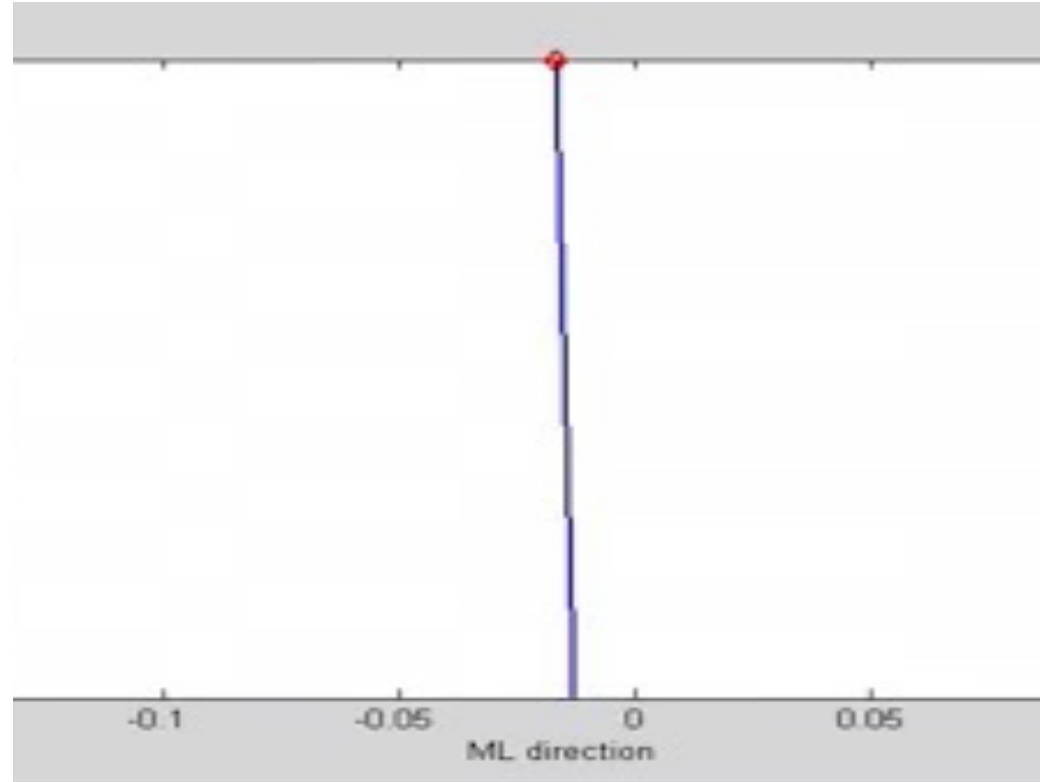
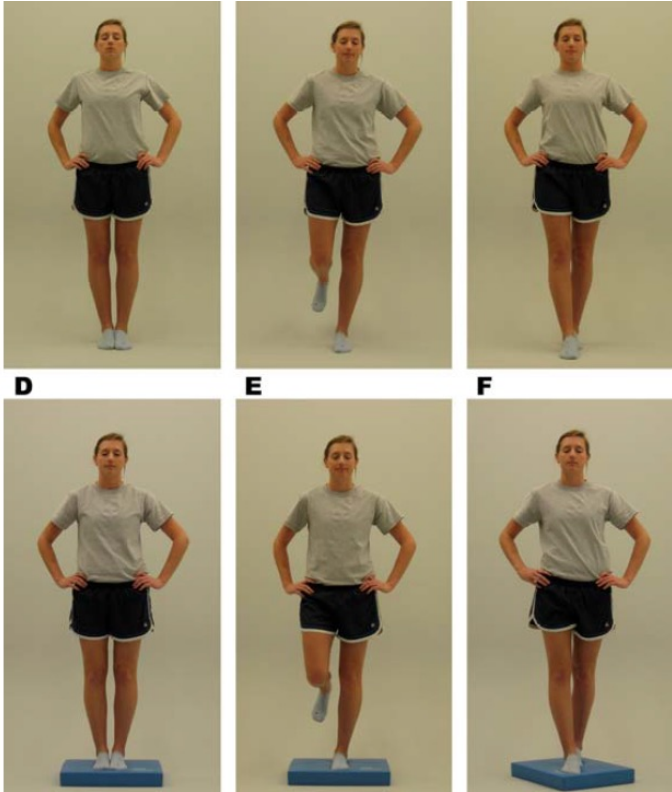
# There is more to balance than quiet standing



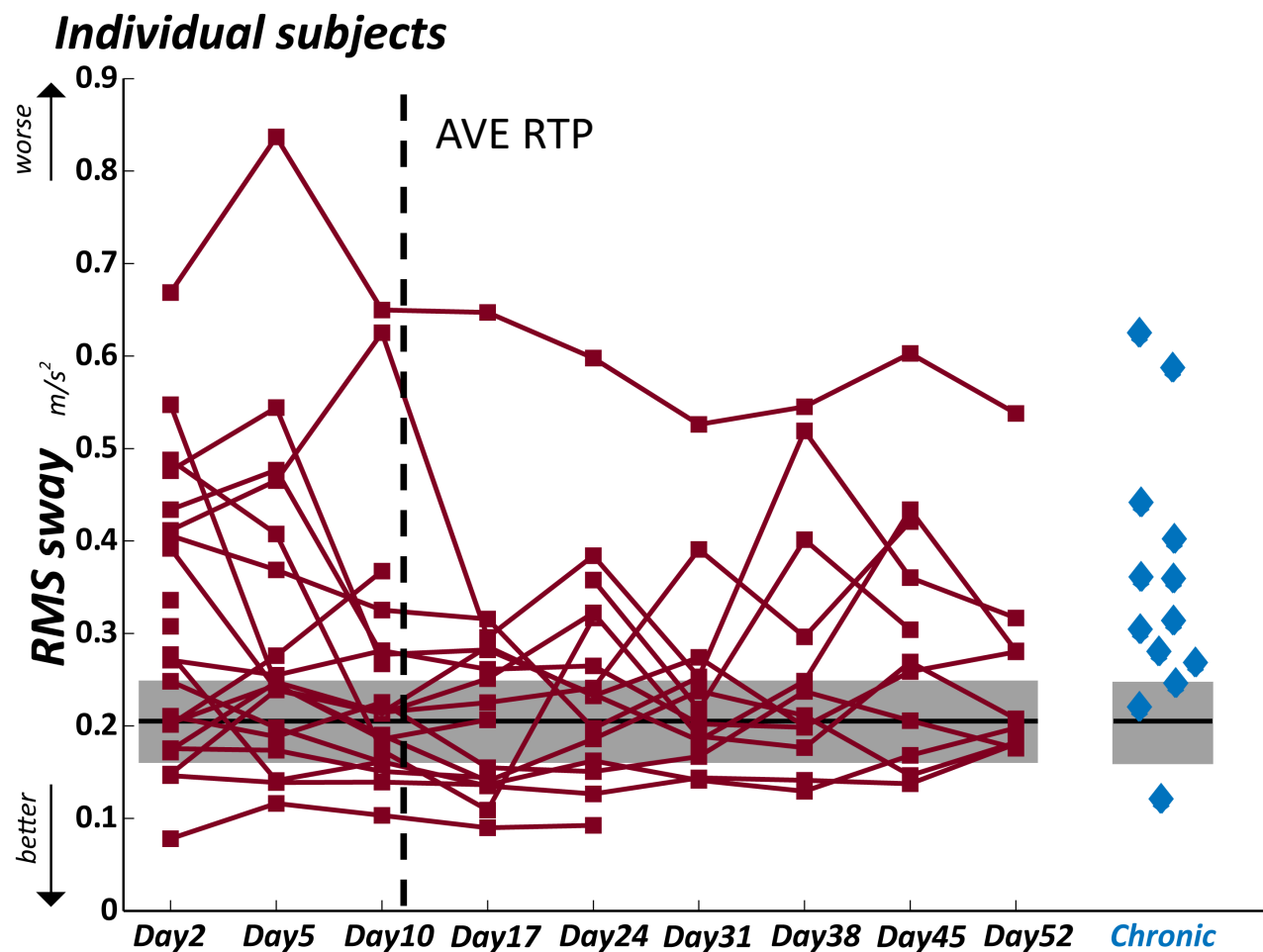
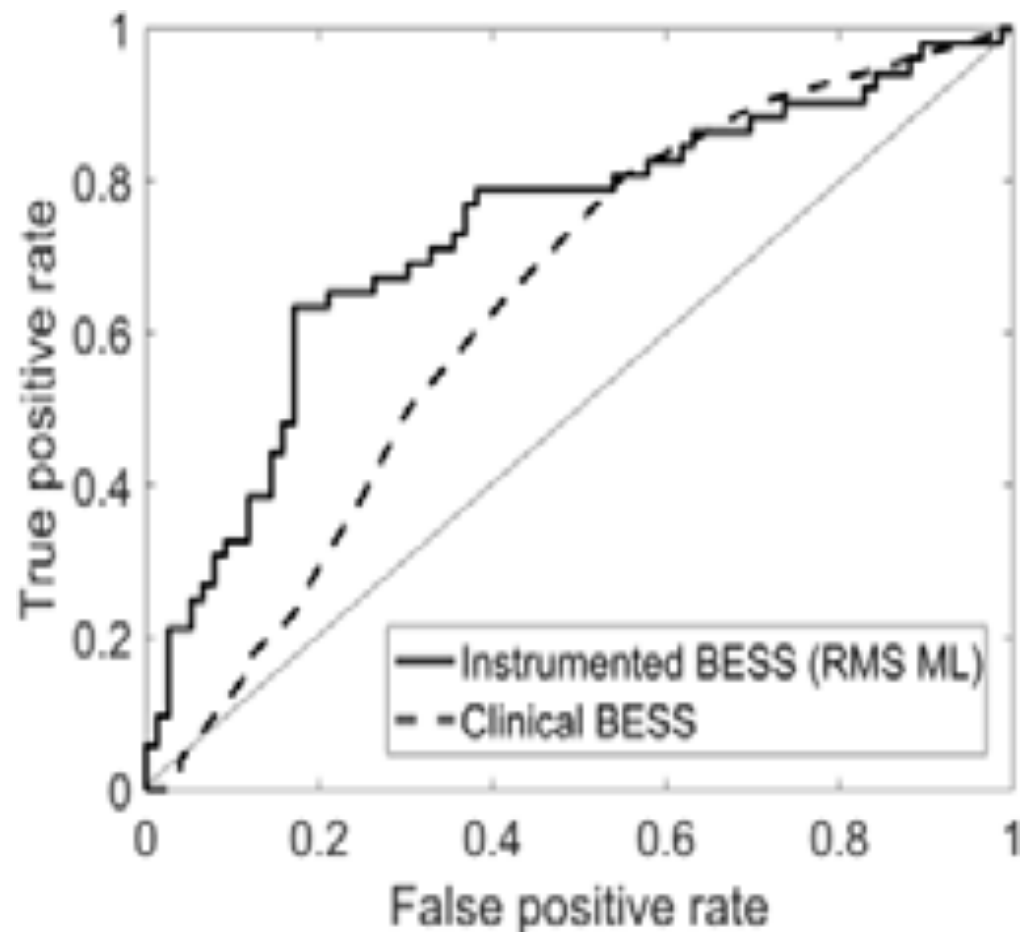
# Move towards using objective measures



# Objective measures for balance control

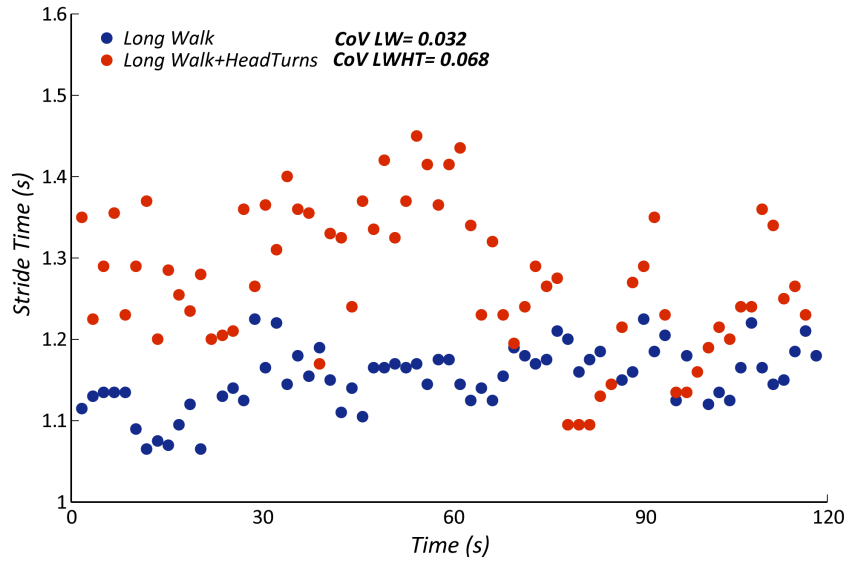


# Objective measures more sensitive than clinical across timepoints

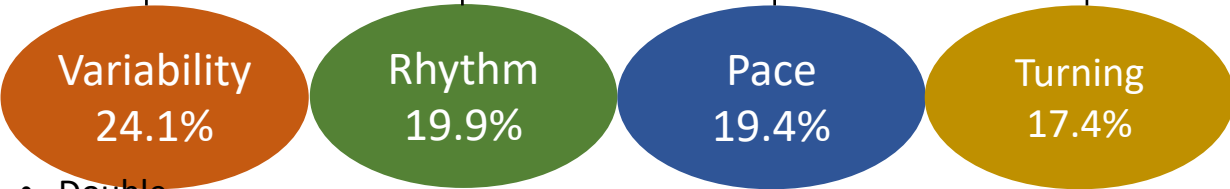
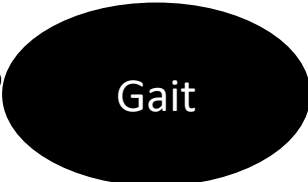
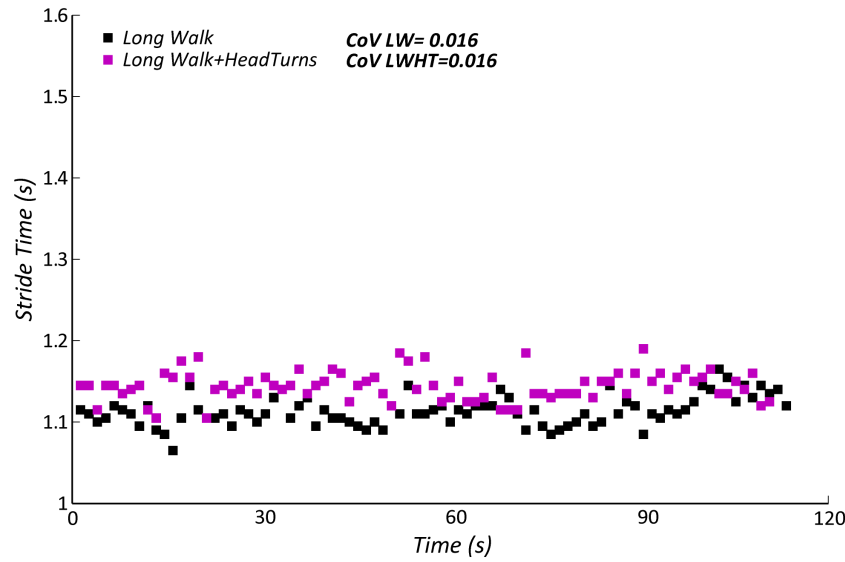


