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Impact of health care system factors on adherence in transplantation: looking beyond the horizon

EWOPA,
Leuven, Belgium, 05-06-2009

Sabina De Geest, PhD, RN, FAAN, FRCN
University of Basel, Switzerland
Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium

Non-Adherence
'A major public health issue'



Blister collection of 1 year's medication of a renal transplant recipient (>4000 pills)



Ein ganzes Jahr den Pillen treu ergeben. Das Ziel? Die Pillen sind der Doktor überbrot.
Ambühl. Surviving the pills and the Doctor, *NDT* 2005; 20: 1267-1268.

Looking beyond the horizon

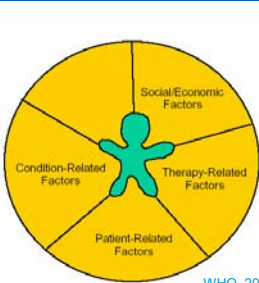
1. System related factors:
Adding an ecological perspective to adherence research
2. Multilevel factors associated with non-adherence

Looking beyond the horizon

1. System related factors:
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Understanding the phenomenon of non-adherence: Example Adult Tx



WHO, 2003

- Focus primarily on:
 - patient-related
 - socio-economic
 - condition-related & treatment-related**risk factors**

→ they offer very limited explanations of the broad variability of non-adherence

Meta-analysis:
Dew et al. *Transplantation* 2007; 83: 858-873

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Meta-analysis of correlates non-adherence with immunosuppressive drugs (N=46 studies, 1981-2005, adults)

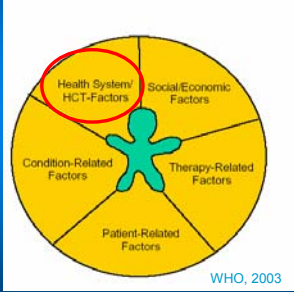
- Kidney > heart > liver
- Non white ethnicity ↑
- Poorer social support ↑
- Poorer perceived health ↑
- **North America ↑**

→ only small part of variance explained

Meta-analysis:
Dew et al. *Transplantation* 2007; 83: 858-873

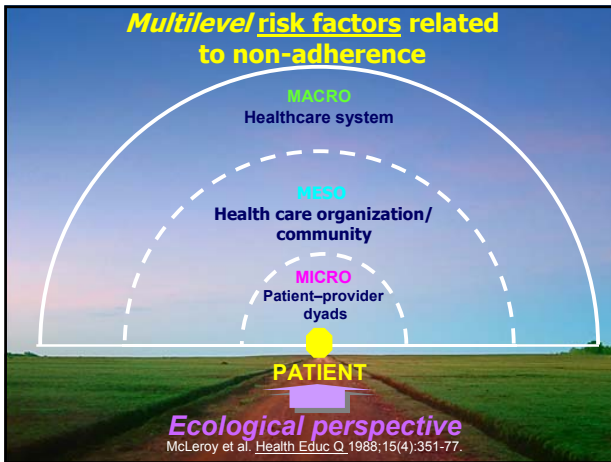
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Understanding the phenomenon of non-adherence *Example Transplantation*



- Non-adherence research has largely ignored risk factors related to the other critical categories:
 - **healthcare team**
 - **healthcare system risk factors**

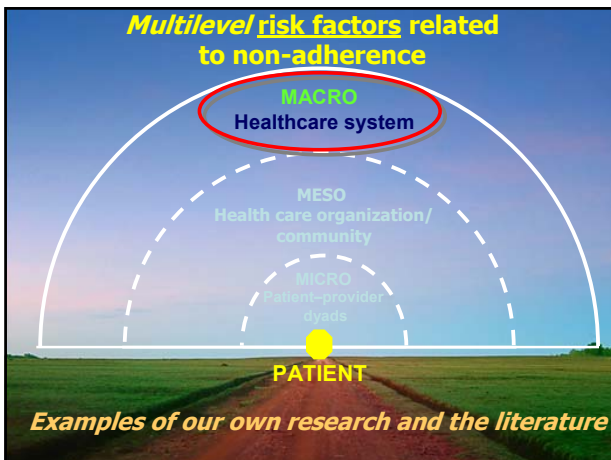
Meta-analysis:
Dew et al. *Transplantation* 2007; 83: 858-873



