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# Preventing Joint Injury & Subsequent Osteoarthritis:

## A Population Health Prospective

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# Public Health Burden of Injury in Alberta

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The leading cause of death and hospitalization in Alberta youth under 19 years is **unintentional injury**

**Every 3 days**  
382 youth go to ER  
hospitalized

**Sport related injury is the leading cause of injury ages 11-18 (30%)**

**Every 3 days**  
1 child dies

# Injuries in Youth Sport and Recreation

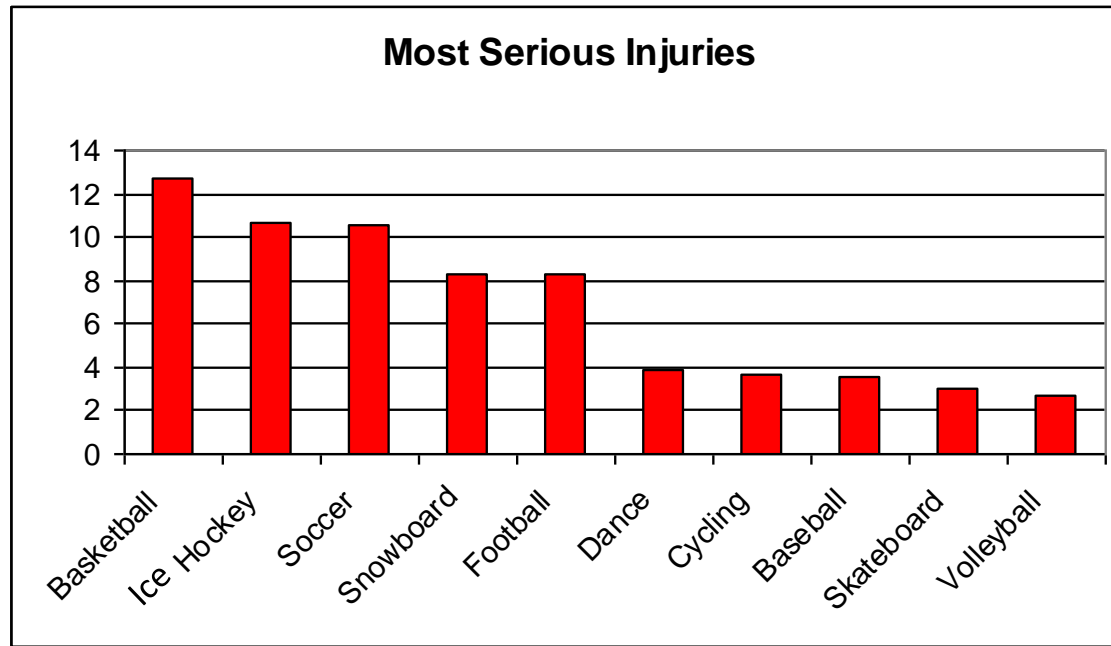
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- **Sport participation** is the leading cause of injury, accounting for **30% of all injuries** reporting to ER or requiring medical attention in youth
- **1 in every 3 youth** (ages 11-18) in Alberta will seek medical attention for a sport injury this year
- **Lower extremity injuries** account for 60% of all injuries in youth sport
- 60% of these are **knee and ankle joint** injuries



# Canada

## Medical Attention Injuries



*Emery et al 2006, 2008*

### Injury in previous year:

- **35 medically treated injuries/100 adolescents (ages 11-18)**
- **8 injuries treated in the ER/100 adolescents (ages 11-18)**

# Consequence of Youth Sport Injury

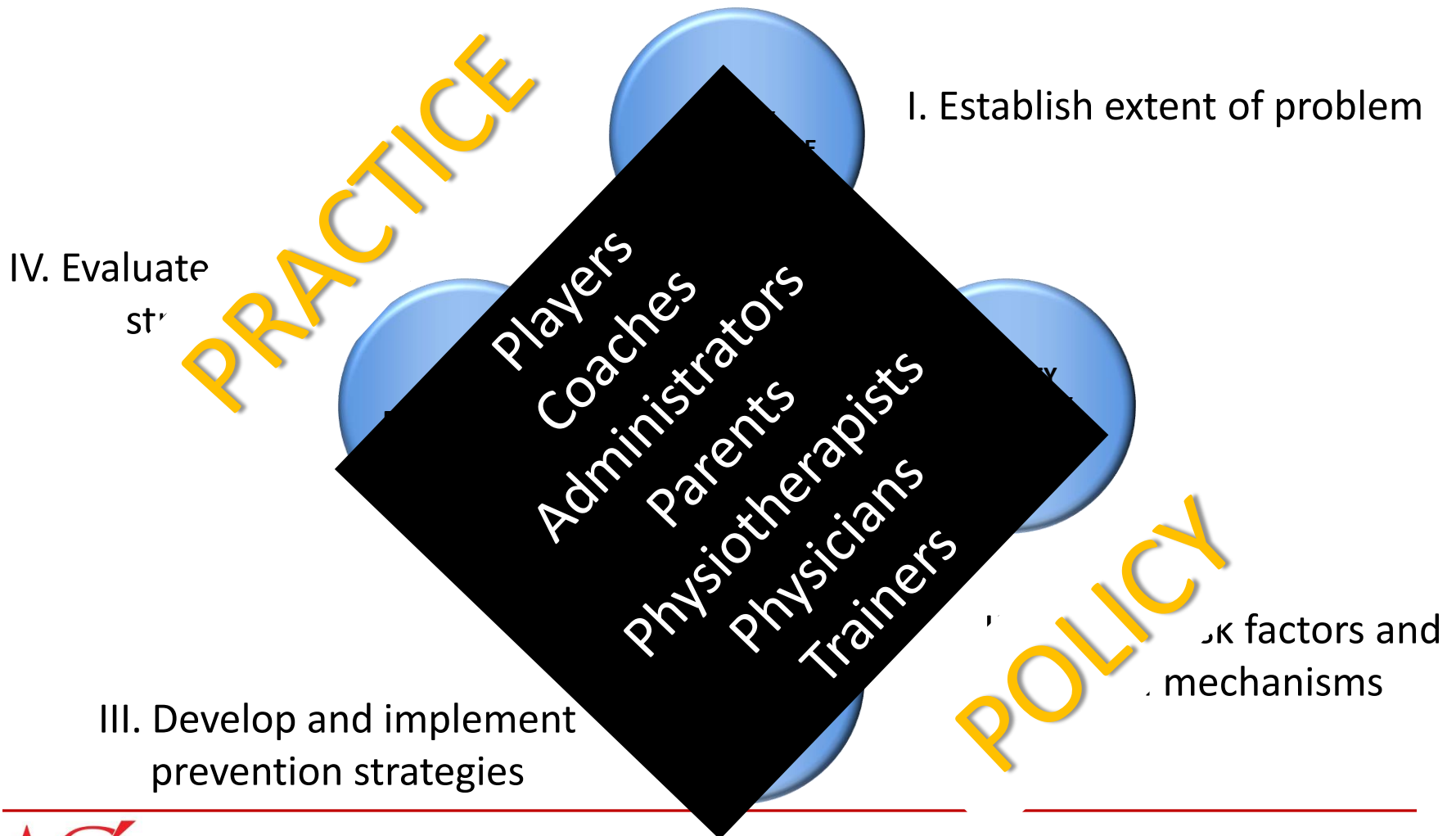
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- ↓ Participation in sport (8% annually)
- ↓ Performance
- ↓ Physical activity = ↑ overweight/obesity
- Knee & ankle injury → osteoarthritis (4X)
- Health care & indirect costs are high
- Psychosocial outcomes