# Objective measures of gait are important- not just speed

**Concussed**



**Non Concussed**



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Double support time SD</li> <li>• Stride Length SD</li> <li>• Foot Strike Angle SD</li> <li>• Stride Time SD</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Double support time</li> <li>• Stride Time</li> <li>• Single Support Time</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stride Length</li> <li>• Gait Speed</li> <li>• Foot Strike Angle</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Turn Duration</li> <li>• Turn Velocity</li> </ul>
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Stuart et al., 2019  
 Martini et al., 2020  
 King et al, pilot data

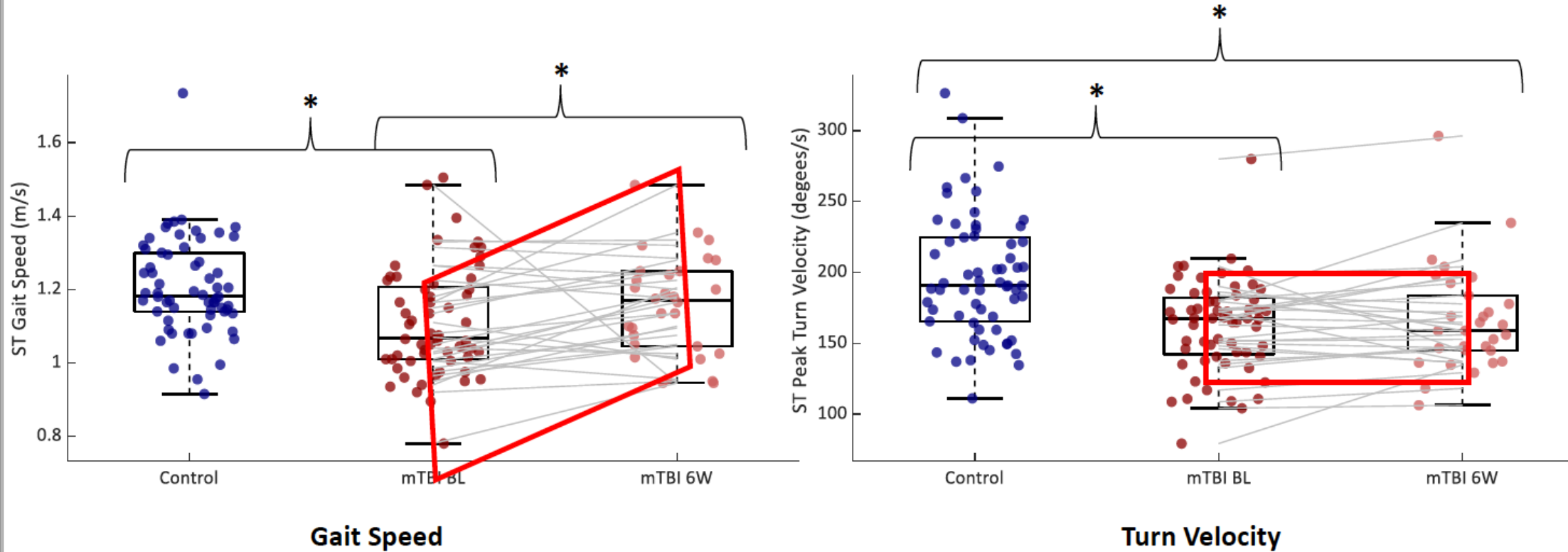
## Gait domains impaired after mTBI, especially with dual task

TABLE 2. GAIT DOMAIN SCORES

		<i>Control</i>	<i>mTBI</i>	<i>F Statistic</i>	<i>p value</i>	<i>Cohen's d</i>
ST	Stroop Acc (%)	98.8 (4.2)	97.7 (6.3)	$F_{(1,96)} = 1.25$	0.267	0.23
	<b>Pace</b>	<b>0.38 (0.73)</b>	<b>-0.32 (0.82)</b>	$F_{(1,109)} = 22.56$	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	<b>0.91</b>
	Variability	-0.15 (0.76)	0.14 (0.82)	$F_{(1,109)} = 3.88$	0.051	0.38
	Rhythm	0.06 (0.32)	-0.09 (0.35)	$F_{(1,109)} = 5.39$	0.022	0.45
	<b>Turning</b>	<b>0.38 (0.85)</b>	<b>-0.31 (0.85)</b>	$F_{(1,109)} = 18.15$	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	<b>0.82</b>
DT	Stroop Acc (%)	98.5 (1.7)	95.8 (7.8)	$F_{(1,96)} = 5.53$	0.021	0.48
	<b>Pace</b>	<b>0.39 (0.80)</b>	<b>-0.32 (0.85)</b>	$F_{(1,108)} = 29.99$	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	<b>0.87</b>
	Variability	-0.13 (0.72)	0.18 (1.00)	$F_{(1,108)} = 3.44$	0.066	0.36
	<b>Rhythm</b>	<b>0.10 (0.28)</b>	<b>-0.11 (0.37)</b>	$F_{(1,108)} = 10.86$	<b>0.001</b>	<b>0.64</b>
	<b>Turning</b>	<b>0.37 (0.61)</b>	<b>-0.33 (1.05)</b>	$F_{(1,112)} = 17.73$	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	<b>0.81</b>



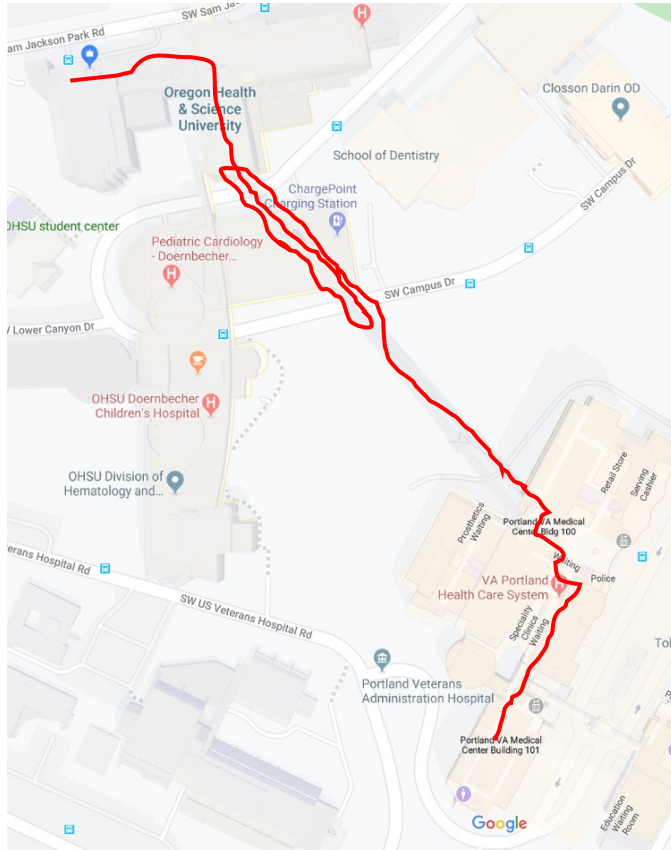
# Rehabilitation May Affect Domains Differently



Gray lines connect participants across time.

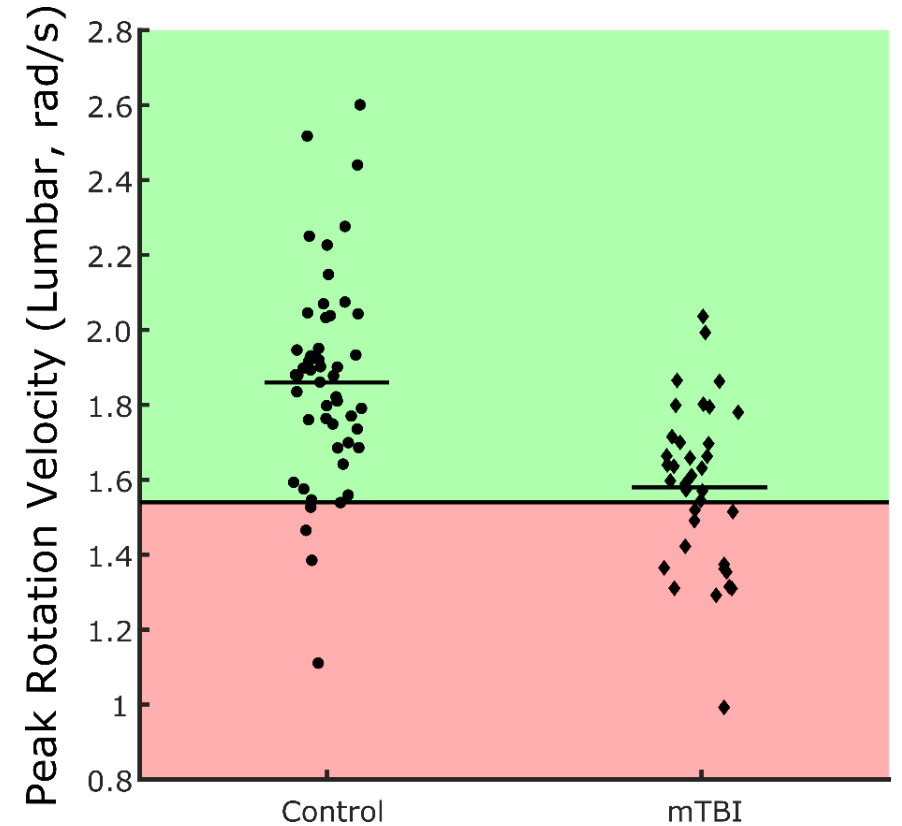
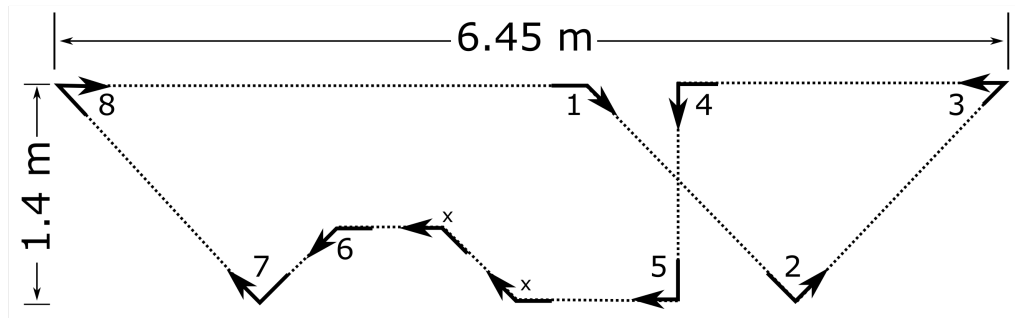
\* Indicates  $p < 0.05$