Looking beyond the horizon

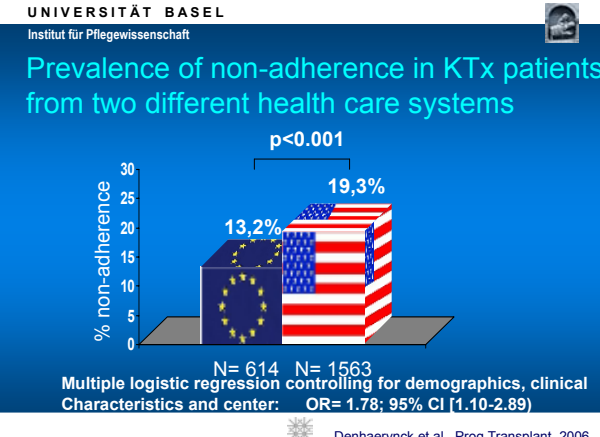


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Prevalence of non-adherence in KTx patients from two different health care systems



$p < 0.001$

13,2% 19,3%

% non-adherence

N= 614 N= 1563

Multiple logistic regression controlling for demographics, clinical Characteristics and center: OR= 1.78; 95% CI [1.10-2.89]

Denhaerynck et al., *Prog Transplant*, 2006

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Macro level: Health care system factors

- Variability in adherence observed between different health care systems and countries
Dew et al. *Transplantation*, 2007; Denhaerynck et al., *Progress in Transplantation*, 2006
- Insurance status & reimbursement of treatment has been found to be related with nonadherence in US studies
Dew et al. *Transplantation*, in press; Butkus et al. *N Engl J Med* 1992

Hypotheses:

- Insurance coverage varies between continents and countries?
- Cultural differences?
- Variability in policy incentives for support in self-management/adherence?

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Cost related non-adherence (CRN)

- CRN primarily assessed in US
18%-28% in those without prescription coverage
Safran et al. *Health Affairs* 2002; W253-W268; Piette et al. *Arch Int Med* 2004; 164: 1749-1755; Piette et al. *Medical Care* 2004; 42:102-109; Piette et al. *Am J Manag Care* 2004; 10 (part 2): 861-868; Wilson et al. *J Gen Intern Med* 2004; 20:715-720; Heisler et al. *Medical Care* 2004; 42: 626-634; Heisler et al. *J Behav Med*. 2005 28(1):43-51; Piette et al. *Arch Int Med* 2005; 165: 1749-1755; Piette et al. *J Clin Epidemiol*. 2006 Jul;59(7):739-46; Wagner et al., *Health Econ Policy Law* 2008; 3:51-67
- Pharmacy benefit caps / Co-payments as driver in CRN, *yet also other factors involved*
Tseng et al., *JAMA* 2004; 292: 952-960; Gibson et al. *Am J Manag Care* 2005; 11: 730-740; Hsu et al. *N Eng J Med* 2006; 354: 2349-59; Joyce et al. *Health Affairs* 2007; 26: 1333-1344; Zhang et al., *J Manag Care Pharm* 2007; 13: 664-676

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2008 Commonwealth Fund International Health Policy Survey of Chronically Ill in 8 countries (n=7,461)

	AUS	CAN	FR	GER	NETH	NZ	UK	US
Unweighted N	593	1,956	851	867	736	518	933	1,007
Access problems because of cost in past 2 years								
Did not fill Rx or skipped doses	20%	18%	13%	12%	3%	18%	7%	43%

Schoen et al. *Health Affairs* 2009;28(1):w1-16

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Cost related non-adherence (CRN)

- CRN in dialysis patients in 12 countries
Range: 3 % Japan to 29 % US

Percentage Of Patients Reporting Having Some Out-Of-Pocket Drug Spending Versus Mean Total Monthly Spending, By Country, 2002-2004

SOURCE: Authors' calculations using data from the Dialysis Outcome and Practice Patterns Study.
NOTES: The size of each bubble equals the percentage of patients reporting nonpurchase of medication because of cost. R² = 0.43/2. PPP is purchasing power parity.

Hirth, Piette et al. *Health Affairs* 2008; 27:89-102

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Cost related non-adherence (CRN)

- Switzerland: 19% of adult Tx patients reported that they did not have the financial means to pay for their medications (CRN not assessed)

De Geest et al. *Swiss Medical Weekly* 2007; 137: 125S-127S

THE SPIRIT CATCHES YOU
AND YOU FALL DOWN

A HMONG CHILD, HER AMERICAN DOCTORS, AND THE COLLISION OF TWO CULTURES
ANNE FADIMAN

WILEY

TRANSCULTURAL ISSUES AS A FACTOR RELATED TO NON-ADHERENCE

- Illness cognitions
- Health beliefs



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CHAPTER 5

The Center Effect in Heart Transplantation

Roger W. Evans, Frederick B. Dong, and Diane L. Manninen

Health and Population Research Center
Ballou-Seattle Research Center
Seattle, Washington

Evans et al. In: Terasaki (Ed). Clinical Transplants 1991; pp. 45-59

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What is a center effect?