# Sport Injury Prevention

Primary Prevention of Post-traumatic OA



# Risk Factors for Youth Soccer Injury

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1 in 4 will be injured this outdoor season

- Previous Injury
- Games > Practices
- Female > Male (knee injuries)
- More elite levels of play
- Older age group (>14 years)
- High risk single leg squat



# Solution – Neuromuscular Training Warm-up

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## Warm-up

- aerobic, dynamic stretching, agility

## Strength

- hamstring, quadriceps, calf, hip/trunk

## Agility/technical/coordination

- jumps, lateral shuffle, bounding, zigzag

## Balance

- single leg, dynamic, foam pad, wobble board



# IOC Consensus on Youth Athlete Development

Randomized controlled trial (RCT) evidence

## Objective:

To summarize the evidence on injury prevention strategies in youth sport

## Results:

25 original

14 RCT

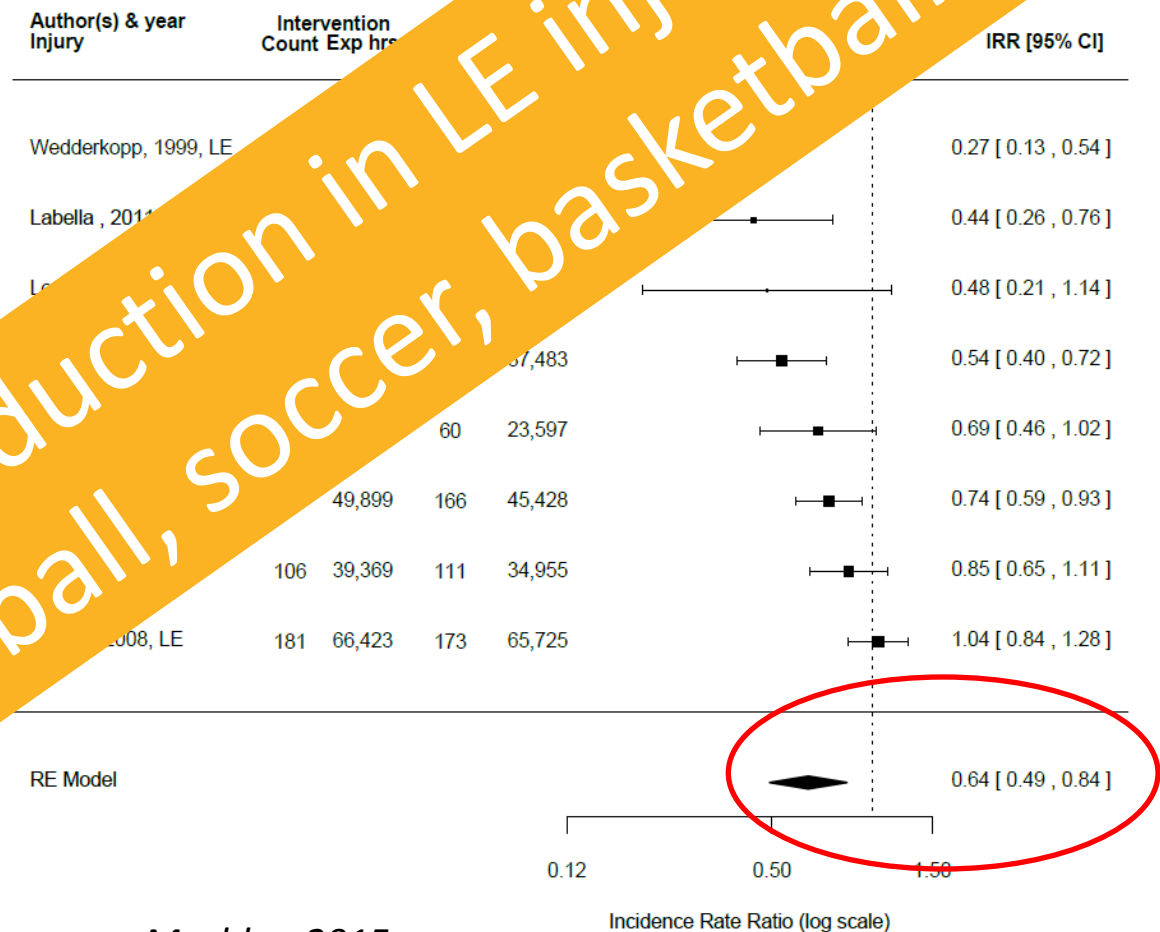
**Muscular Training Warm-up** strategies in basketball, handball, American football, Baseball, Canadian rules football, multi-sport