# Locomotion is not always in a straight line



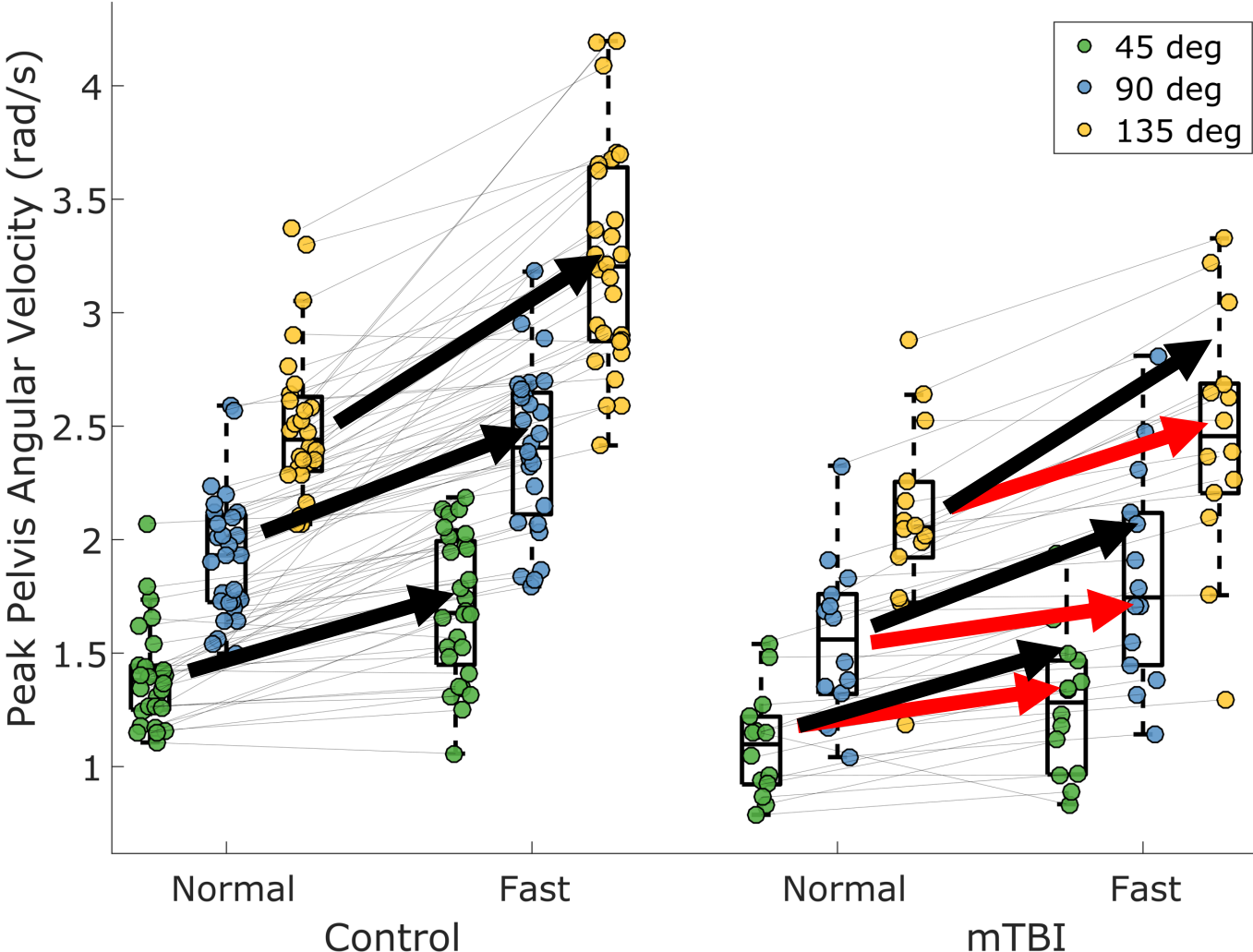
- Segmental reorientation to new direction
- 800-1000 turns per day, ~35-45% of steps
- Rehabilitation does not target turning
- Rapid, transient movements can exacerbate symptoms

# Turning velocities during a planned turns course simulating the demands of everyday ambulation



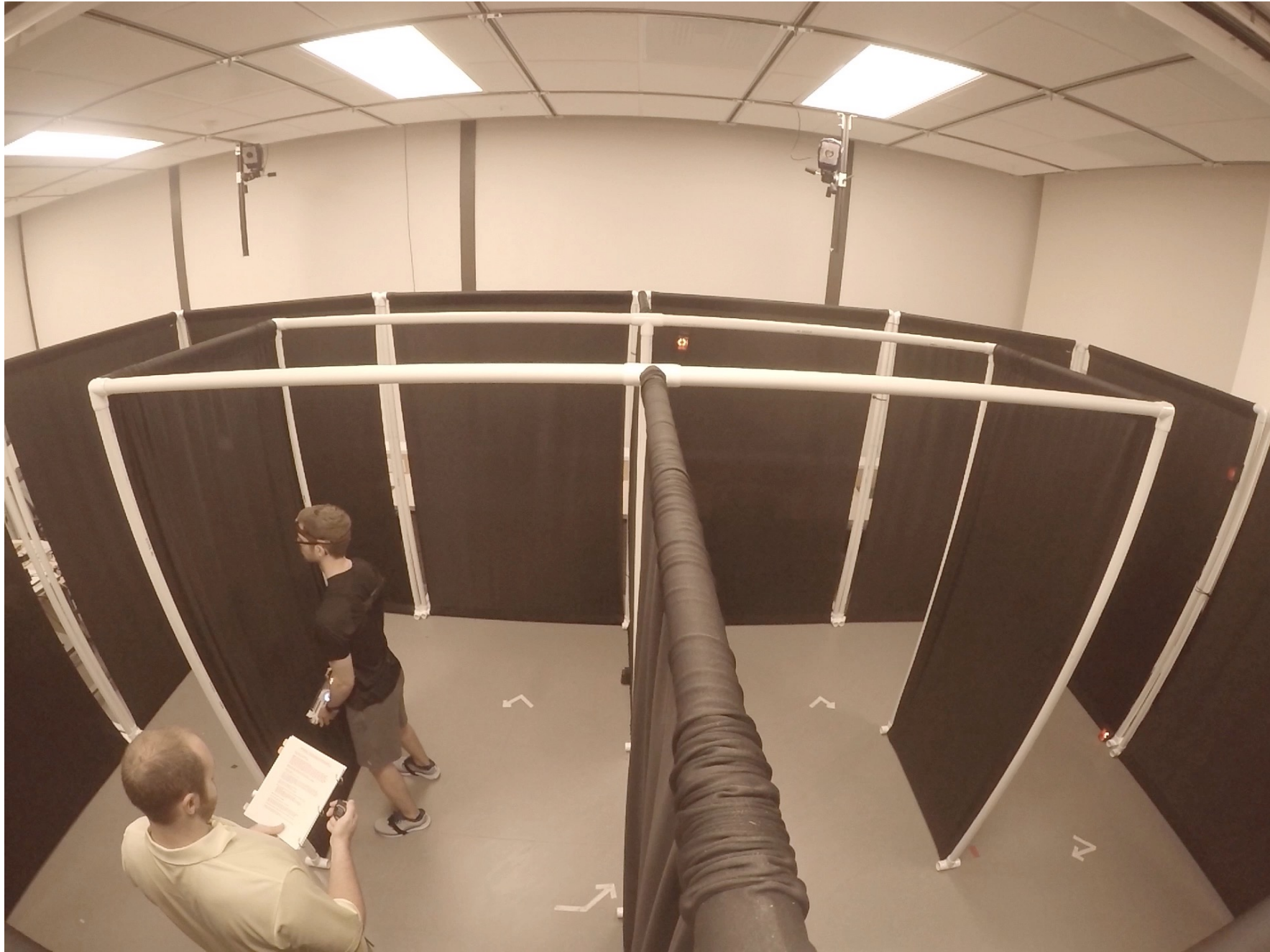
- Chronic mTBI (>3 months post-injury with self-reported complaints of imbalance)

People with chronic mTBI had slower turn velocities and could not increase speed as much as healthy controls



How to determine if military personnel are ready to return to duty?





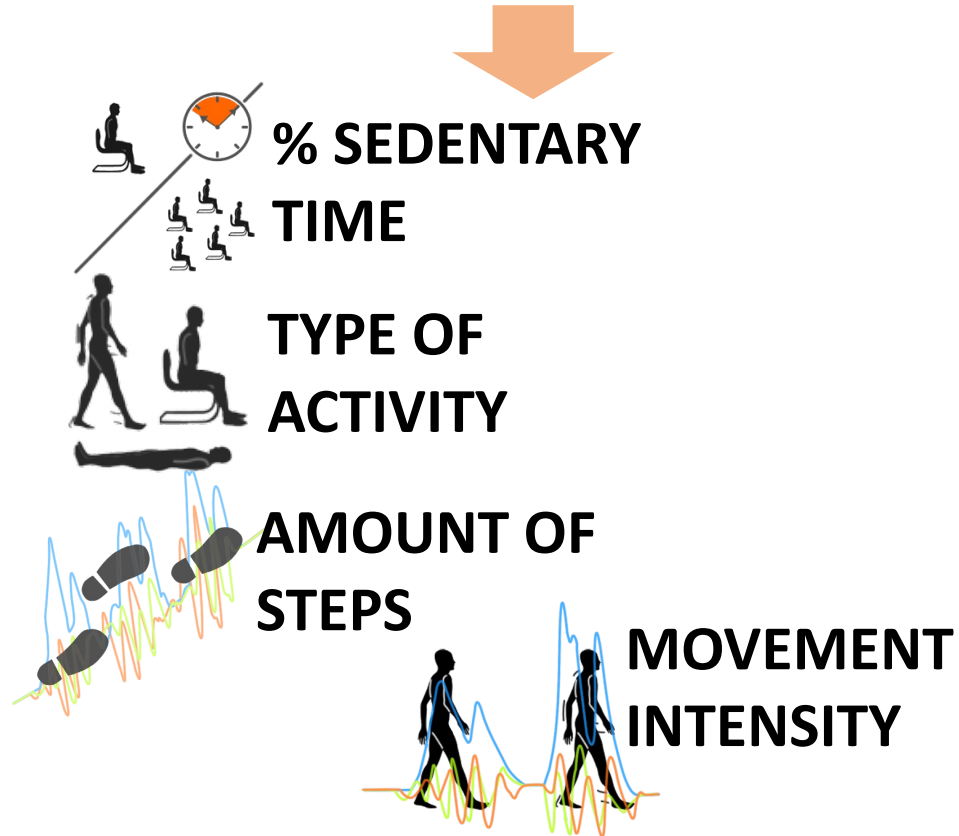
Funded by department of defense  
W81XWH-18-2-0049; King PI

# Measuring movement in natural environment--Activity Monitor versus Movement Monitor

**QUANTITY**

vs

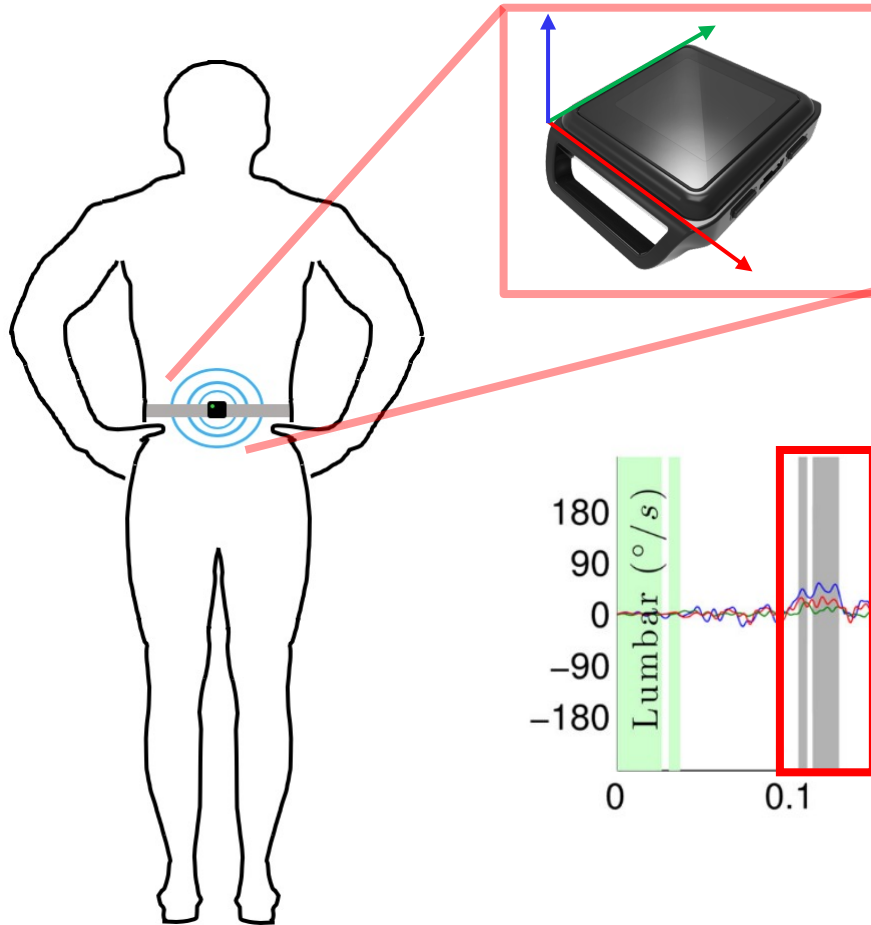
**QUALITY**



Characterize how people walk and turn:

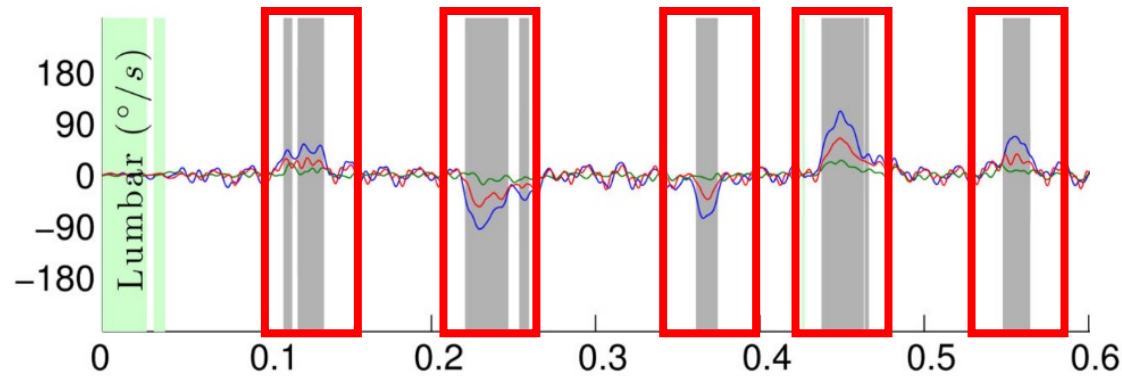
- 1) Turn duration
- 2) Turn amplitude
- 3) Turn peak velocity
- 4) Variability of turns
- 5) Gait characteristics

# What can we learn from Continuous Monitoring?



## Opal (APDM Inc, an ERT Company)

- Triaxial Linear Accelerometer ( $\pm 16g$  &  $\pm 200g$ )
- Triaxial Gyroscope ( $\pm 2000^\circ/s$ )
- Triaxial Magnetometer ( $\pm 8$  Gauss)
- Sample Rate up to 128 Hz
- 12 Hour Battery Life
- 8 Gb Internal Memory