- Center effects are differences in outcomes among treatment that cannot be explained by identifiable differences in patients treated or specific treatments applied and are presumed to be the result from differences in the ways health care is delivered, for example, training and experience of personnel, availability of resources and characteristics of the center's organization

Loberiza et al. *Bone Marrow Transplantation* 2003; 31: 417-421

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Meso level factors: Health care organization and community

- Center effects in adherence outcomes in Tx and in other chronically ill patient populations observed
Weng et al., *J Am Soc Nephrol*, 2005;
Glass et al., *JAIDS*, 2006; Saran et al. *Kidney Int.* 2003
- Factors in literature (limited)
 - Living a longer distance from the transplant center
Didlake et al., *Transplant Proc*, 1988; Santiago-Delpin et al., *Transplant Proc* 1989; Rodriguez et al., *Transplant Proc*, 1991
 - Not being under direct supervision of a health care team
Cooper et al., *Journal Heart Transplantation* 1984
 - Size dialysis center, highly trained staff, dietician part of team
Saran et al. *Kidney Int.* 2003 2003

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Meso level factors: pediatric Tx

WHO, 2003

- Lack of continuation of follow-up
- Interference of follow-up with school / work
- Poor accessibility of care
- Unidisciplinary care
- Transition to adult unit

Dobbels et al., *Pediatr Transplant*, 2005;9:381-90

Alan R. Watson

Non-compliance and transfer from paediatric to adult transplant unit

A natural experiment in „system change“

Fig. 1 Plasma creatinine before and after transfer (T) in 20 patients

- N=20
Mean age 17.9 y.
- 8/20 grafts failed
- 7 unexpected AR due to non-adherence, var. CsA levels

Watson et al., *Pediatr Nephrol.* 2000; 14: 469-72

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Transition as risk factor for poor outcome

A natural experiment in „system change“

- OPTN/SRTR data
- Kidney N=4221; Liver N=3558
- 18 years as cut-off, 4 years follow-up
- Kidney:
↑ RR graft failure at age 18 compared with 17 (p=0.03)

Thomas et al., WTC, Boston, 2006

Degree of Chronic Illness Management in your center?

% self-management support?
% Adherence monitoring and interventions?
% patient active partner?
% Decision making support?
% clinical information system?
% HCW mastering behavioral interventions?
% collaboration with community, primary care, and other?
....

Chronic Illness Management

Bodenheimer et al., JAMA 2002; 288: 1775-9; WHO, 2002

Multilevel risk factors related to non-adherence

MACRO
Healthcare system

MESO
Health care organization/
community

MICRO
Patient-provider dyads

PATIENT

Examples of are own research and the literature

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Micro level factors

- Patient's formal and informal social networks and social support systems
- Patient-provider relationship
- Health care professional's communication style
- Trust
- Language difficulties

Battaglioli-DeNero J Assoc Nurses AIDS Care 2007; Beachet al. J Gen Intern Med 2006; Stewart et al., Cancer Prev Control 1999; Hall et al. Med Care 1988; Bischoff et al. Br J Gen Pract 2003; Piette et al. Soc Sci Med 2006; Piette et al. Arch Intern Med 2005; Johnell et al. BMC Public Health 2006; 6:52-60.

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Micro level factors: pediatric Tx

WHO, 2003

- Poor communication between HCW, family and patient
- Lack of trust
- Authoritarian communication style and poor didactic skills of HCW
- Poor knowledge of NA measurement & management by HCW