36% reduction in LE injury risk  
handball, soccer, basketball

# Systematic Review & Meta-analysis

Sport Injury Prevention

## NMT- Youth Lower Extremity Injury Out



36% reduction in LE injury risk  
handball, soccer, basketball

# Soccer Evidence

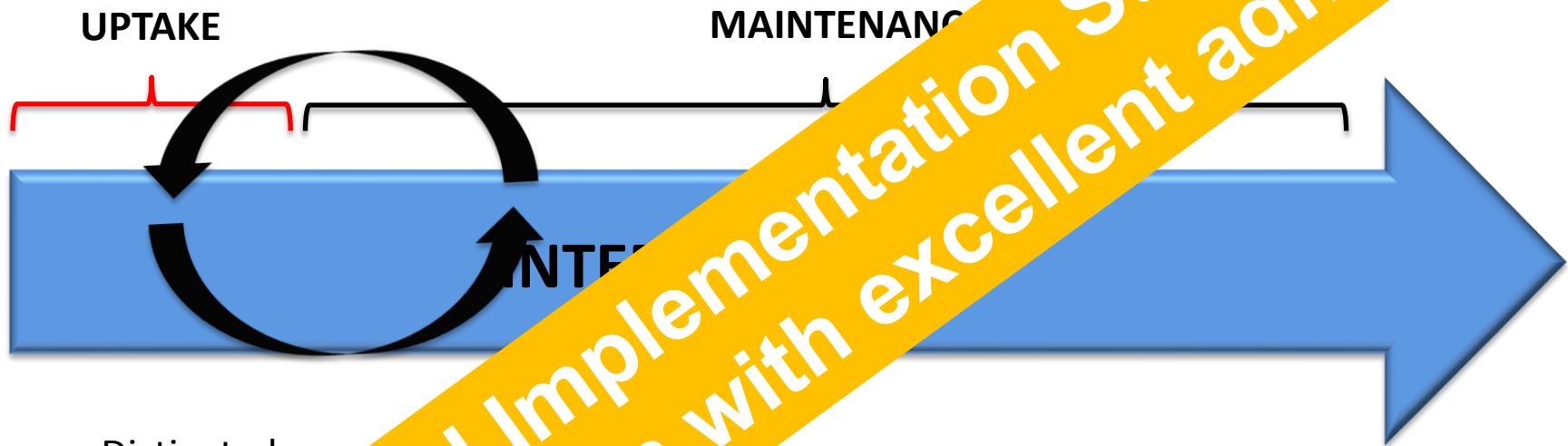
FIFA 11+



- Coach workshops
- Coach delivery – knowledge, time, space, flexibility
- Player Champion
- Focus on prevention and performance
- Sport Association mandate
- Translate to other sports and school physical education setting

# Adapting Implementation

## Sport Injury Prevention



- Distinct phases
- Uptake  $\neq$  maintenance
- Behaviour change workshop content may facilitate longer term behaviour change

and coach risk perception, self-efficacy, expectations, action plan, barriers

*McKay et al 2013*

# Recommendations

## Prevention of Youth Sport Related Joint Injury

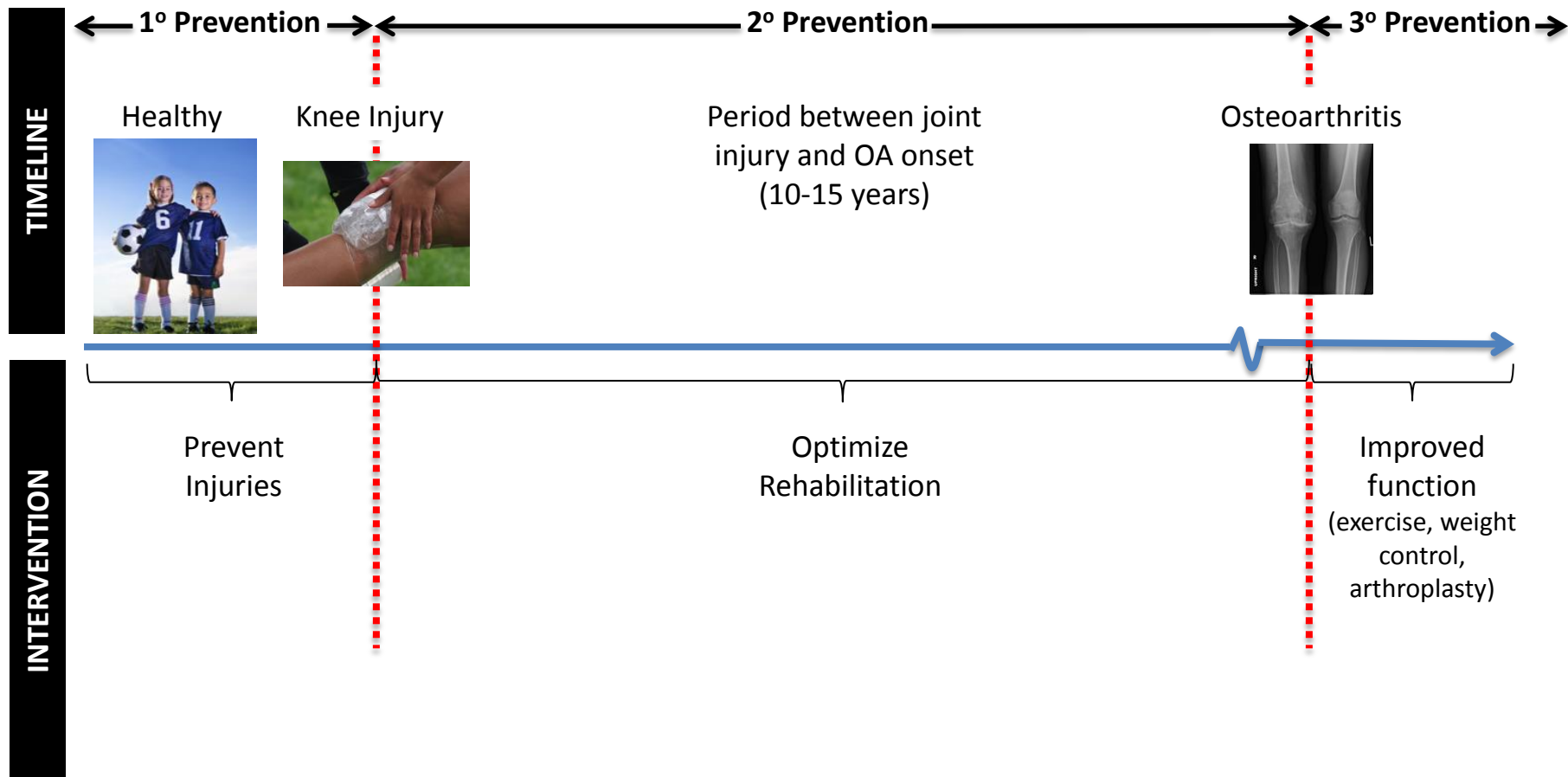
1. Implementation of evidence-informed injury prevention strategies in youth sport and recreation
  - community stakeholder engagement
  - coach, teacher and clinician workshops
  - social media
  - policy change
  - legislation
2. Continue interdisciplinary collaboration of injury prevention programs, protective equipment changes and legislation to inform implementation and maintenance that will have broader reach and a greater health impact
3. Greater focus on secondary prevention and rehabilitation to prevent long-term consequences



Get on with it!