## Turn Quality

Turn Angle Magnitude ( $^\circ$ )

Turn Duration (s)

Peak Turn Velocity ( $^\circ/s$ )

Average Turn Velocity ( $^\circ/s$ )

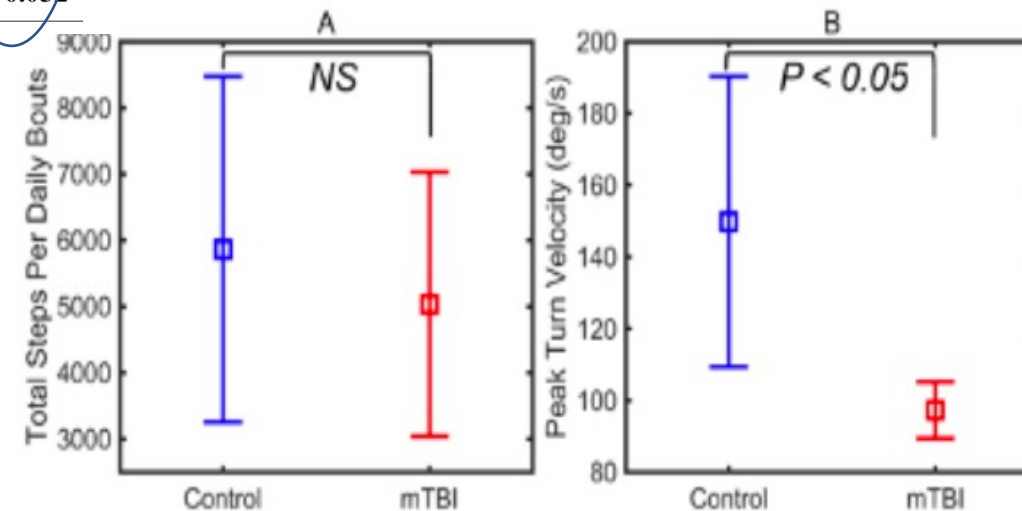


# People with chronic mTBI had similar quantity but not quality compared to healthy controls at home

TABLE 2. TURNING AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY MEASURES IN mTBI AND CONTROLS

	<i>Chronic mTBI (n=29)</i> <i>Mean (SD)</i>	<i>Controls (n=23)</i> <i>Mean (SD)</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>p</i>
Macro-level physical activity				
Number of bouts per hour ( <i>n</i> )	16 (5)	15 (5)	0.89	0.352
Bout duration (sec)	48.41 (17.58)	44.89 (17.79)	0.52	0.476
Bout duration CV (sec)	0.83 (0.12)	0.82 (0.12)	0.00	0.962
Average steps per bout ( <i>n</i> )	48 (24)	46 (32)	0.08	0.786
Total steps per daily bouts ( <i>n</i> )	5863 (2606)	5034 (1997)	1.13	0.294
Active rate (%)	19.53 (7.34)	16.44 (4.62)	3.05	0.087
Micro-level turning				
Number of turns per hour ( <i>n/h</i> )	85 (33)	60 (24)	7.46	<b>0.009*</b>
Angle (°)	97.79 (3.63)	82.02 (12.62)	60.57	<b>&lt;0.001*</b>
Angle CV (°)	0.48 (0.02)	0.39 (0.09)	41.89	<b>&lt;0.001*</b>
Duration (sec)	1.73 (0.11)	1.14 (0.39)	75.95	<b>&lt;0.001*</b>
Duration CV (sec)	0.42 (0.02)	0.36 (0.07)	15.80	<b>&lt;0.001*</b>
Peak velocity (°/sec)	97.22 (7.92)	149.84 (40.09)	58.26	<b>&lt;0.001*</b>
Peak velocity CV (°/sec)	0.36 (0.03)	0.32 (0.03)	16.60	<b>&lt;0.001*</b>
Average velocity (°/sec)	48.94 (3.68)	73.45 (18.63)	57.35	<b>&lt;0.001*</b>
Average velocity CV (°/sec)	0.34 (0.02)	0.32 (0.04)	4.90	<b>0.032*</b>

**Seven days of continuous passive monitoring--Control and mTBI subjects had similar daily step counts (A) but had slower peak turning velocities (B)**



# What are the underlying causes of balance deficits after mTBI?

- Some evidence of impaired vestibular and ocular-motor function, especially in the acute populations, blast exposed
- However, normal vestibular and ocular-motor function in people with more chronic (> 3 months) mTBI- still with balance complaints
- Some indication of sensory integration deficits but less work has been done in this area

# Peripheral Vestibular and Ocular motor function in chronic mTBI

**Table 1: Overview of abnormal and normal oculomotor, peripheral vestibular, and central sensory integration for static balance function for healthy control and chronic mild traumatic brain injury (mTBI) groups.**

Parameter	Abnormal Cutoff Value	Healthy Control N Abnormal / Total N (%)	Chronic mTBI N Abnormal / Total N (%)	Chi Square <i>p</i> Value
<b>Oculomotor</b>				
Saccades - Accuracy	< 85 %	5 / 52 (10%)	4 / 50 (8%)	1.000
Saccades - Latency	> 218 ms	6 / 52 (12%)	6 / 50 (12%)	0.942
Saccades - Velocity	< 339 deg/s	6 / 52 (12%)	1 / 50 (2%)	0.113
Smooth Pursuit – Average Velocity Gain	< 0.72	6 / 52 (12%)	5 / 49 (10%)	0.830
Smooth Pursuit - Velocity Gain Asymmetry	> 6 %	6 / 52 (12%)	7 / 49 (14%)	0.680
<b>Peripheral Vestibular</b>				
Caloric - Unilateral Weakness	> 30 %	4 / 49 (8%)	6 / 33 (18%)	0.302
Caloric - Average Slow Phase Velocity	< 9.35 deg/s	5 / 49 (10%)	5 / 33 (15%)	0.733
vHIT - Average VOR Gain	< 0.87	6 / 52 (12%)	1 / 49 (4%)	0.113
vHIT - VOR Gain Asymmetry	> 8% %	6 / 52 (12%)	7 / 49 (14%)	0.680
cVEMP - Asymmetry	> 31 %	5 / 49 (10%)	3 / 40 (8%)	0.726
oVEMP - Asymmetry	> 39 %	4 / 41 (10%)	5 / 29 (17%)	0.473
<b>Central Sensory Integration</b>				
<b><i>SOT - Composite Score</i></b>	< 61.8	6 / 60 (10%)	<b><i>28 / 54 (52%)</i></b>	<b><i>&lt; 0.001</i></b>
<b><i>SOT - Somatosensory Ratio</i></b>	< 93.1	6 / 60 (10%)	<b><i>33 / 54 (61%)</i></b>	<b><i>&lt; 0.001</i></b>
<b><i>SOT - Visual Ratio</i></b>	< 55.5	6 / 60 (10%)	<b><i>23 / 54 (43%)</i></b>	<b><i>&lt; 0.001</i></b>
<b><i>SOT - Vestibular Ratio</i></b>	< 35.5	6 / 60 (10%)	<b><i>22 / 54 (41%)</i></b>	<b><i>&lt; 0.001</i></b>

Abnormal cutoff values were derived from 10 percentile cutoffs calculated from healthy control data. Parameters bolded and italicized indicates a significant difference in the proportion of abnormal function for the mTBI group compared to the healthy control group ( $p < 0.05$ ). N – number of participants; vHIT – video Head Impulse Test; VOR – Vestibular Ocular Reflex; cVEMP – cervical vestibular evoked myogenic potential; oVEMP – ocular vestibular evoked myogenic potential; SOT – Sensory Organization Test.

# Peripheral Vestibular or Ocular motor deficits in chronic mTBI

Table 1: Overview of abnormal and normal oculomotor, peripheral vestibular, and central sensory integration for static balance function for healthy control and chronic mild traumatic brain injury (mTBI) groups.

Parameter	Abnormal Cutoff Value	Healthy Control N Abnormal / Total N (%)	Chronic mTBI N Abnormal / Total N (%)	Chi Square <i>p</i> Value
<b>Oculomotor</b>				
Saccades - Accuracy	< 85 %	5 / 52 (10%)	4 / 50 (8%)	1.000
Saccades - Latency	> 218 ms	6 / 52 (12%)	6 / 50 (12%)	0.942
Saccades - Velocity	< 339 deg/s	6 / 52 (12%)	1 / 50 (2%)	0.113
Smooth Pursuit – Average Velocity Gain	< 0.72	6 / 52 (12%)	5 / 49 (10%)	0.830
Smooth Pursuit - Velocity Gain Asymmetry	> 6 %	6 / 52 (12%)	7 / 49 (14%)	0.680
<b>Peripheral Vestibular</b>				
Caloric - Unilateral Weakness	> 30 %	4 / 49 (8%)	6 / 33 (18%)	0.302
Caloric - Average Slow Phase Velocity	< 9.35 deg/s	5 / 49 (10%)	5 / 33 (15%)	0.733
vHIT - Average VOR Gain	< 0.87	6 / 52 (12%)	1 / 49 (4%)	0.113
vHIT - VOR Gain Asymmetry	> 8% %	6 / 52 (12%)	7 / 49 (14%)	0.680
cVEMP - Asymmetry	> 31 %	5 / 49 (10%)	3 / 40 (8%)	0.726
oVEMP - Asymmetry	> 39 %	4 / 41 (10%)	5 / 29 (17%)	0.473
<b>Central Sensory Integration</b>				
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# Central sensory integration deficits

**Table 1: Overview of abnormal and normal oculomotor, peripheral vestibular, and central sensory integration for static balance function for healthy control and chronic mild traumatic brain injury (mTBI) groups.**

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# Use of sensory systems will change depending on the availability of sensory information



■ Vestibular ■ Visual ■ Somatosensory

(Derived from sway responses evoked by low amplitude surface motion stimuli, Peterka 2002)

# Comprehensive view of balance

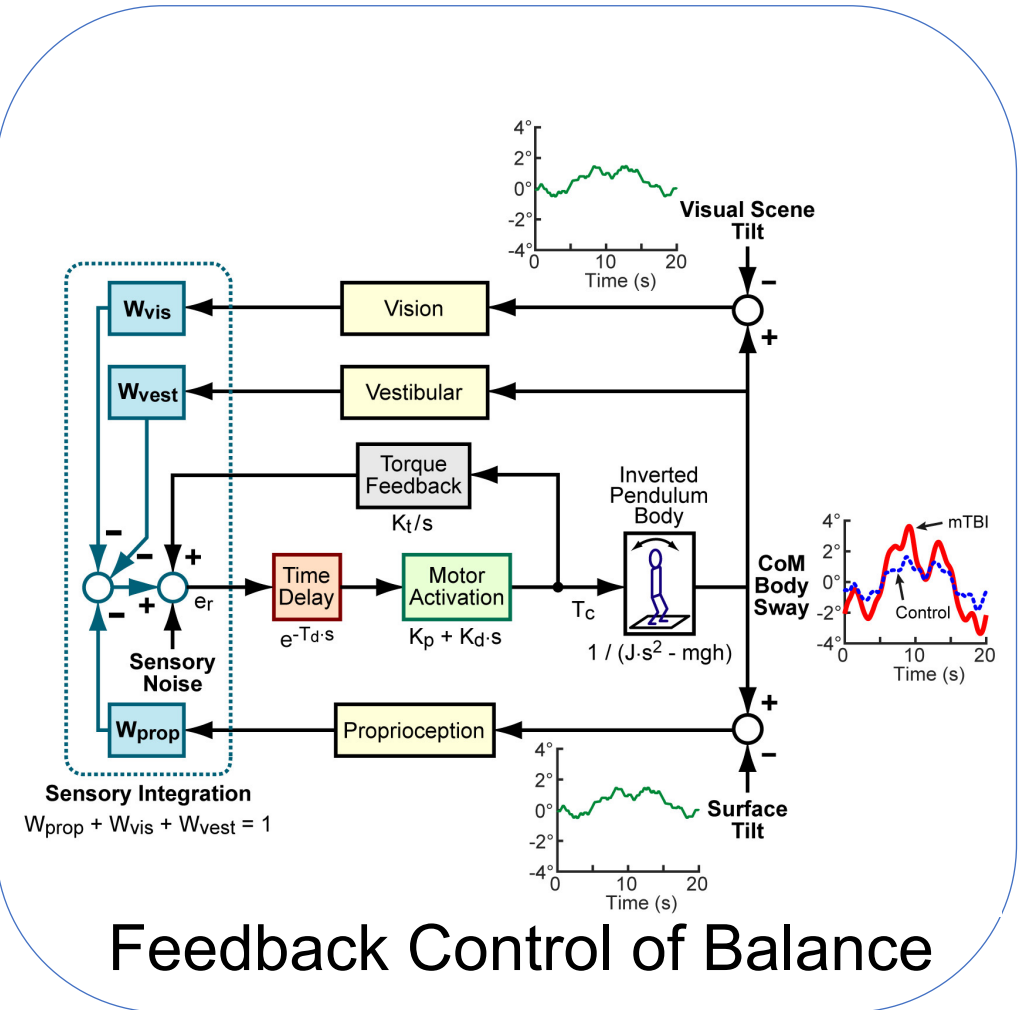
- Balance control can be represented as a feedback control system involving motor as well as sensory contributions
- Goal is to maintain upright orientation
- Body sway detected by Vision, Vestibular, Proprioception
- Central sensory integration combines information
- Then a motor activation mechanism generates appropriate joint torques
- Sensory and motor central processing takes time so there is a time delay

