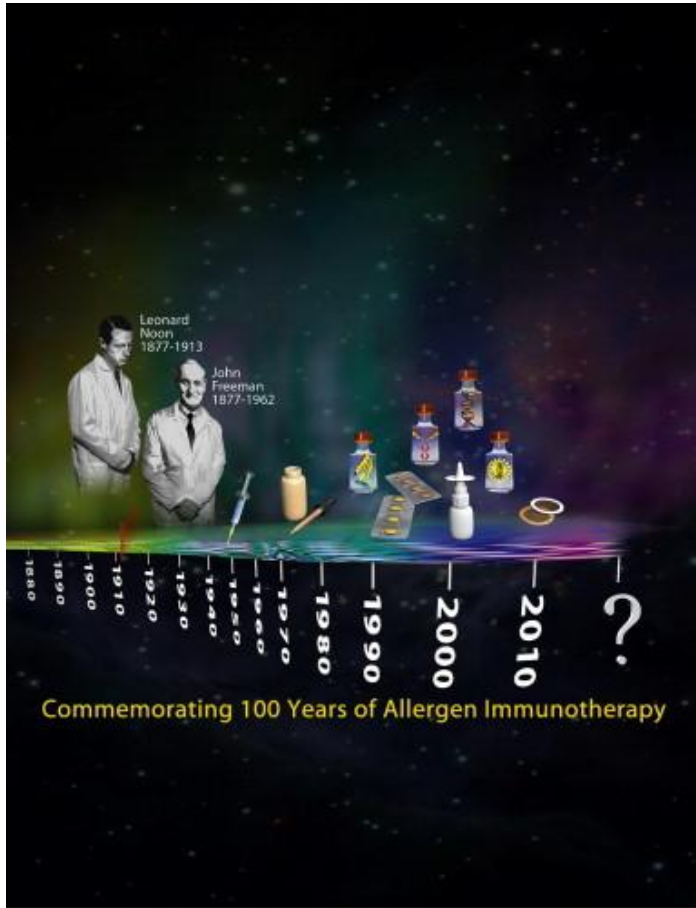


# Sublingual Immunotherapy (SLIT) in Primary Care - The potential.

**Dermot Ryan, FRCGP**, Woodbrook  
Medical Centre, Loughborough, United  
Kingdom

Allergy and Respiratory Research Group,  
Centre for Population Health Sciences: GP  
Section, University of Edinburgh,  
Edinburgh, Scotland;



# What is allergen immunotherapy?

**Administration of an allergen in order to achieve immunologic tolerance**

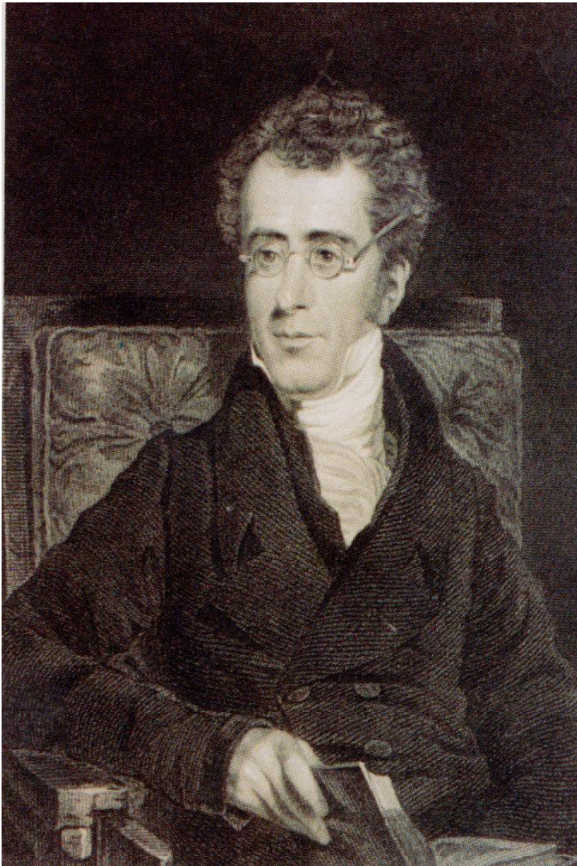
**Current use for : Allergic rhinitis**

**Asthma**

**Venom anaphylaxis**

# First description of hay fever

John Bostock, *Med Chir Trans*, 1819; 10: 161



**"About the beginning or middle of June in every year .... A sensation of heat and fullness is experienced in the eyes .... To this succeeds irritation of the nose producing sneezing ... To the sneezeings are added a further sensation of tightness of the chest, and a difficulty of breathing"**

EXPERIMENTAL RESEARCHES  
ON THE  
CAUSES AND NATURE  
OF  
**CATARRHUS AESTIVUS**  
(HAY-FEVER OR HAY-ASTHMA)  
BY  
CHARLES H. BLACKLEY, M.R.C.S. ENG.

*'When a small portion of pollen, just enough to tinge the tip of the finger yellow, was applied to the mucous membrane of the nares, some of the symptoms of hay fever were invariably developed, the severity and continuance of which were dependent on the quality and on the number of times it was used.'*

LONDON:  
BAILLIÈRE, TINDALL & COX,  
KING WILLIAM STREET, STRAND.  
PARIS: BAILLIÈRE | MADRID: BAILLIÈRE.  
1873.