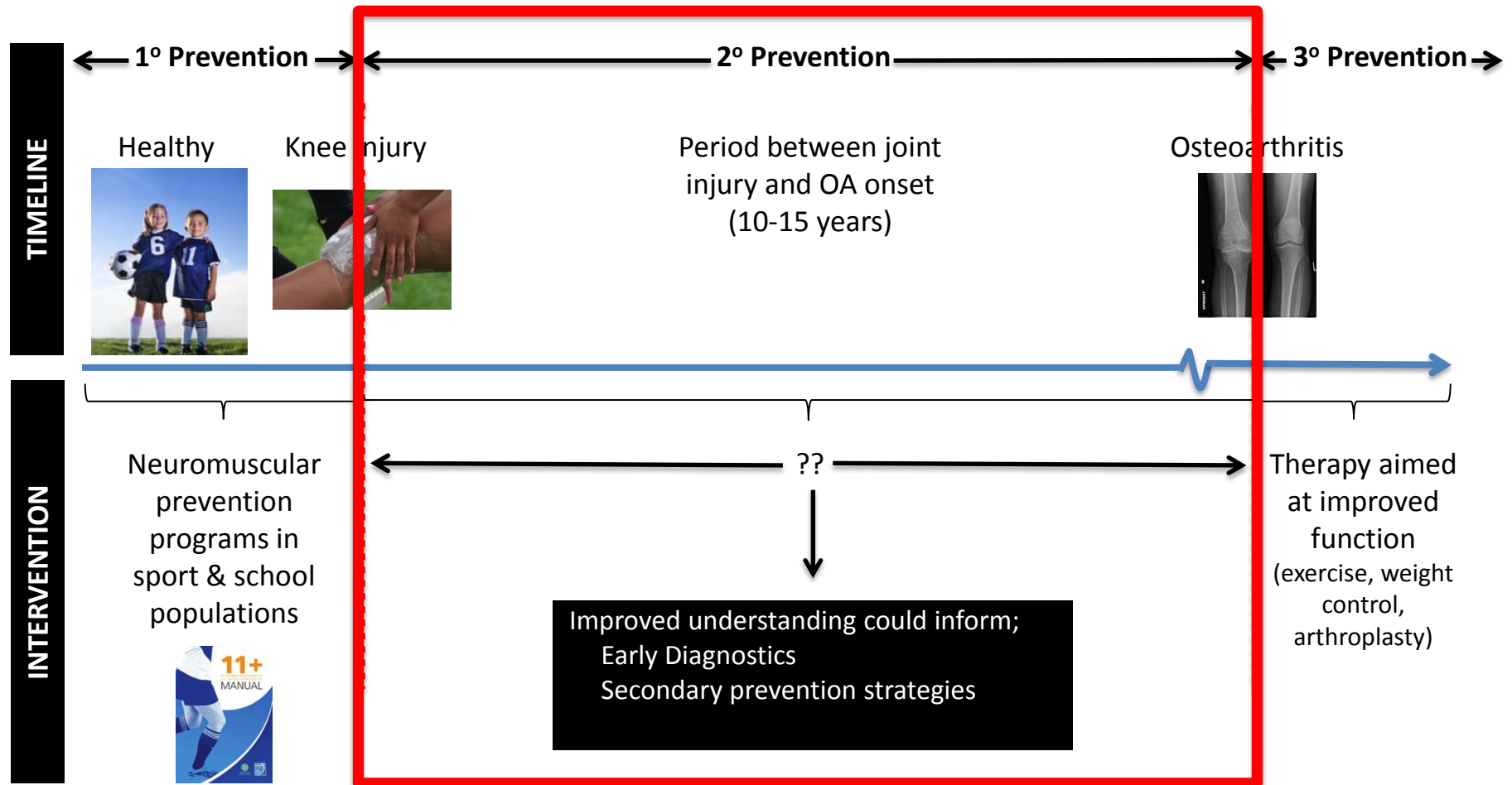
# Prevention of Post-traumatic OA

## Timeline of Events & Interventions



# Prevention of Post-traumatic OA

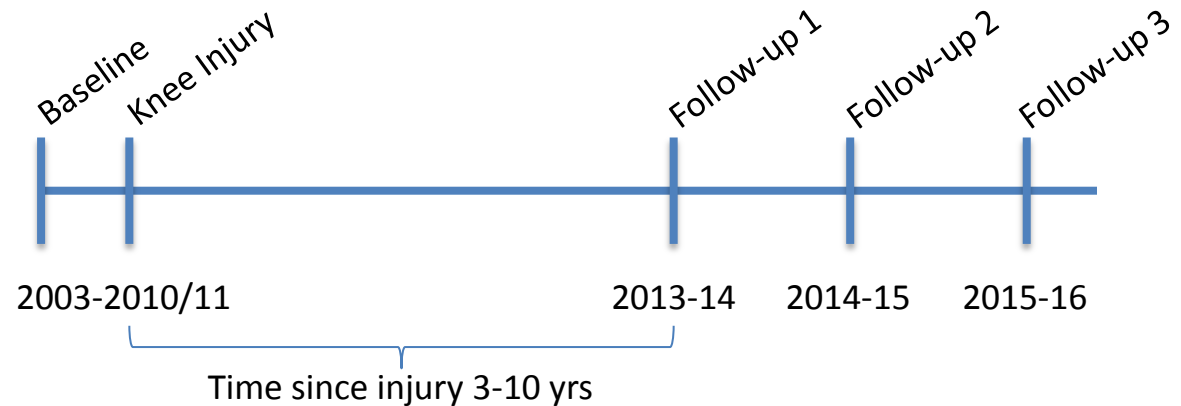
## Timeline of Events & Interventions



# Alberta Youth PrE-OA Study

## Overview

Whittaker et al 2015



## Ongoing longitudinal cohort study

200 participants (15-26 years of age)

- 100 with an sport-related knee injury sustained  $\leq 18$  years of age. [Age of injury: Median, range; 16 years (9-18)]
- 100 age, sex and sport matched controls

Followed on a diverse number of outcomes annually for a minimum of 3 yrs.