## CSMI Test Method

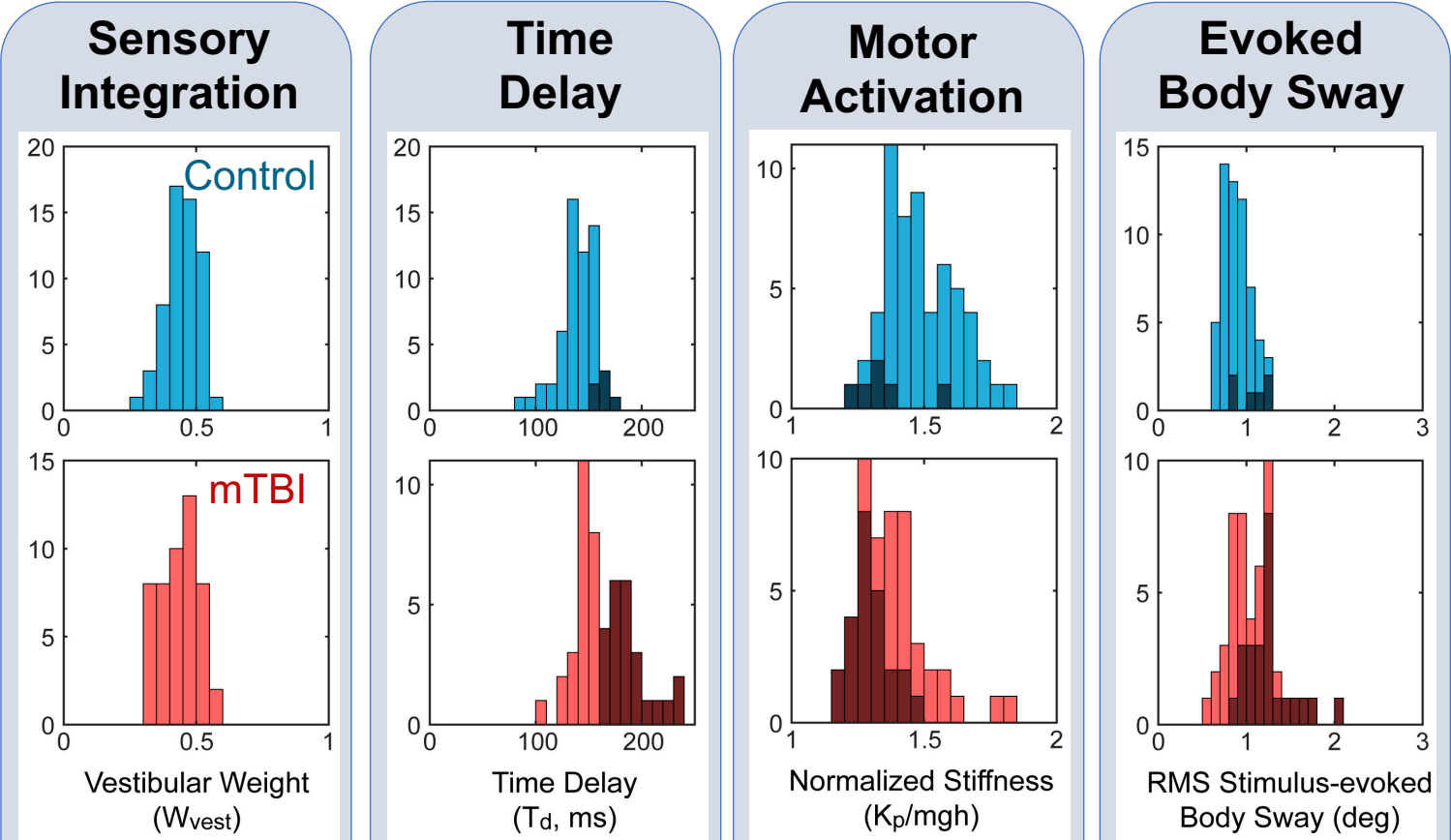
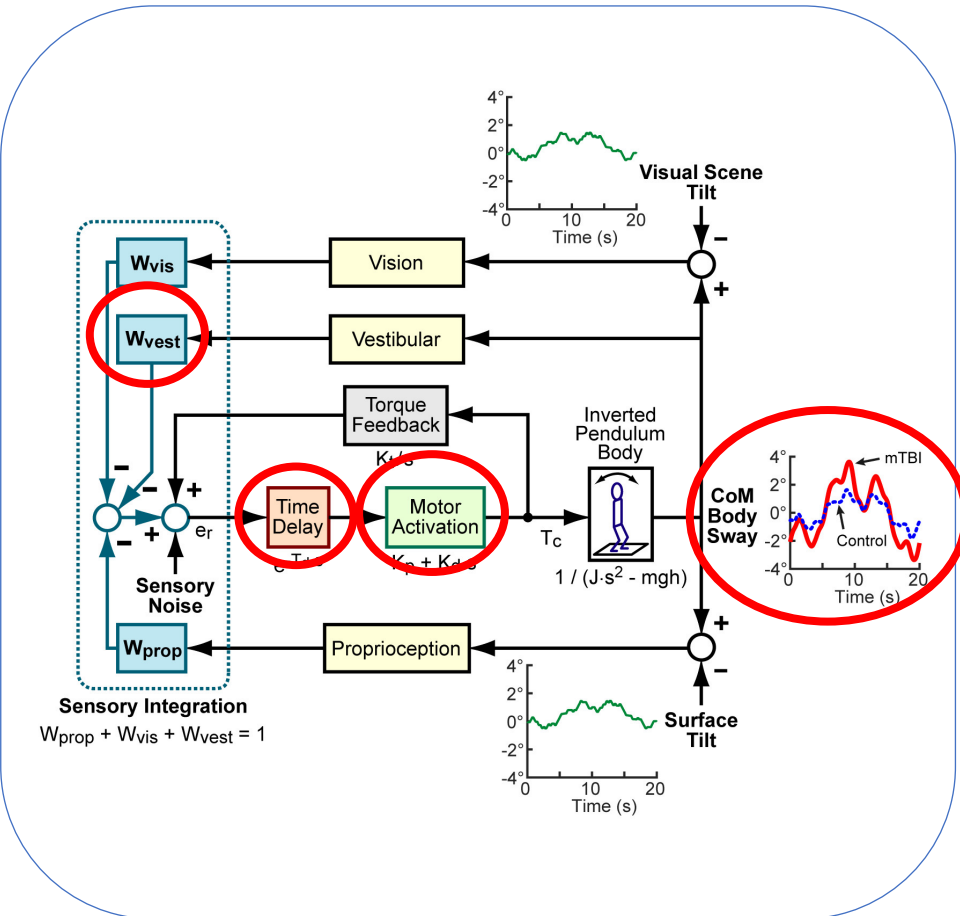
Uses engineering system identification methods to characterize balance control.

- Uses externally applied stimuli (surface and surround) to evoke a body sway response
- A stimulus-response analysis to characterize dynamic properties of the balance control system

## Central Sensorimotor Integration (CSMI) Test



# CSMI Results



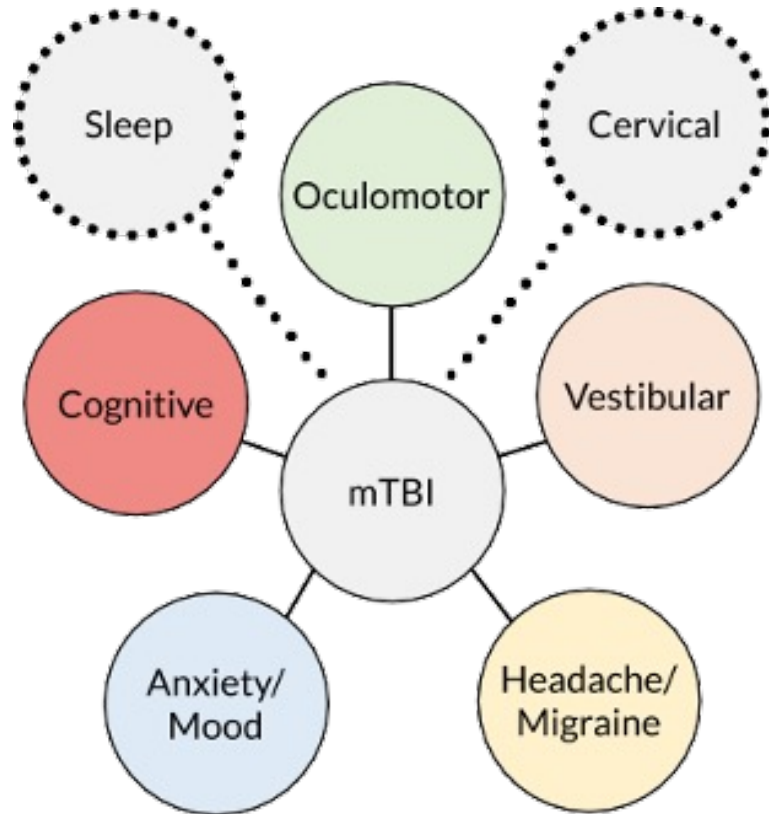
- Increased Time Delay is the fundamental balance dysfunction
- Decreased Motor Activation compensates for increased time delay
- Consequence is increased sensitivity to balance disturbances
- Physical Therapy: Focus on response timing rather than sensory dysfunction



# Rehabilitation- what's new?

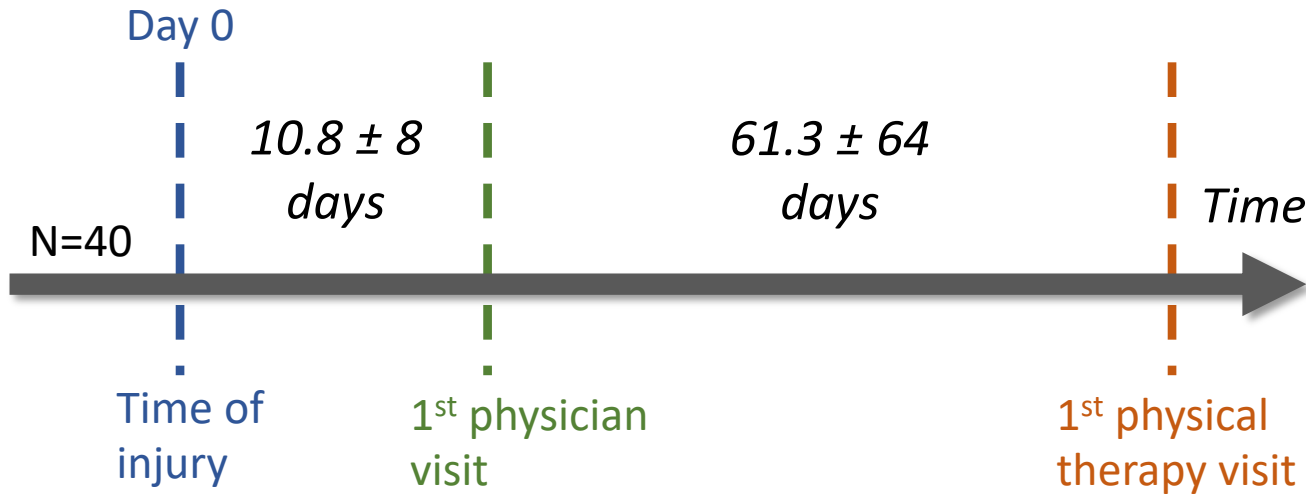
- Concussion subtypes
- When to initiate rehabilitation
- How to work on turning and motor activation/time delay?

# Concussion Subtypes

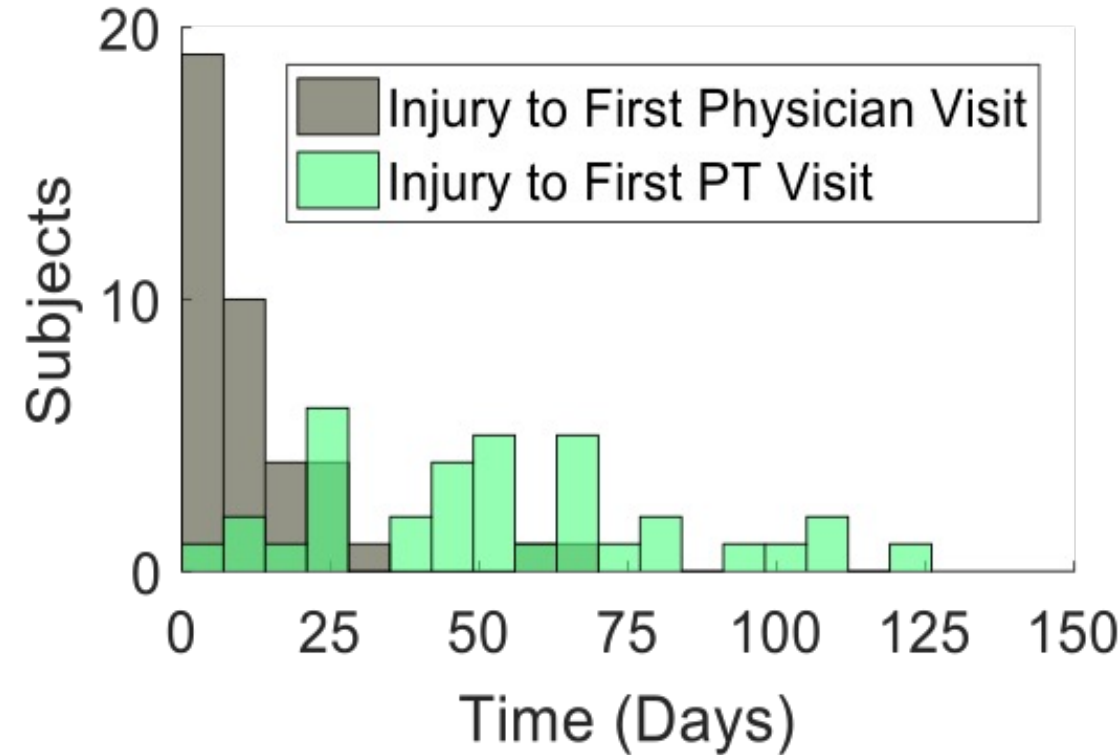


- Will using objective measures help define subtypes better to enable early rehabilitation?
- Would physical therapy be most effective for vestibular and oculomotor subtypes?
- Are there other subtypes or modifiers that we need to consider?
  - Auditory? Autonomic?