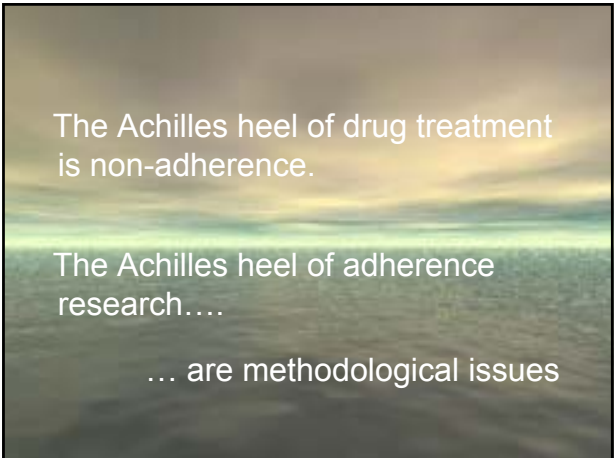
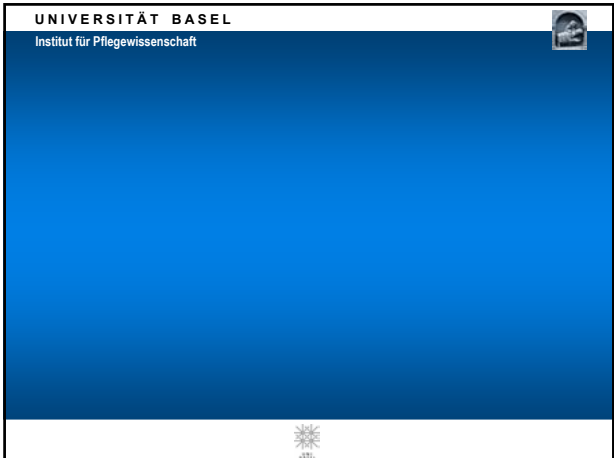
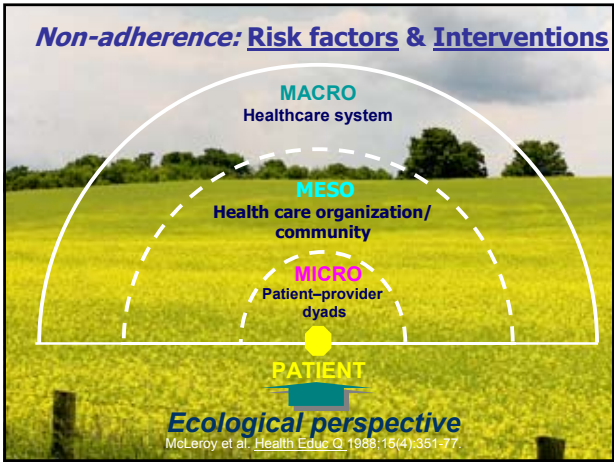
Dobbels et al., *Pediatr Transplant*, 2005;9:381-90

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How confident are you that you are up-to-date in the most effective strategies for reducing treatment non-adherence among patients with hypertension and hyperlipidemia?

• Not at all confident	20%
• Somewhat confident	59%
• Confident	17%
• Very confident	2%

Footy J. Medication adherence: America's 'Other drug problem'
<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/549907>



Tour de Horizon

1. System related factors:
Adding an ecological perspective to adherence research
2. Multilevel factors associated with non-adherence
3. Methodological implications

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Methodological recommendations (selection)


1. Research should shift away from purely descriptive studies toward longitudinal and prospective studies that examine adherence, a comprehensive set of risk factors and outcomes simultaneously.

Cupples et al. *Journal Heart Lung Transplant*, 2006; 25:716-25
De Geest et al., *Journal Cardiovascular Nursing* 2005; 55: S85-S95.
Balkrishnan et al. *Clinical Therapeutics* 2007; 29: 1180-1183

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Methodological recommendations (selection)

2. Assessment of risk factors:
 - Full range of risk-factors of NA including also health care provider and health care system factors



This would enable stronger conclusions regarding:

- (a) the unique impact of particular risk factors relative to others
- (b) whether the combined effects of series of risk factors are additive or synergistic.

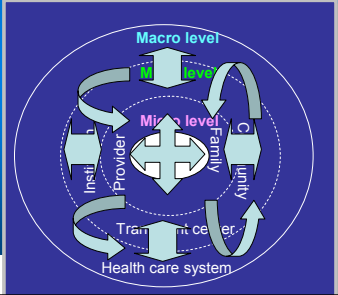
→ Theory driven research: ecological perspective

Cupples et al. *Journal Heart Lung Transplant*, 2006; 25:716-25; De Geest et al., *Journal Cardiovascular Nursing* 2005; 55: S85-S95; Balkrishnan et al. *Clinical Therapeutics* 2007; 29: 1180-1183; WHO, 2003; Munro et al. *BMC Public Health* 2007; 7: 104; McLeroy et al. *Health Educ Q* 1988

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Conceptual/theoretical framework

- Developing ecological behavioral theory:
 - (1) defining factors in levels and
 - (2) determining interrelationships within and between levels



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Methodological recommendations (selection)

3. Sample & Setting:
 - Representativeness ~ generalizability
 - In light of research questions that address multiple levels

→ sampling strategy – multicenter approach must

Cupples et al. *Journal Heart Lung Transplant*, 2006; 25:716-25
De Geest et al., *Journal Cardiovascular Nursing* 2005; 55: S85-S95.
Balkrishnan et al. *Clinical Therapeutics* 2007; 29: 1180-1183

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Methodological recommendations (selection)

4. Intervention research → Absolute priority
 - *Content:* Multidimensional & Multilevel
→ development and testing interventions also addressing system level factors
 - *Design:*
→ Cluster randomized trials especially when testing efficacy of multilevel interventions
→ Factorial designs to disentangle effects of components of the intervention


Cupples et al. *Journal Heart Lung Transplant*, 2006; 25:716-25
De Geest et al., *Journal Cardiovascular Nursing* 2005; 55: S85-S95.
Balkrishnan et al. *Clinical Therapeutics* 2007; 29: 1180-1183

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Methodological recommendations (selection)