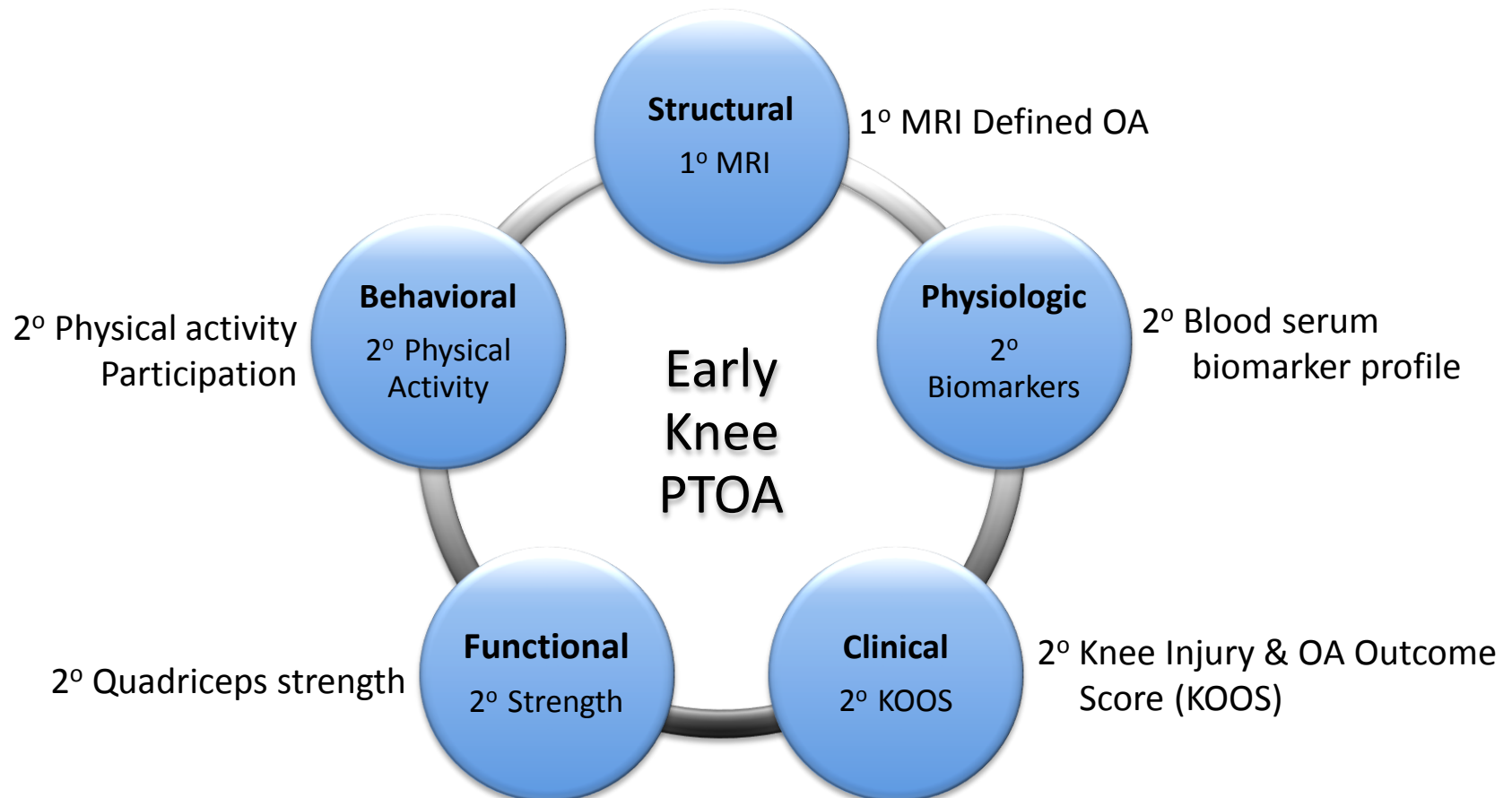


# Alberta Youth PrE-OA Study

Objective(s)



Do youth/young adults with a history of knee injury (sustained  $\leq 18$  yrs) differ from healthy matched (age, sex, sport) controls 3-10 yrs post-injury?



# Cohort Characteristics

Follow-up 1 (n=200, 100 matched pairs)

Baseline  
(3-10 yrs ago)

Follow-up 1

Characteristics	Uninjured n=100	Injured n=100
Sex (% female)	55	55
Age (yrs; median, range)	22 (15-26)	22 (16-26)
Age at Injury (yrs; median, range)	-	16 (9-18)
Injury to Follow-up 1 (yrs; median, range)	-	6.9 (3-10)
# Index Knee Surgeries	0	63*
# Contralateral Knee Injuries	0	23 <sup>§</sup>
# Contralateral Knee Surgeries	0	15 <sup>¶</sup>

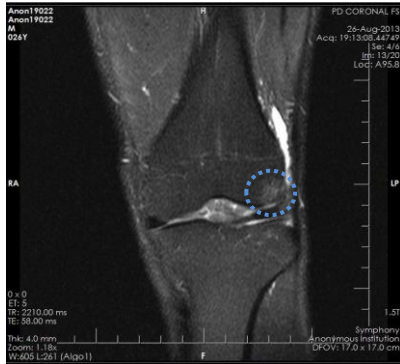
\*54 ACL reconstructions, <sup>§</sup> 11 of these were ACL reconstructions

# MRI Defined OA

Primary Outcome (n=76, 38 matched pairs)

Baseline  
(3-10 yrs ago)

Follow-up 1



## MRI defined OA (Culvenor et al 2015)

Osteophyte AND full-thickness cartilage loss

OR

1 of the above plus 2 of the following;