# Guidelines for initiating rehabilitation inconsistent and unclear

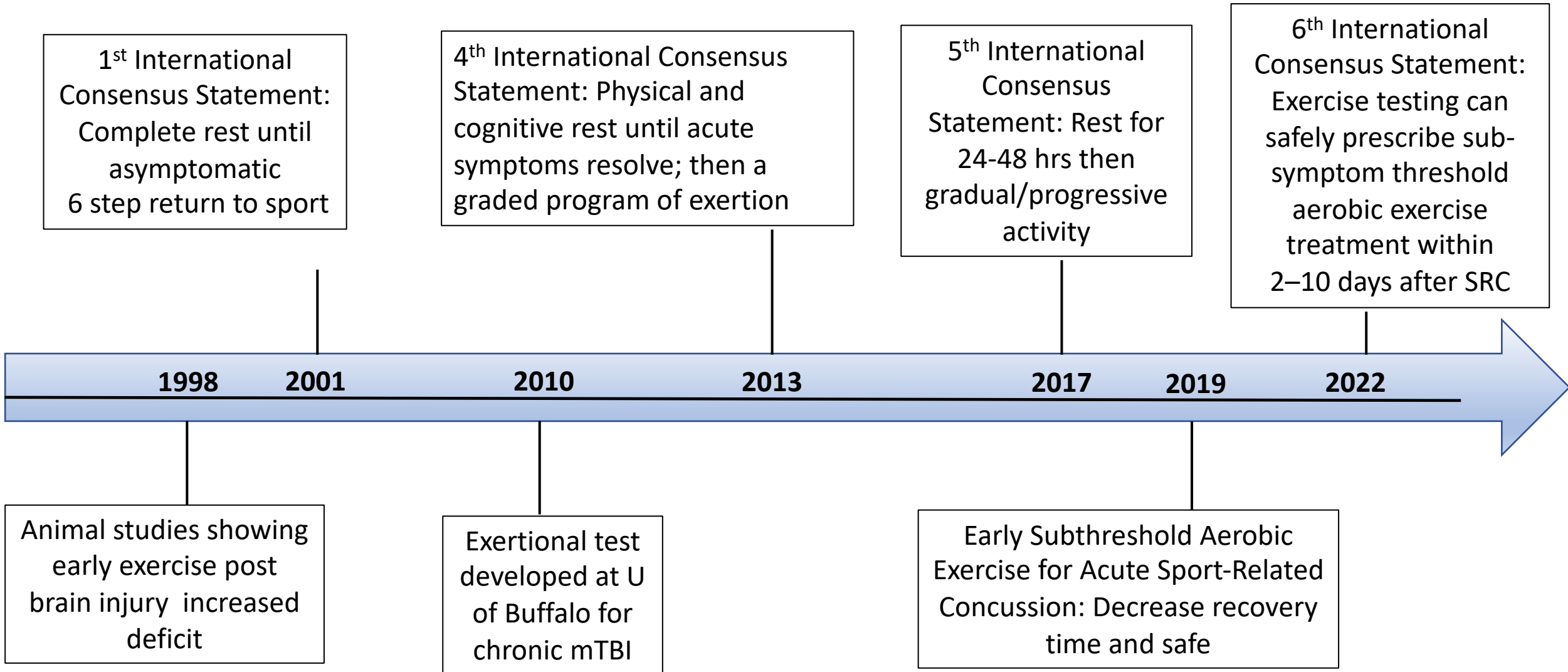


*Figure 1. Average time from injury to first visit with a physician and time from first physician visit to first visit with a physical therapist*



*Figure 2. Histograms showing distribution of time from injury until the first physician visit and until the first physical therapy visit.*

# A move from complete rest to gradual activity



# Early rehabilitation?

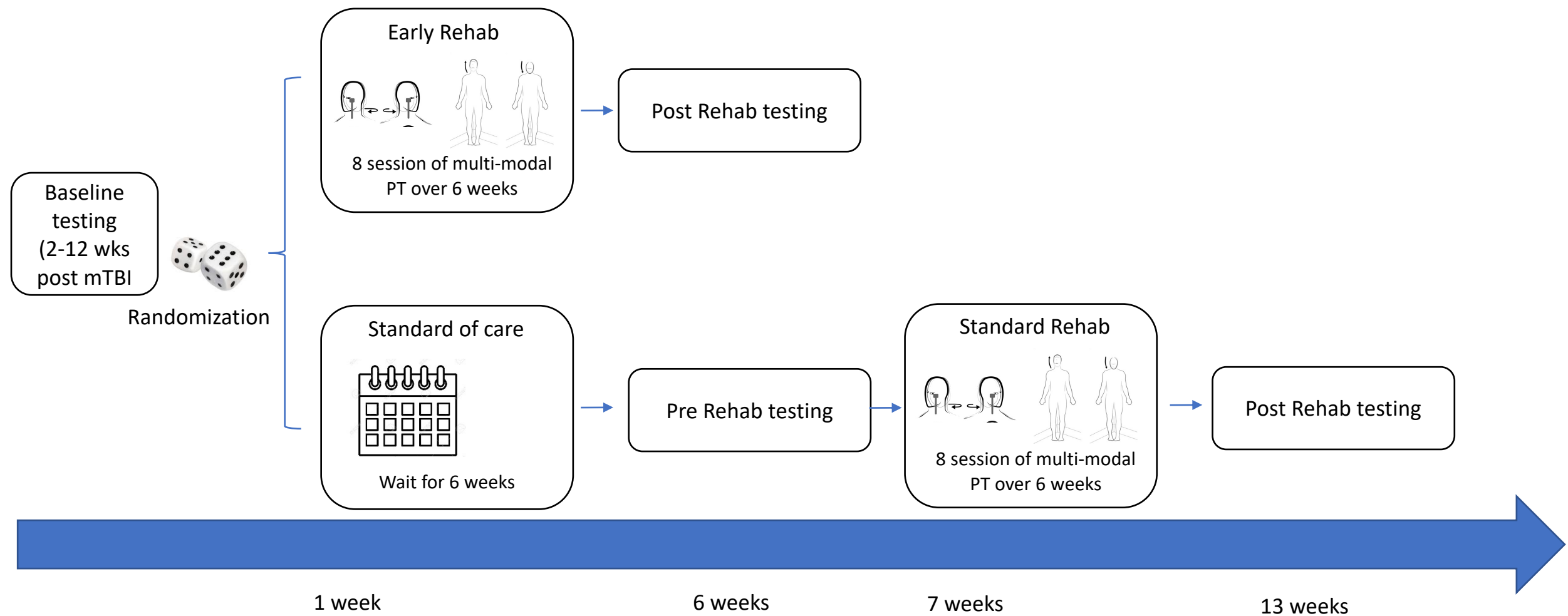
- **Early is the new Normal:**

- **Early** mobilization in the ICU on mechanical ventilation improves LOS
- **Early** rehab for muscle injury: faster RTP
- Current model for neurological rehabilitation

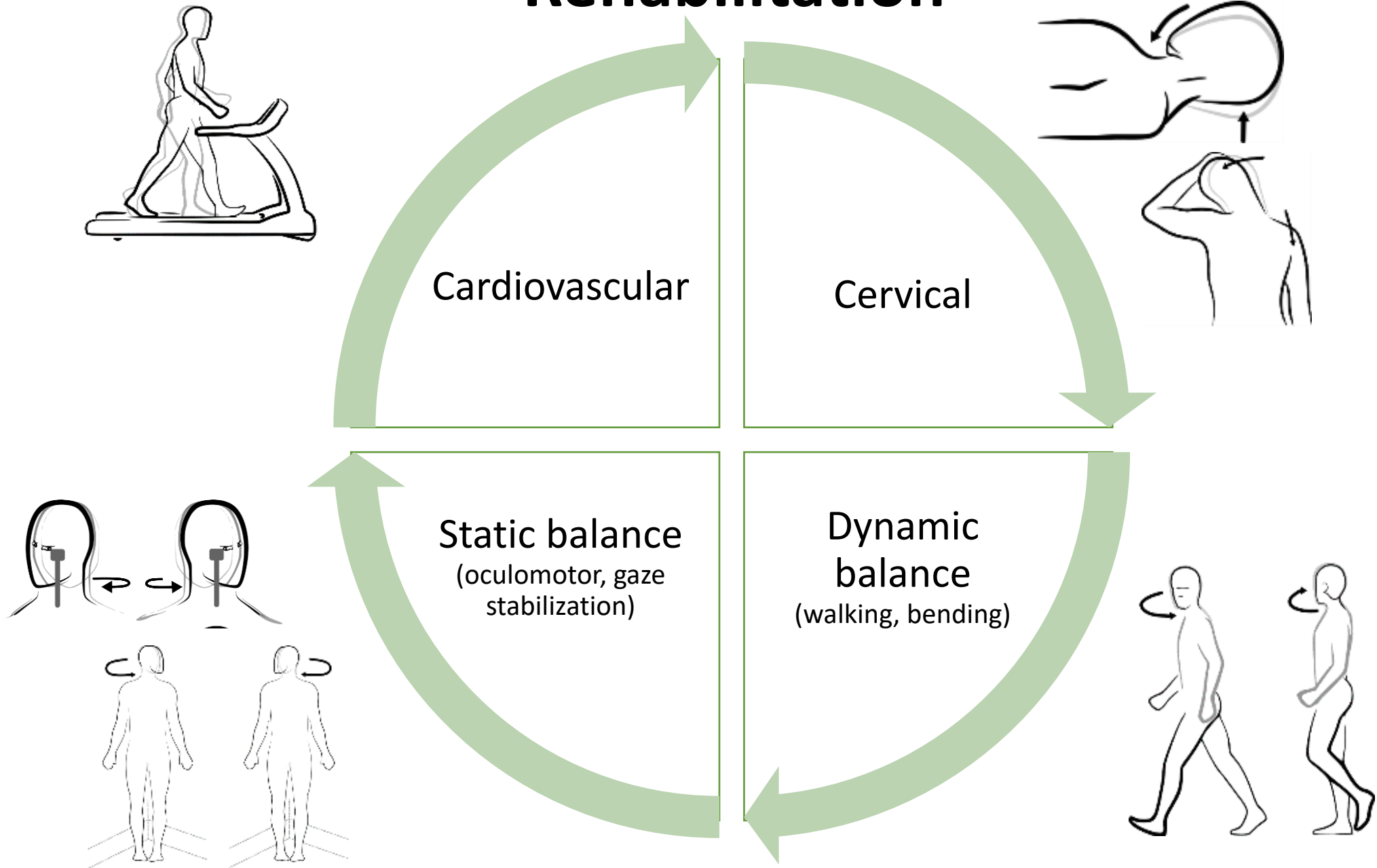
- Waiting: maladaptive strategies
- Other occurrences with 'rest'
  - Depression, anxiety, deconditioning, isolation, sleep disturbances