5. Data analysis:

- Nested data structure:
patients → centers → countries




- Multilevel analysis to take into consideration shared variability among subjects at same level

Cupples et al. *Journal Heart Lung Transplant*, 2006; 25:716-25
De Geest et al., *Journal Cardiovascular Nursing* 2005; 55: S85-S95.
Balkrishnan et al. *Clinical Therapeutics* 2007; 29: 1180-1183

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Awareness for action

- Increasing awareness in transplant providers of importance nonadherence
(Hathaway et al., Transplant Proceed 1999; 31 (Suppl 4A), 10S-13S; Russell, Dialysis & Transplantation 2005; 301-346)
- Indications in literature that investing in tackling the behavioral dimension of transplant management is a valuable path for improving outcomes
(Gordon et al., Am. J. Kidney Disease, 2005)




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Take Your Pills, All Your Pills

Drug Makers Nag Patients to Stay the Course



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European Community Respiratory Health Survey

- N=1771 asthma patients (20-44 y.) in 14 countries
- Median adherence: 67%
- CHECK PAPER!!!

Cerveri et al., *Eur. Resp. J.* 1999; 14: 288-94



Dialysis Outcomes and Practice Patterns Study

- Larger facility size (per 10 patients) was associated with the following:
 - Higher odds ratios (OR) of skipping (OR=1.03, P=0.06), shortening (OR=1.03, P=0.05), and IDWG (OR=1.02, P=0.07)
- An increased percentage of highly trained staff hours was associated with lower odds of skipping (OR=0.84 per 10%, P=0.02)
- Presence of a dietitian was associated with lower odds of excessive IDWG (OR=0.75, P=0.08)

DOPPS

Saran R et al. *Kidney Int* 64:254-262, 2003

DOPPS Dialysis Outcomes and Practice Patterns Study

Nonadherence Measures	Europe n=4075	Japan n=2459	United States n=8396	Overall n=14,930
Skipped > 1 HD session per month ^a	0.6	0.6	7.9	3.8
Shortened session by ≥ 10 minutes ^b	9.8	5.7	19.6	13.0
IDWG > 5.7 % of dry weight	11.0	34.5	16.8	19.6
PO ₂ > 7.5 g/dL	12.8	12.1	15.4	13.7
K > 6.0 mEq/L	20.0	7.6	6.3	10.8

IDWG is interdialytic weight gain; ^aOne session skipped (N=136) (46.6%); two sessions skipped (N=67) (23.0%); three or more sessions skipped (N=89) (30.4%); ^bOne session shortened (N=370) (27.0%); two sessions skipped (N=231) (23.1%); three or more sessions skipped (N=299) (29.9%)

Hirth, Piette et al., *Health Affairs* 2008; 27:89-102
→ Out of pocket spending and medication adherence among dialysis in 12 countries

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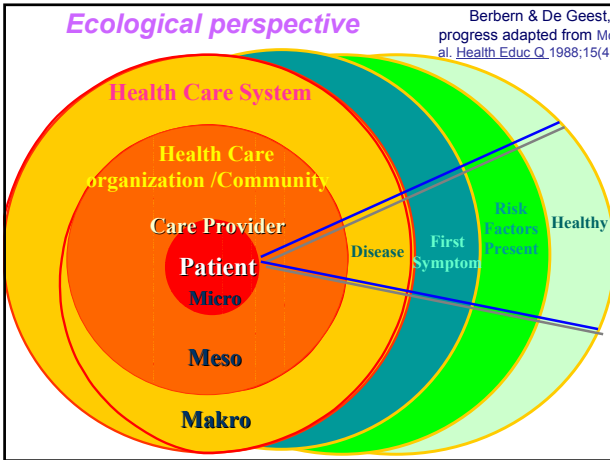
Multilevel: Health care provider (micro)

“Adherence Counselling Toolkit”

→ adaptable to different socioeconomic settings or literacy level of individual patient including:

- 1) knowledge (information on adherence)
- 2) thinking (clinical decision-making process)
- 3) action (behavioural tools for health professionals)

WHO, 2003; Ockene et al., *JACC* 2002



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2008 Commonwealth Fund International Health Policy Survey of Sicker Adults in the US, Canada, UK, Australia and New Zealand (n=3,849)

Cost Barriers, Access to Physicians, And After-Hours Care among Adults With Chronic Conditions, In Eight Countries, 2008

	AUS	CAN	FR	GER	NETH	NZ	UK	US
Unweighted N	593	1,956	851	867	736	518	933	1,007
Access problems because of cost in past 2 years								
Did not fill Rx or skipped doses	20%	18%	13%	12%	3%	18%	7%	43%
Did not visit doctor when had a medical problem	21%	9%	11%	15%	3%	22%	4%	36%
Did not get recommended test, treatment, or follow-up	25%	11%	13%	13%	3%	18%	6%	38%
Any of the above access problems because of cost	36%	25%	23%	26%	7%	31%	13%	54%