Sub-chondral bone marrow lesion

Meniscal disruption

Partial thickness cartilage loss

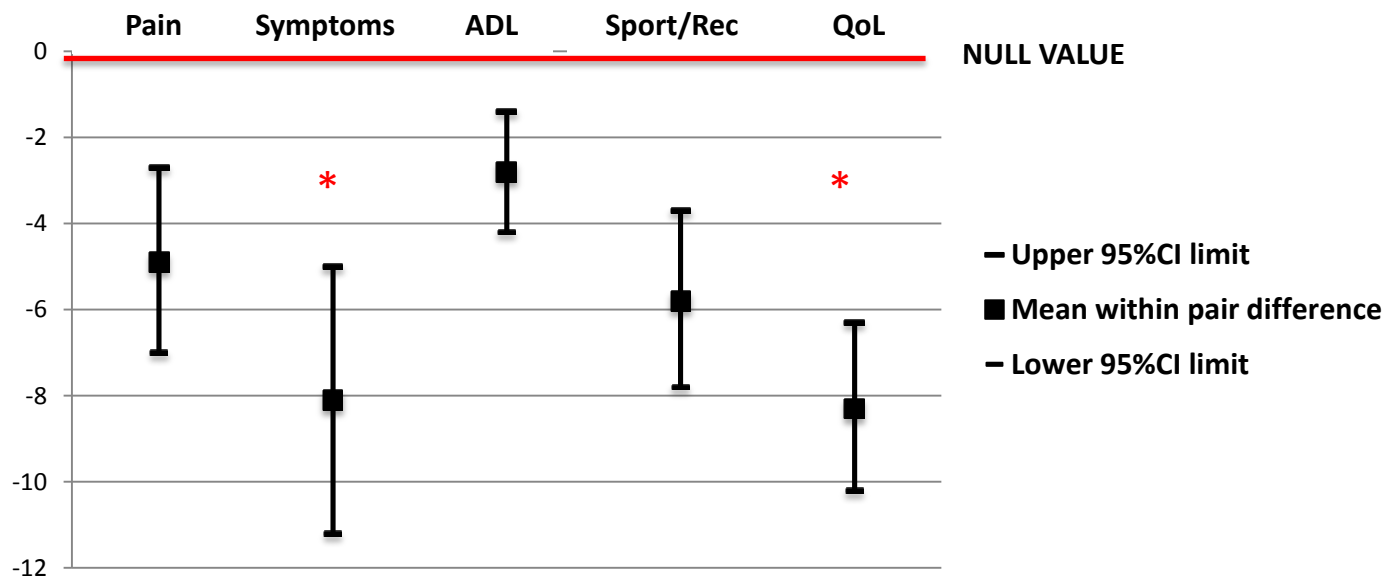
Injury Detail	Uninjured (n=38)	Injured <sup>s</sup> (n=38)
MRI defined OA (#/%)	3 (8%)	13 (36%)
Radiographic OA (KL grade $\geq 2$ ; #,%)	---	5 (13%)
Surgery / Injury Type	Unadjusted Conditional Odds Ratio, (95%CI)	
Knee Injury	6.0 (1.3,26.8)*	
Knee Surgery	9.0 (1.1,71.0)*	
3° ACL <sup>φ</sup>	7.0 (0.9,56.9)	
3° ACL &/or meniscal injury	10.0 (1.2,78.1)*	

# KOOS

2° Outcome (n=200, 100 matched pairs)

Baseline  
(3-10yrs ago)

Follow-up 1



Outcome		Uninjured Median (range)	Injured Median (range)	Pair Difference Mean (95%CI)
KOOS (higher score = better)	Pain	100 (69.4-100)	88.9 (52.8-100)	-4.9(-7.0,-2.7)*
	Symptoms	96.4 (64.3-100)	85.7 (32.1-100)	-8.1 (-11.2,-5.0)*
	ADL	100 (86.8-100)	98.6 (63.2-100)	-2.8 (-4.2,-1.4)*
	Sport/Rec	100 (75.0-100)	94.4(47.2-100)	-5.8 (-7.8,-3.7)*
	QoL	100 (83.3-100)	91.7(63.9-100)	-8.3(-10.2,-6.3)*

# Physical Activity

2° Objective (n=200, 100 matched pairs)



Baseline  
(3-10yrs ago)

Follow-up 1

Outcome		Uninjured Median (range)	Injured Median (range)	Pair Difference Mean (95%CI)
Physical Activity Participation	Total weekly METS <sup>φ</sup>	52 (7-124)	52 (0-166)	-3.0 (-10.8, 4.8)
	No Sport participation in last year (%)	4	13	---
Aerobic Fitness	VO <sub>2</sub> max (ml/kg <sup>2</sup> ) <sup>φ</sup>	43.1 (20.6-59.6)	39.8 (20.1-59.6)	-2.4 (-4.5,-0.2)*

<sup>φ</sup> Estimated from Godin Leisure Time Questionnaire

Injured participants are 2.1 time more likely to be in the lower 25<sup>th</sup> percentile of total physical activity than controls (COR; 95%CI 1.1,4.0)

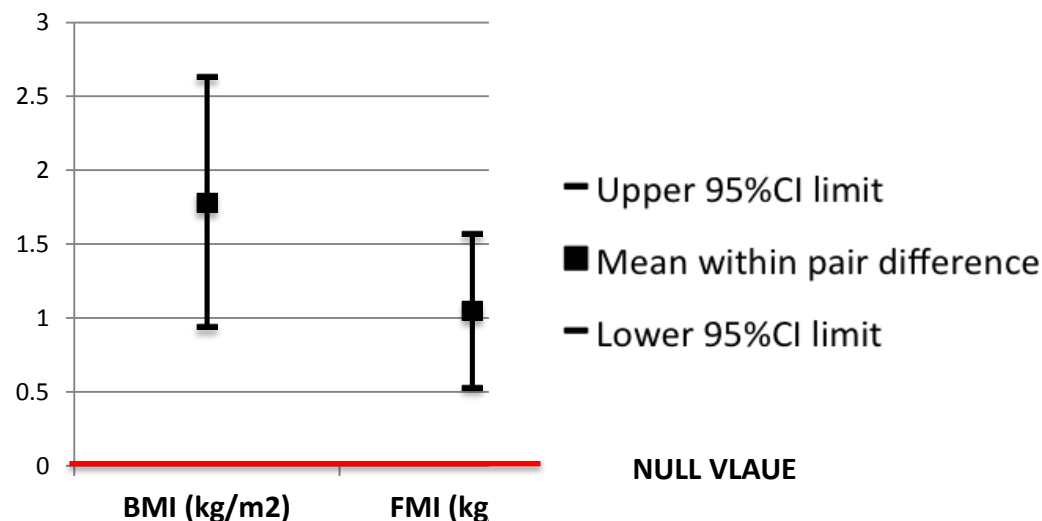
Toomey et al 2015

# Adiposity

Exploratory Outcomes (n = 200, 100 matched pairs)

Baseline  
(3-10yrs ago)

Follow-up 1



Outcome		Uninjured Median (range)	Injured Median (range)	Pair Difference Mean (95%CI)
Adiposity	BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	23.5 (18.1-31.3)	25.0 (18.9-38.9)	1.78 (0.94,2.63)*
	Fat Mass Index (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	4.5 (2.1-11.2)	5.6 (1.7-16.4)	1.05 (0.53,1.57)*
	Abdominal fat (g)	1240 (560-3750)	1480 (586-4926)	460 (220, 690)*