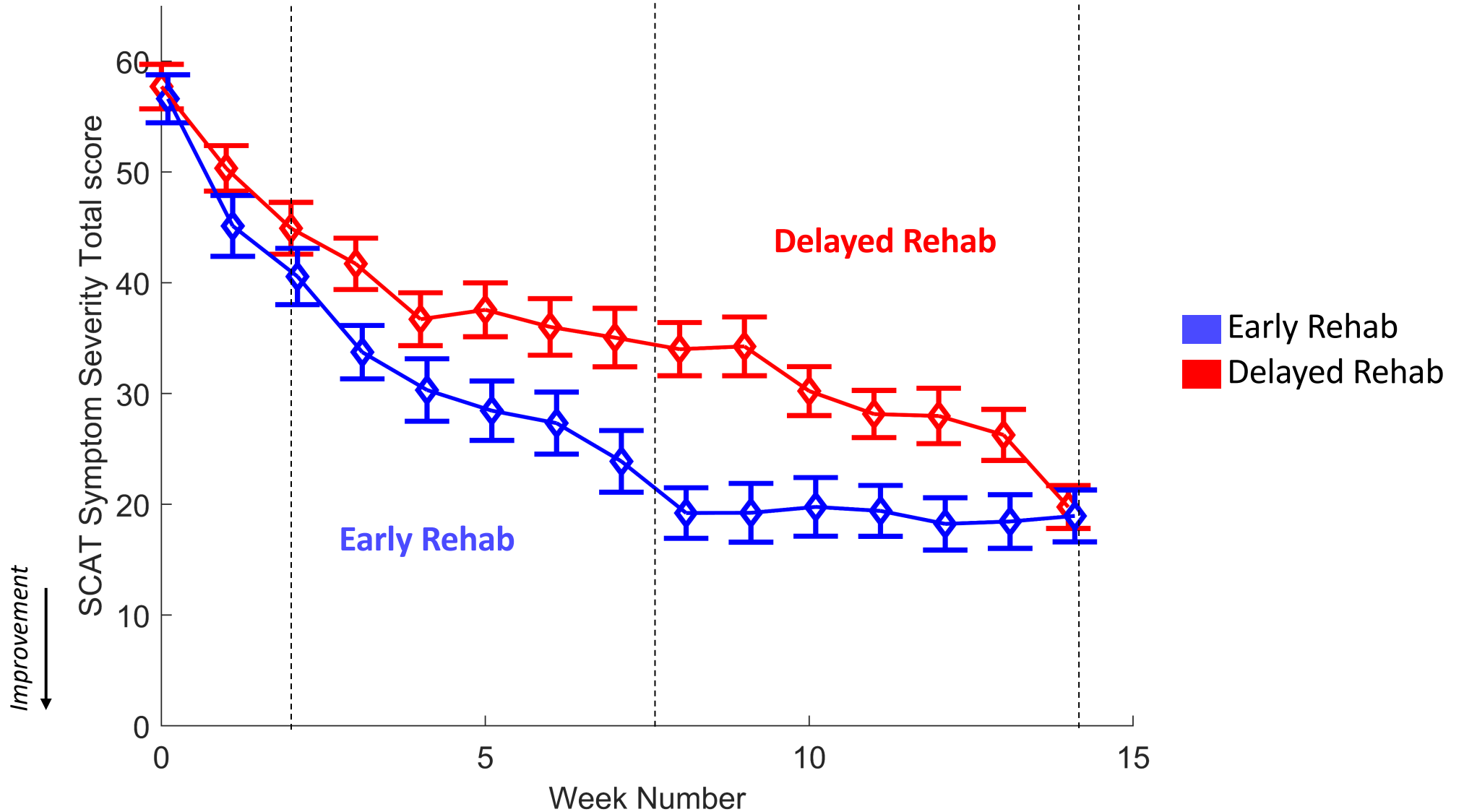
# Overview of the study



# Rehabilitation

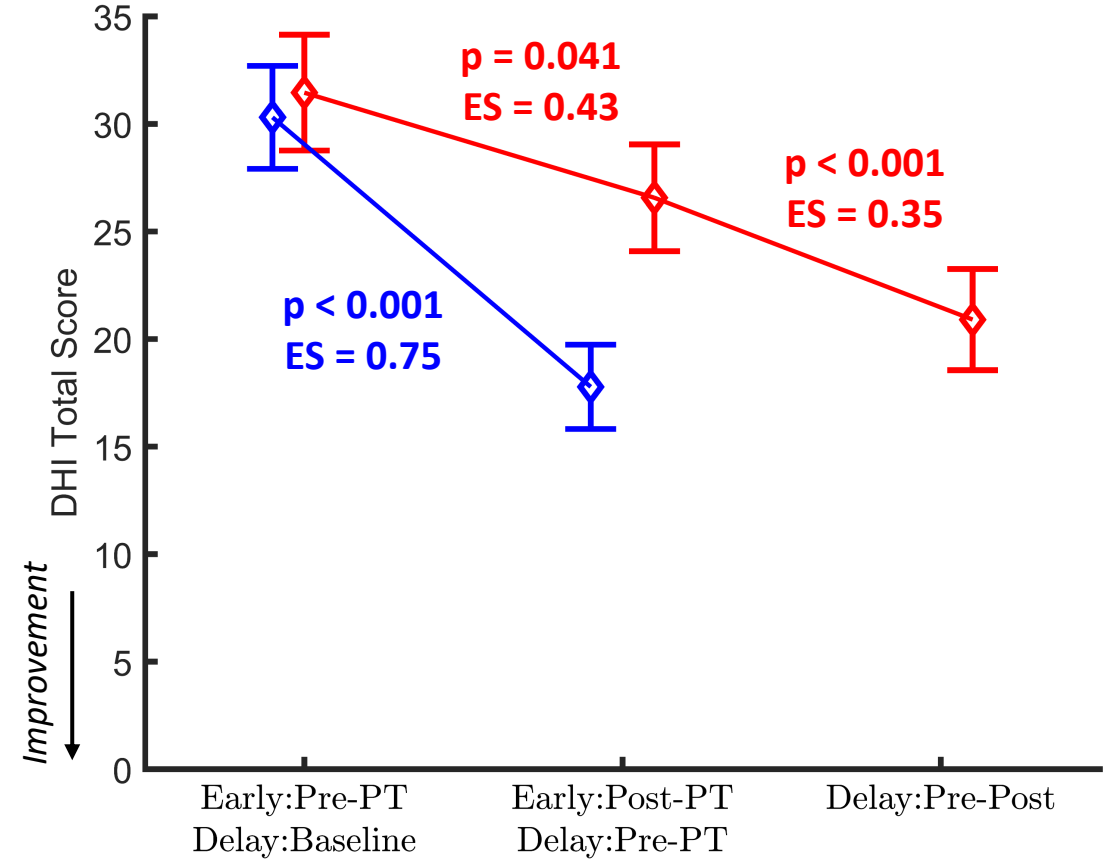
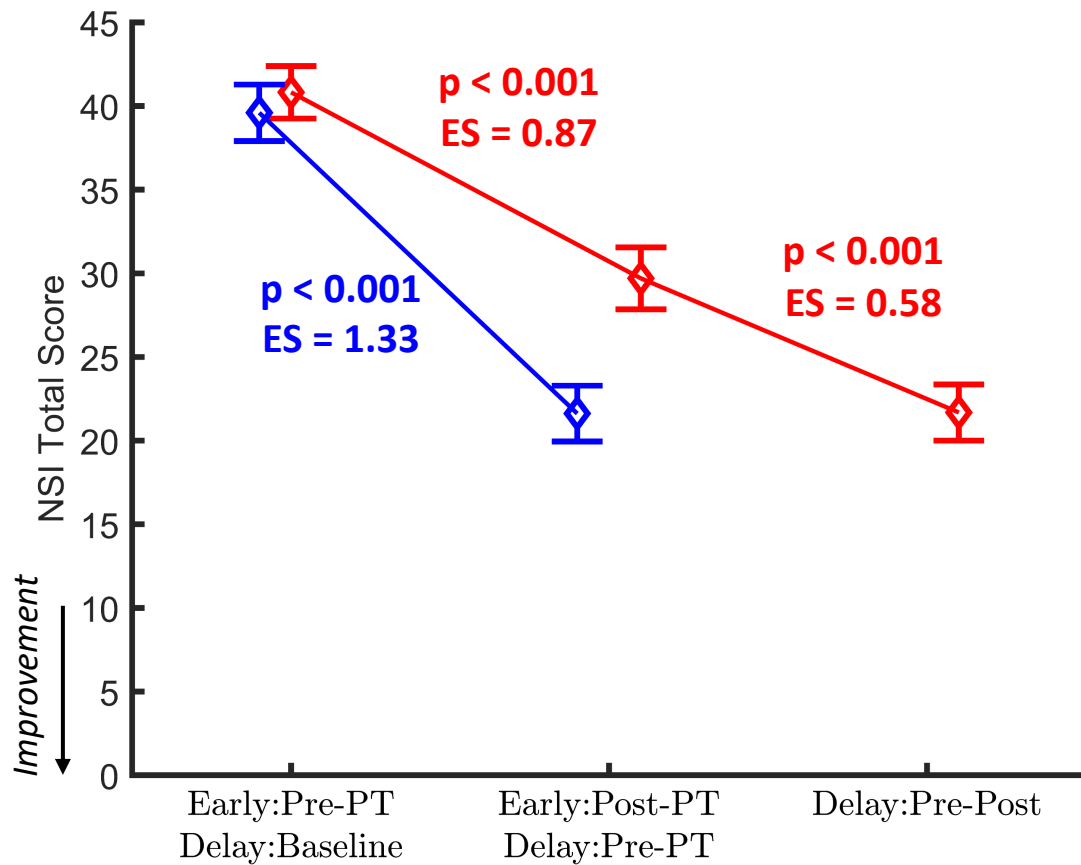


# Early initiation of rehab leads to symptom improvement at a faster rate than delayed rehab



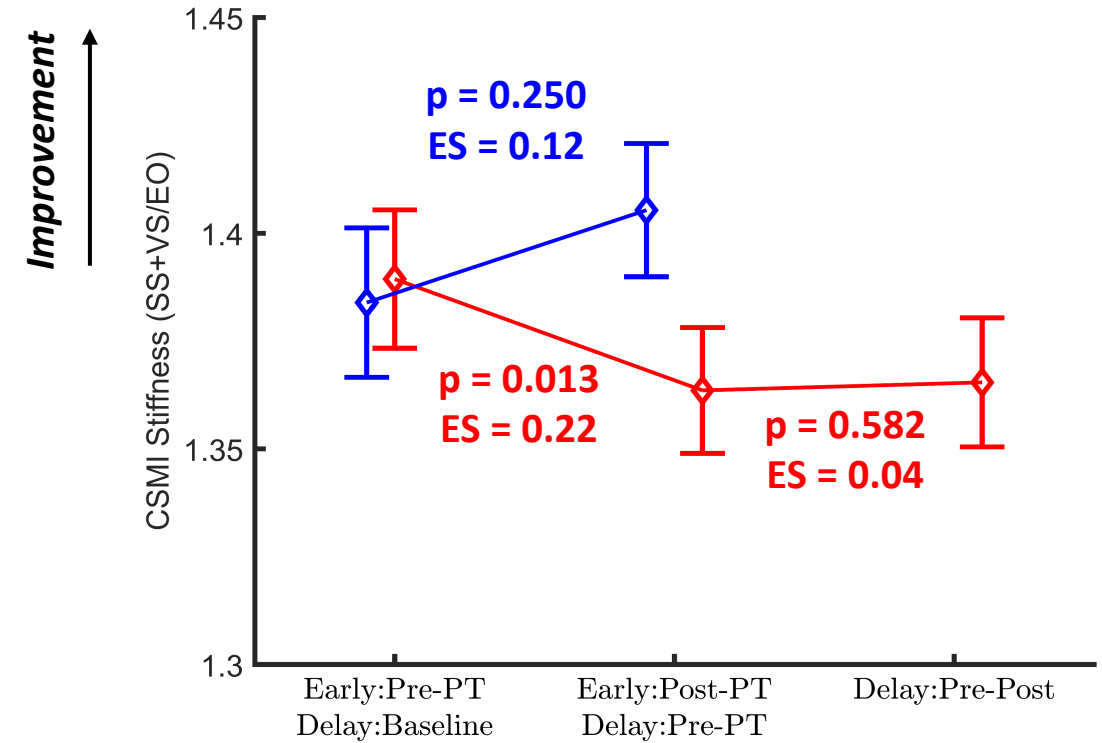
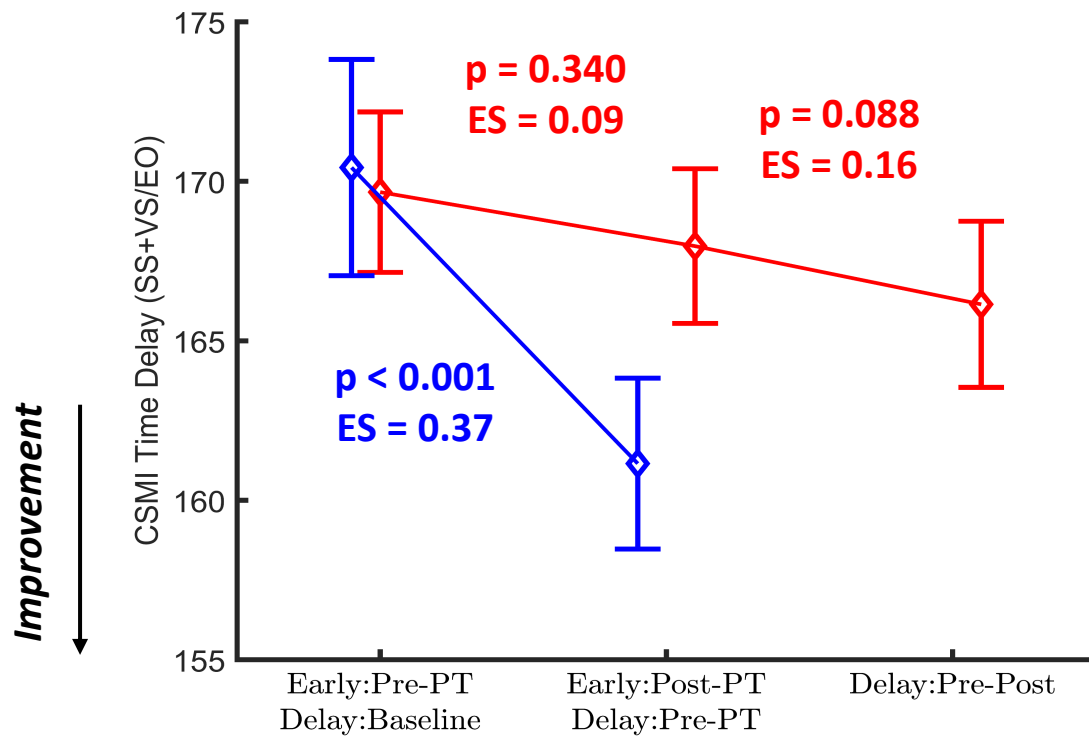


# Improvements in global mTBI and vestibular specific symptoms faster more with early initiation of PT



■ Early Rehab  
■ Delayed Rehab

# Delaying rehab may induce maladaptive motor activation responses that do not improve with rehabilitation



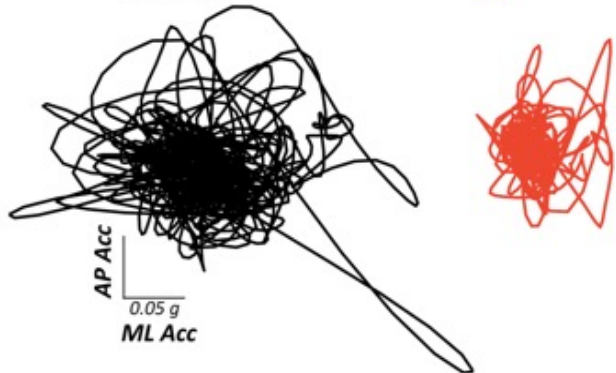
How can we work on motor  
componants such as time delay and  
stiffness?