Schoen et al, *Health Affairs* 2009;28(1):w1-16

Eight Countries, 2008

	AUS	CAN	FR	GER	NETH	NZ	UK	US
Final sample of sicker adults (unweighted N)	750	2,635	1,202	1,201	1,000	751	1,200	1,205
Has any of 7 chronic conditions, doctor diagnosis	74%	72%	67%	68%	68%	64%	75%	78%
Hypertension	30	32	32	41	34	25	37	43
Heart disease, including heart attack	15	13	14	22	16	13	14	14
Diabetes	13	17	12	15	13	10	11	21
Arthritis	36	33	12	15	19	20	35	38
Lung problems (asthma, emphysema)	23	20	15	11	15	20	18	22
Depression	30	26	34	15	16	17	25	31
Cancer	11	11	10	10	9	14	9	13
Adults with any chronic condition (unweighted N)	593	1,956	851	867	736	518	933	1,007
Has 2 or more chronic conditions (out of 7)	62%	62%	53%	56%	55%	51%	61%	71%
Age 50 or older	56%	57%	67%	72%	73%	58%	71%	58%
Health care use in past 2 years:								
Hospitalized for other than normal pregnancy	58%	47%	57%	58%	45%	59%	42%	48%
Major surgery	25%	29%	33%	36%	23%	29%	26%	34%
Number of doctors seen 2 or fewer	37	40	40	24	36	42	41	37
3	23	24	27	26	31	22	25	21
4 or more	38%	32%	32%	50%	34	34	31%	38
Overall health system views								
Only minor changes needed, system works well	22%	32%	41%	21%	42%	26%	38%	20
Fundamental changes needed	50%	50%	33%	51%	48%	48%	48%	46
Rebuild completely	20%	18%	23%	28%	10%	24%	12%	33
Perception of health system's usefulness								
Doctors recommend treatment you'll get	22%	22%	35%	24%	14%	19%	15%	27
Little or no health benefit, often sometimes feel your								

Schoen et al, *Health Affairs* 2009;28(1):w1-16

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Nonadherence to Imatinib in CML: the Adagio study

- N=202 CML patients of 34 Belgian centers
- 33% of patients nonadherent (Self-report, collateral report, pill-count)

23.20%
7.30%
P < 0.0005

suboptimal response optimal response

- Suboptimal response was related with non-adherence

Noens et al., *Blood*, under review

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Glaucoma Adherence and Persistency Study (US)

- Retrospective database & chart reviews + prospective patient surveys
- 300 patients and 103 MDs
- Adherence: Medication possession ratio
- Correlates of non-adherence (multivariate analysis):
 - hearing all of what you know about glaucoma from your MD
 - not believing that reduced vision is a risk of not taking medication as recommended
 - having a problem paying for medications
 - difficulty while traveling or away from home
 - not acknowledging stinging and burning
 - being nonwhite
 - receiving samples
 - not receiving a phone call visit reminder.

Friedman et al., *Ophthalmology* 2008; Epub.

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EXHIBIT 4 Prescription Medications And Safety Among Adults With Chronic Conditions, In Eight Countries, 2008

	AUS	CAN	FR	GER	NETH	NZ	UK	US
Unweighted N	503	1,956	851	867	736	518	933	1,007
Prescription medications								
Percent taking Rx medications regularly	78% ^h	84% ^h	84% ^h	89% ^f	85% ^f	74% ^h	85% ^h	88% ^h
Number of different Rx medications 4 or more	33% ^h	41% ^h	38% ^h	39% ^h	39% ^h	35% ^h	50	48
Base: Taking Rx medications regularly, in past 2 years								
How often have any of your doctors or pharmacists reviewed and discussed all medications you are using?								
Always	34% ^h	40% ^h	18% ^h	29% ^h	25% ^h	34% ^h	27% ^h	38
Often	21	18	10	20	11	13	22	20
Sometimes, rarely, or never	41% ^h	40% ^h	68% ^h	49% ^h	62% ^h	48% ^h	48% ^h	41
Pharmacist told you the Rx you were about to fill might be harmful because of medications you were taking								
	30% ^h	23% ^h	12% ^h	15% ^h	38% ^h	20	17	20
Medical and medication errors in past 2 years								
Believed a medical mistake occurred in treatment or care								
	17% ^h	16% ^h	8% ^h	12% ^h	9% ^h	15% ^h	8% ^h	16
Given the wrong medication								
Either/both medical or med								

Schoen et al, *Health Affairs* 2009;28(1):w1-16

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Oral chemotherapy: *Adagio*

(Adherence Assessment with *Glivec® (Imatinib)*: Indicators and Outcomes)