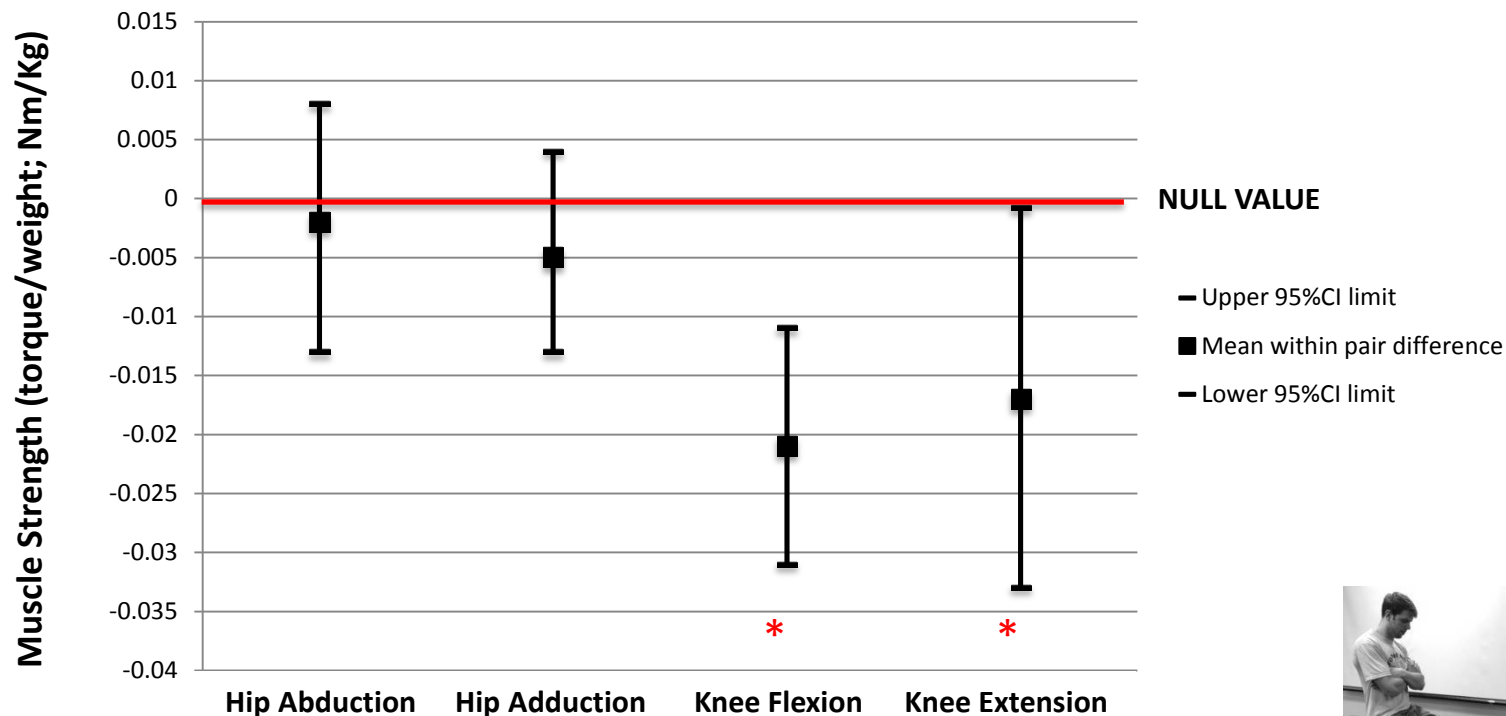
Toomey et al 2015

# Index Leg Strength

2°/Exploratory Objectives (n = 200, 100 matched pairs)

Baseline  
(3-10yrs ago)

Follow-up 1



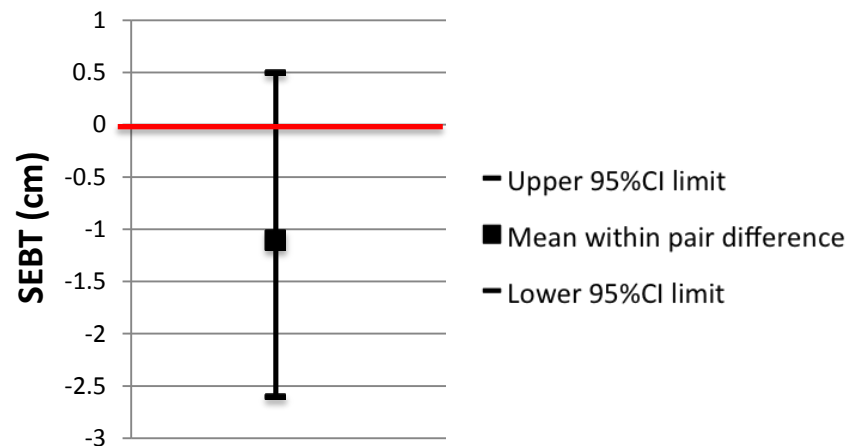
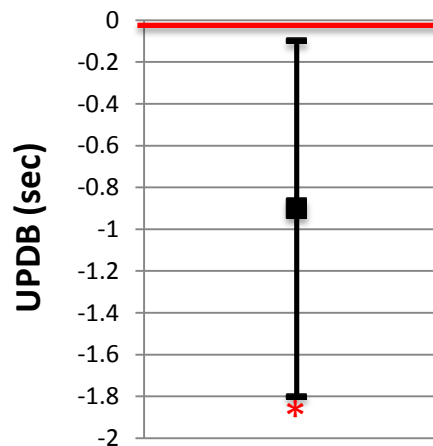
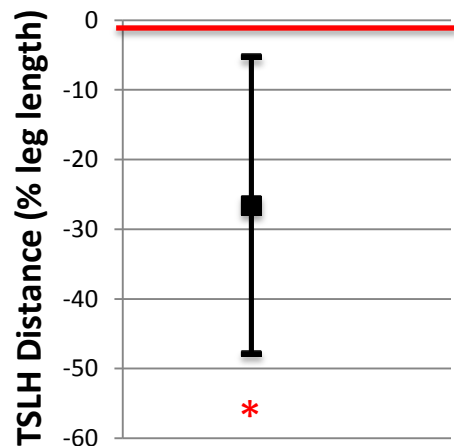
Whittaker et al 2015

# Functional Performance

Exploratory Outcomes (n = 200, 100 matched pairs)

Baseline  
(3-10yrs ago)