# Auditory biofeedback to augment vestibular rehabilitation



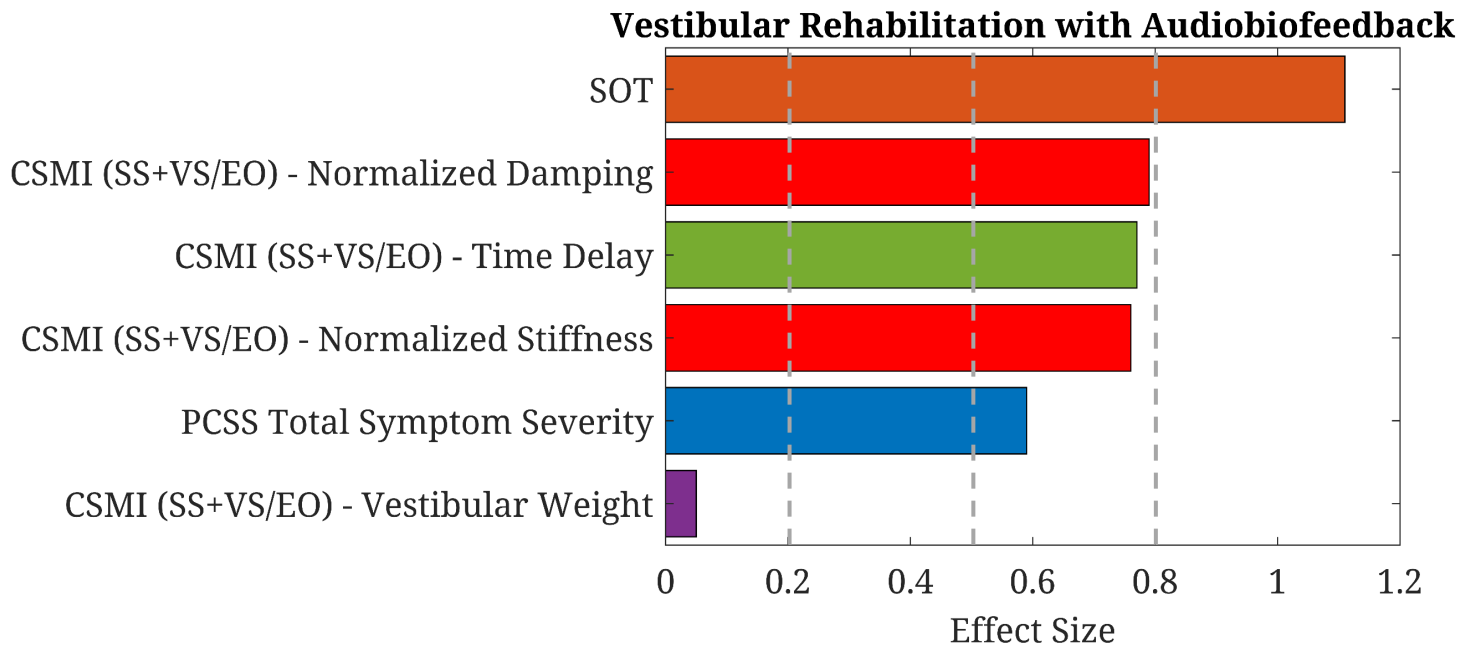
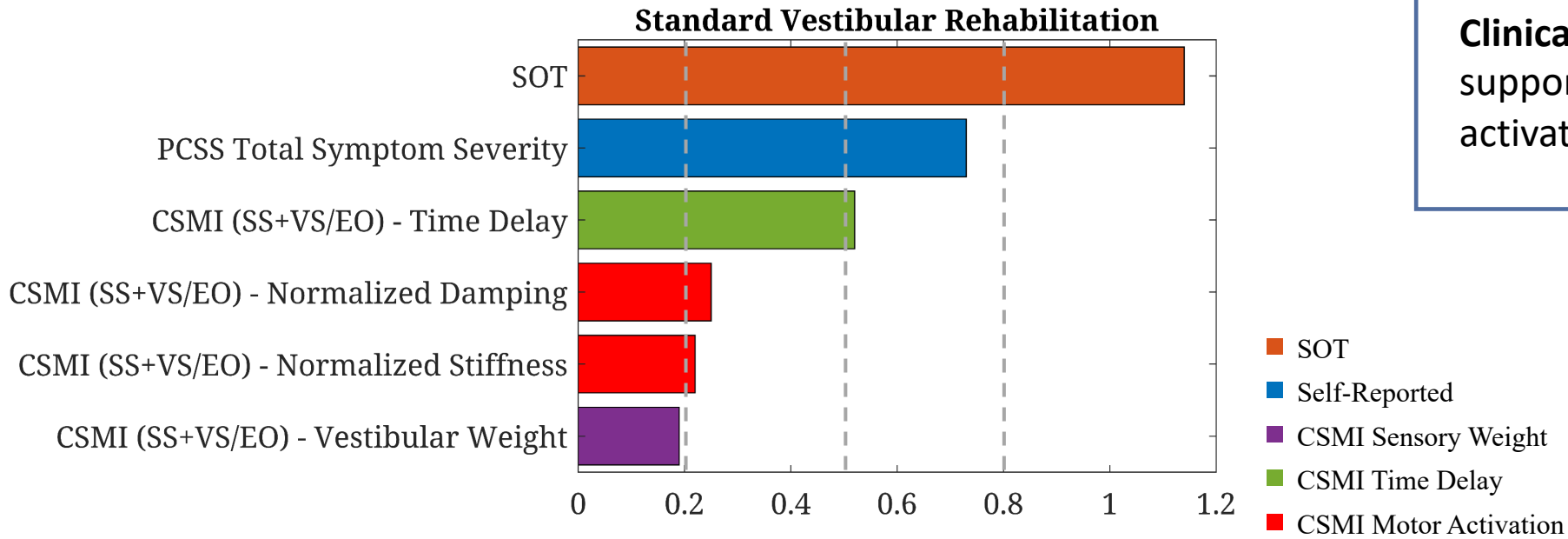
pre-ABF

ABF

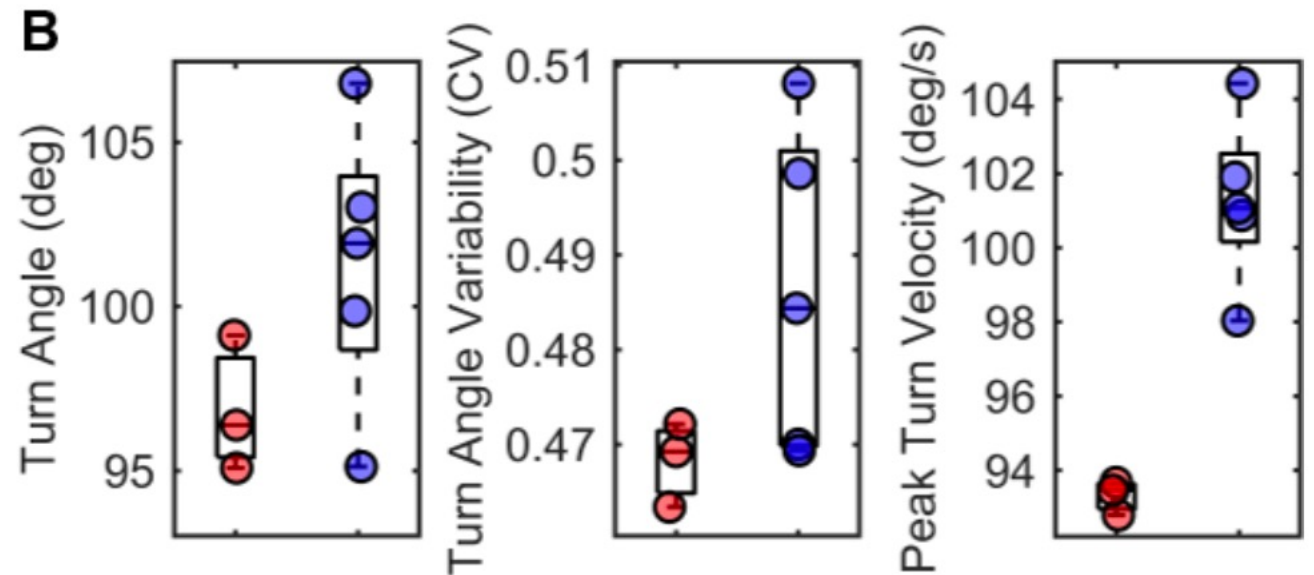
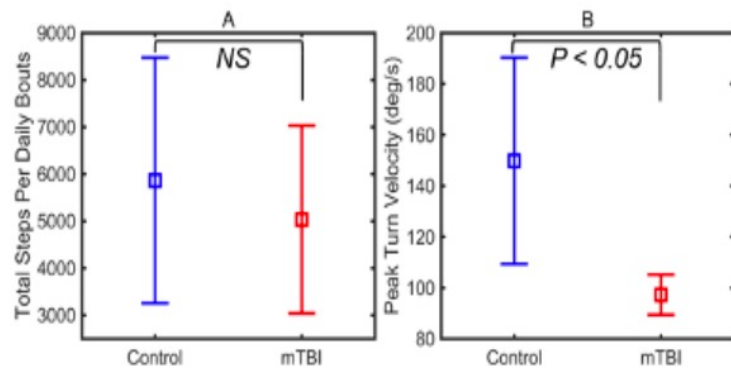
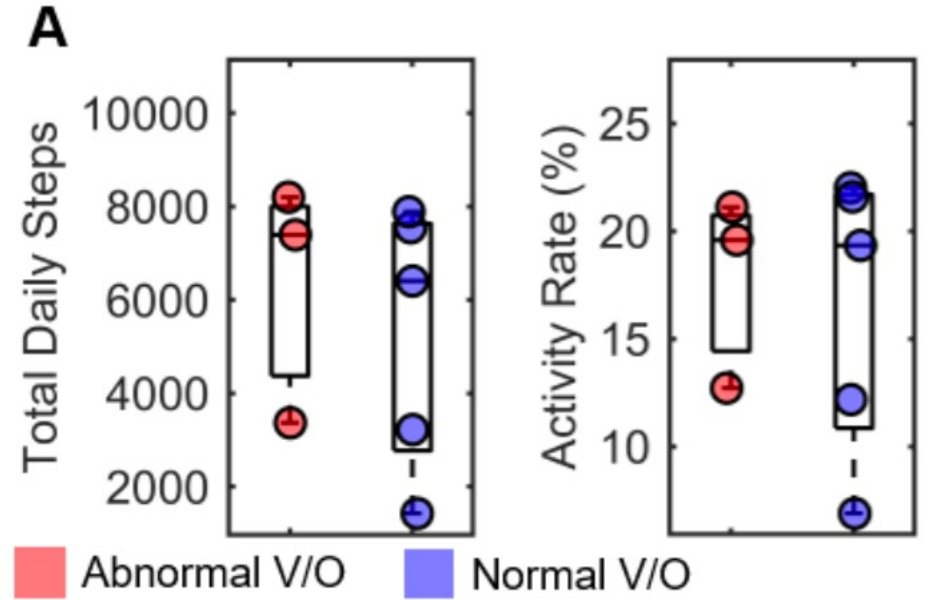
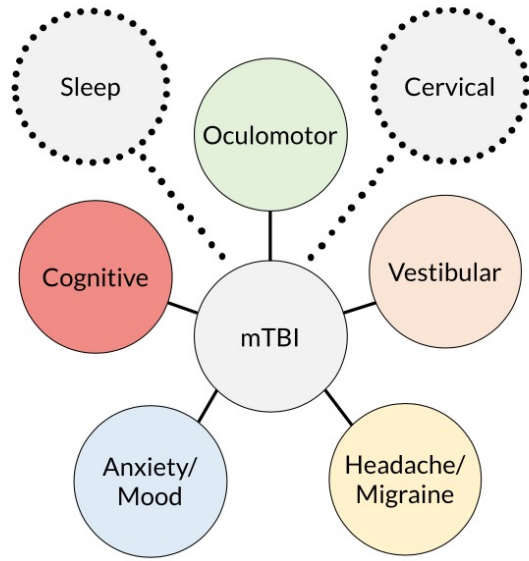


	Eyes Open				Eyes Closed			
	Feet Together (DS), Firm							
Static	1) Standing Still	2) Tossing Ball	3) Rotating Head (L/ R)	7) Bobbing Head (U/ D)	1) Standing Still	2) Rotating Head (L/ R)	3) Bobbing Head (U/ D)	
			4) Smooth Pursuit	8) Smooth Pursuit				
			5) Gaze Stabilization	9) Gaze Stabilization				
			6) Saccades	10) Saccades				
	Feet Together (DS), Foam							
	1) Standing Still	2) Tossing Ball	3) Rotating Head (L/ R)	4) Bobbing Head (L/ R)	1) Standing Still	2) Rotating Head (L/ R)	3) Bobbing Head (U/D)	
Dynamic	Tandem Gait, Firm							
	1) Walking	2) Tossing Ball	3) Rotating Head (L/ R)	4) Bobbing Head (L/ R)	1) Walking			
	Tandem Gait, Foam							
	1) Walking	2) Tossing Ball	3) Rotating Head (L/ R)	4) Bobbing Head (L/ R)	1) Walking			
Bending	1) Chair	2) Side of Treadmill	3) Floor		1) Chair	2) Side of Treadmill	3) Floor	
Squatting	Squat Firm							
	1) Sit to stand (mini squat)	2) Lunge	3) Lunge onto unstable surface	4) Lunge + Twist	1) Sit to stand (mini squat)	2) Lunge	3) Lunge onto unstable surface	4) Lunge + Twist
	Squat Foam							
	1) Sit to stand (mini squat)	2) Lunge	3) Lunge onto unstable surface	4) Lunge + Twist	1) Sit to stand (mini squat)	2) Lunge	3) Lunge onto unstable surface	4) Lunge + Twist

**Clinical Relevance:** ABF may be supporting other mechanisms such as activation and latency of response



# NEXT STEPS: better and more objective measures to identify subtypes for more appropriate referrals



# Discussion/Conclusions

## Changing landscape for mTBI rehabilitation care

- Need better (objective) outcome measures for comprehensive gait and balance including turning
- Central sensorimotor integration deficits versus peripheral vestibular and oculomotor deficits in chronic mTBI
  - Latency and motor activation may be more impaired than sensory weighting/vestibular in people with mTBI;
  - Rehabilitation implications
- Need better guidelines for non-athletes (i.e. older, neurologic conditions) after concussion
  - Early rehabilitation/activity
  - Subtypes of concussion

# OHSU Balance Disorders Laboratory



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