- Prospective, observational, multi-center, non-interventional study with two time points: baseline and 90 days
- 169 patients by 51 physician-investigators at 34 centers
- Adherence: multiple measures
- Patient, physician & center related factors explored
- Hierarchical modeling

Noens et al., *Blood*, in press

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Oral chemotherapy: *Adagio*

- Prevalence** non-adherence by patient's self-report:
 - 36.1% baseline
 - 32.7% at 90 days
- Patient self reported non-adherence:
 - 34.6% of variance accounted for by the class effect of *clinician/center*
 - 65.4% of variance remains attributable to *patients*

Noens et al., *Blood*, in press

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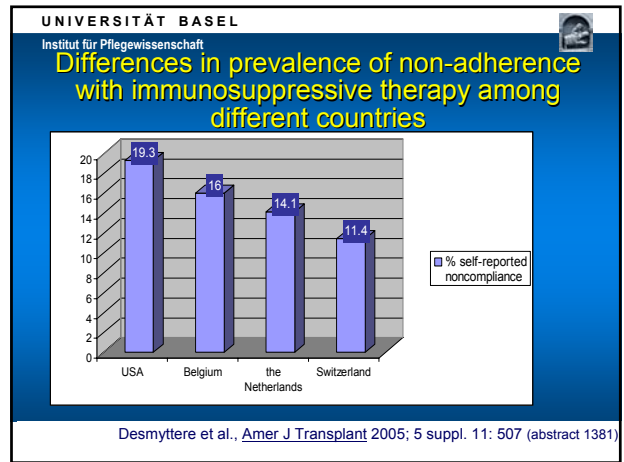
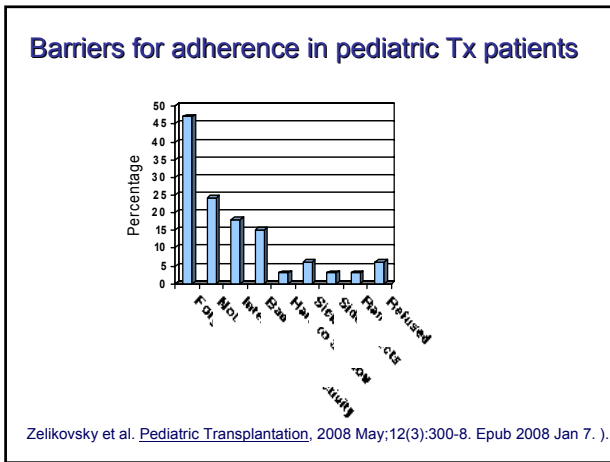
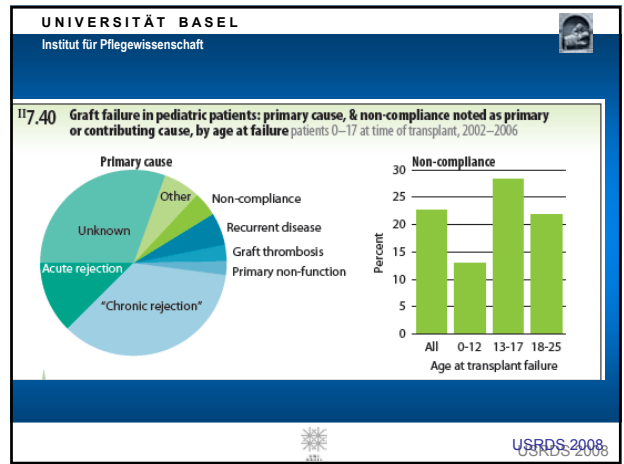
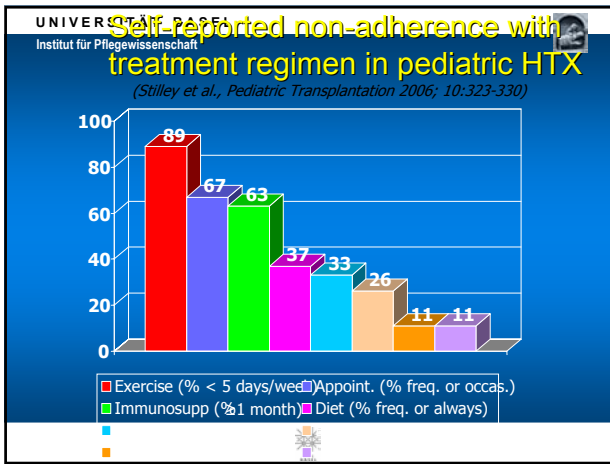
ADAGIO: Canonical correlation modeling