Follow-up 1



Triple Single Leg Hop



Unipedal Balance



Star Excursion Balance

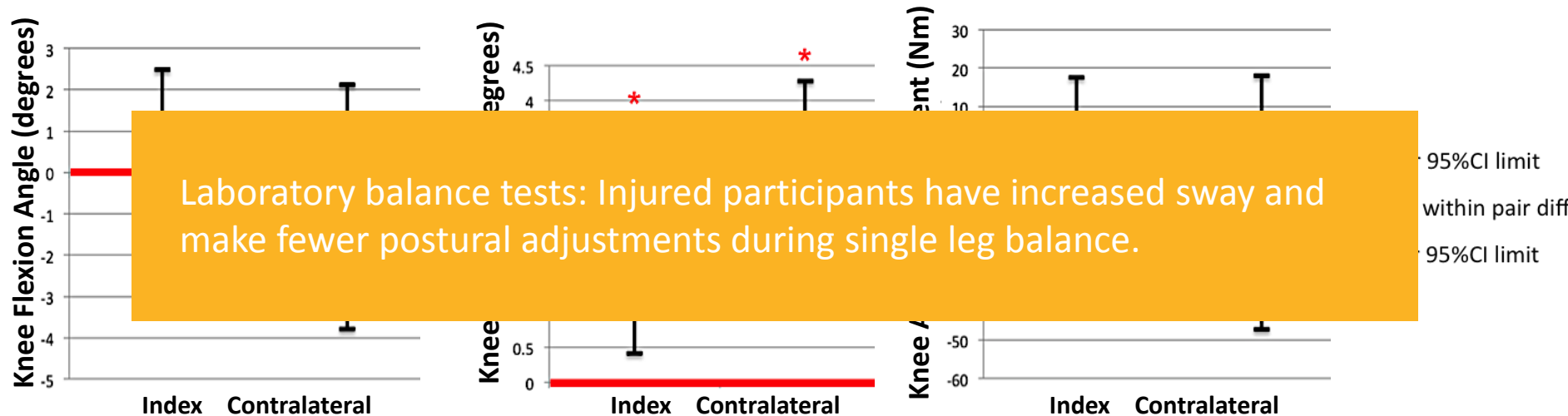
Whittaker et al 2015

# Biomechanics

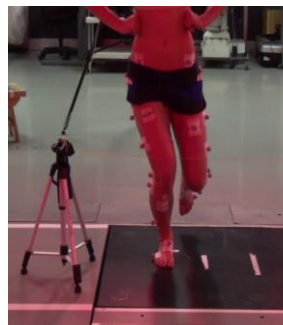
Exploratory Outcomes (n = 100, 50 matched pairs)

Baseline  
(3-10yrs ago)

Follow-up 1



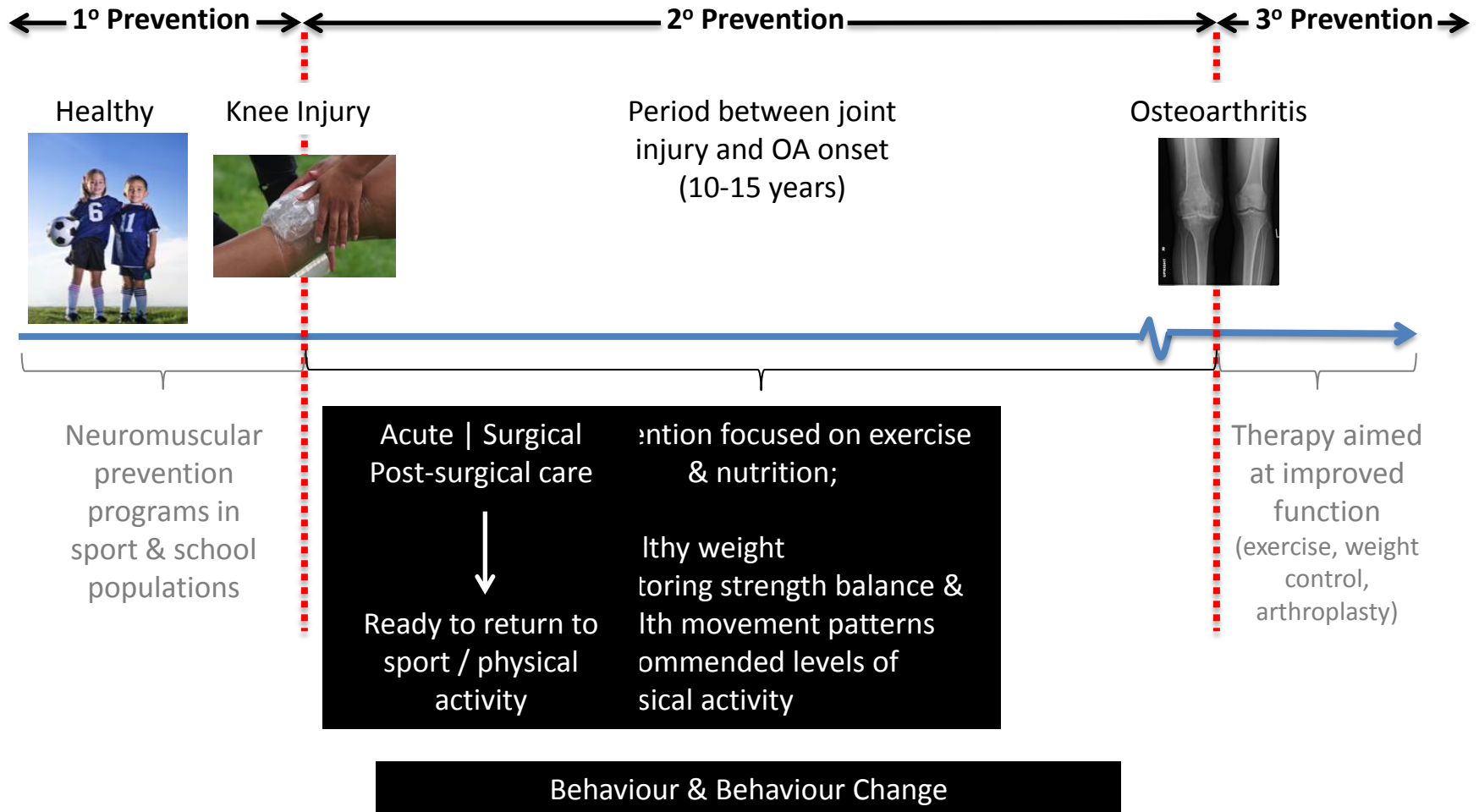
Single Leg Squat



*Lorenzen et al 2015, Baltich et al 2015, Whittaker et al 2015*

# Prevention of Post-traumatic OA

## Timeline of Events & Interventions



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