Determinants of Increased Nonadherence	Canonical Loading
Patient-related	
Age (being older)	0.649
Months since diagnosis of CML (longer time)	0.272
Living alone	0.246
Male gender	0.194
Months on imatinib (longer time)	0.193
Imatinib dose ≥ 600mg/daily	0.193
Quality of chronic care (higher degree)	0.125
Functional status / quality of life* (higher level)	0.117
Physician-related	
Median duration of treatment follow-up visits ???	0.237
Years of professional experience ???	0.135

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ADAGIO: Canonical correlation modeling

Determinants of Decreased Nonadherence	Canonical Loading
Patient-related	
Knowledge of disease and treatment	- 0.314
Number of medications taken per day (more)	- 0.184
Secondary school graduate or higher education	- 0.140
Long-term medication behavior self-efficacy	- 0.062
Physician-related	
Number of CML patients seen in past year	- 0.363
Median duration of first visit with newly diagnosed CML patient	- 0.119
Practicing in university or university-affiliated hospital	- 0.003
Hematologist	- 0.002



Lifesaving Kidney Treatment, but Only to a Point

The New York Times

Margaret Oliver, a 47-year-old hairdresser in Venice, Calif., received a lifesaving kidney transplant in 2002. The government covered the costs under a special Medicare program for the hundreds of thousands of Americans with kidney failure who need either dialysis or a transplant.

Three years later, Medicare stopped paying for the expensive immunosuppressive drugs that Ms. Oliver needed to minimize the risk that her body would reject the organ. Because her kidney was functioning successfully at that point, she was no longer considered to be suffering from end-stage disease and so no longer qualified for the special coverage.

With the drugs costing about \$800 a month, Ms. Oliver, who was self-employed, was able to buy them only sporadically, which endangered her transplanted organ. "It was horrifying," Ms. Oliver said. "I just didn't know what to do."

Medicare has stopped paying for the immunosuppressive drugs that Margaret Oliver needs after having a kidney transplant in 2002.

Medicare

- Cost immunosuppressants: \$17,000/year
- Dialysis: \$70,000/year
- (Transplant procedure: > \$100,000)

http://www.nytimes.com/2009/03/13/health/13kidney.html?_r=1&mc=eta1

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The Impact of Integrated HIV Care (IHC) on viral suppression

- A retrospective cohort study of 1018 HIV patients from 5 VA facilities (2000-2006)
- IHC: care model in which specialists from multiple disciplines collaborate within a geographically and temporally constrained clinic environment to provide HIV-infected patients with onsite primary care (adherence support included)

Hoang et al., *Medical Care* 2009; 47 1-8

The Impact of Integrated HIV Care (IHC) on Patient Health Outcomes

TABLE 1. Four Levels of Integrated HIV Care Clinics

Components of Integrated HIV Care	Services	Levels			
		IV	III	II	I
Nurse practitioner, physician assistant	To follow patients on HIV treatment	x	x	x	x
Clinical coordinator	To link patients to community-based programs for food, dental care, home care, etc.	x	x	x	x
HIV physician specialist	To provide diagnosis, counseling and treatment for HIV infection	x	x	x	
Dedicated pharmacist	To help patients with cART refills, side effects, food restriction, etc.	x	x	x	
Social worker	To help patients with housing, transportation, disability benefits, etc.	x	x		
Psychiatrist	To provide psychiatric diagnosis and treatment for substance abuse and mental illnesses	x	x		
Psychologist	To provide counseling for substance abuse and mental illnesses	x			

*x indicates that the specialists are available at the HIV clinics to offer on-site services to HIV-infected patients.



Hoang et al., Medical Care 2009; 47 1-8

The Impact of Integrated HIV Care (IHC) on viral suppression (Kaplan meier)

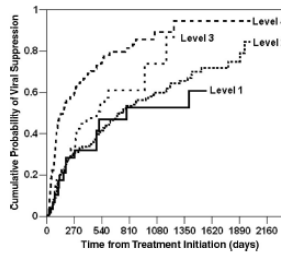


FIGURE 1. Cumulative probability of viral suppression stratified by integrated HIV care levels.

Hoang et al., Medical Care 2009; 47 1-8ep

- IHC remained independent predictor after controlling for demographics and clinical variables in Cox regression analysis (HR 1.10, CI 1.09–1.11)
- IHC levels III & IV associated with best results

Patients escape penalties for not taking doctor's advice

Annette Tufts HEIDELBERG

Patients with chronic disease in Germany will now be penalised only if they explicitly declare that they have not taken drugs and followed their doctor's advice and will continue doing this in the future.

The government originally wanted to impose financial penalties on any patient who did not follow medical advice. But the plan was abandoned after doctors and patient groups mounted vigorous protests, saying that it would destroy the doctor-patient relationship. The legality and ethics

BMJ 2008 Jan 12;336(7635):65