# History of immunotherapy

## THE LANCET

### **PROPHYLACTIC INOCULATION AGAINST HAY FEVER**

**L. Noon B.C. CANTAB., F.R.C.S. ENG., (From the Laboratory of the Department for Therapeutic Inoculation, St. Mary's Hospital.)**

[Volume 177, Issue 4580](#), 10 June 1911, Pages 1572-1573

## THE LANCET

### **FURTHER OBSERVATIONS ON THE TREATMENT OF HAY FEVER BY HYPODERMIC INOCULATIONS OF POLLEN VACCINE..**

The Lancet, Volume 178, Issue 4594, Pages 814-817

J. Freeman

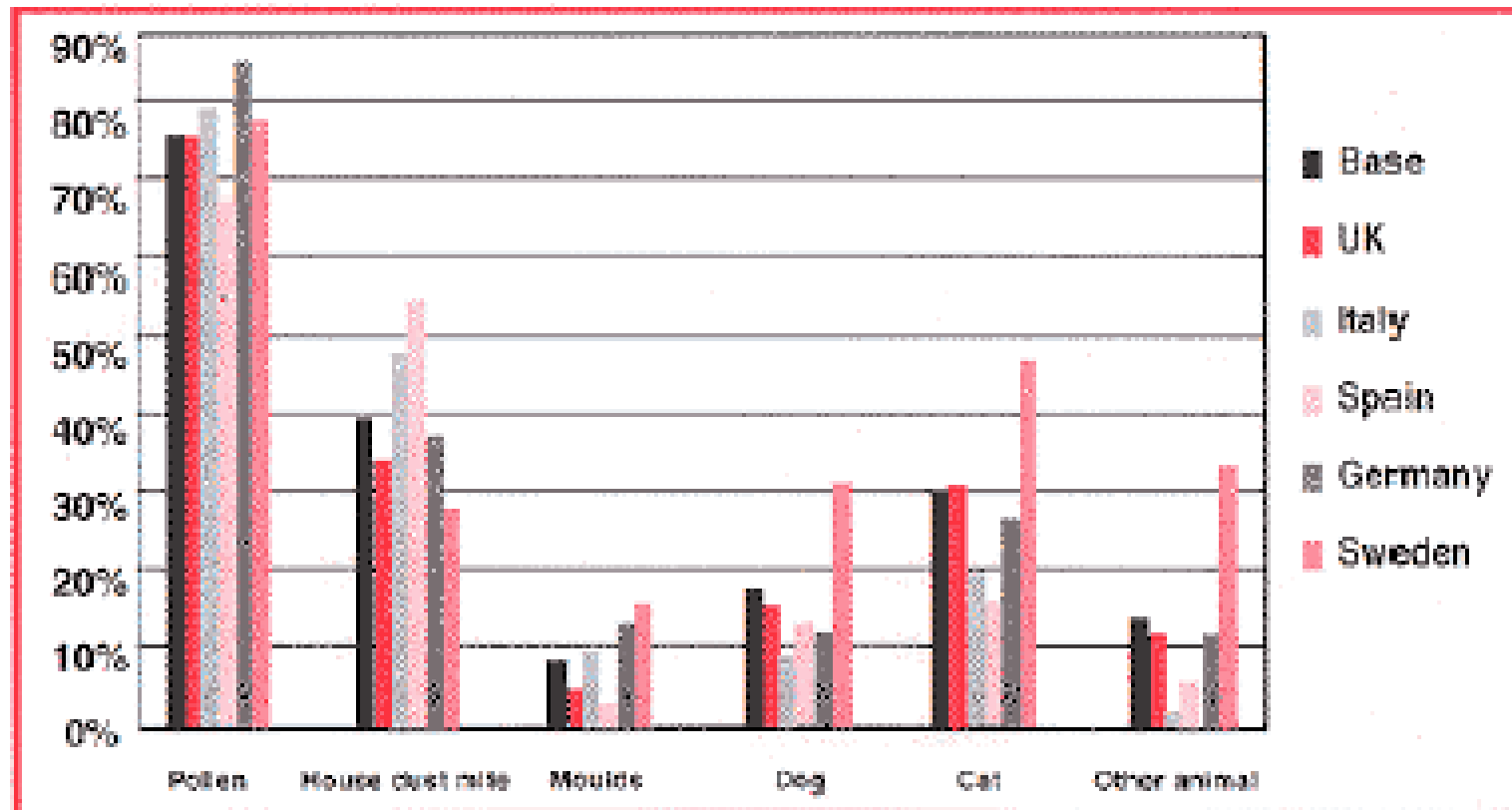
**.....described conjunctival provocation of patients with allergic rhino- conjunctivitis and successful treatment using subcutaneous inoculation of extract**



EFA 2001

## Allergens

The most frequent allergens reported were pollen, house dust mite, moulds, dog, cat and other animals (Fig. 2).





# Allergens of Proven Efficacy in Double Blind Placebo Controlled Studies

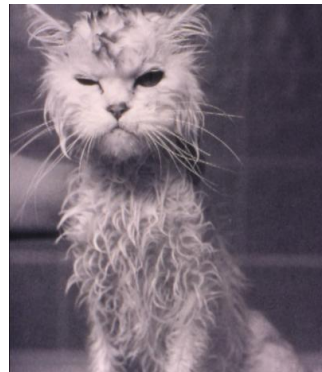


Pollens

Cat

House dust mite

Hymenoptera



# WHO position paper: allergen immunotherapy

- High dose, standardised vaccines (5-20mcg major allergen per monthly maintenance injection)
- Mixtures of allergens in polysensitised patients are of no proven value
- Administer in specialist clinics by trained persons with immediate access to adrenaline etc
- Observation period after injections 30min
- Risks of immunotherapy are increased in asthma
- Optimum duration of immunotherapy: 3-5 years



# **CSM UPDATE: Desensitising vaccines**

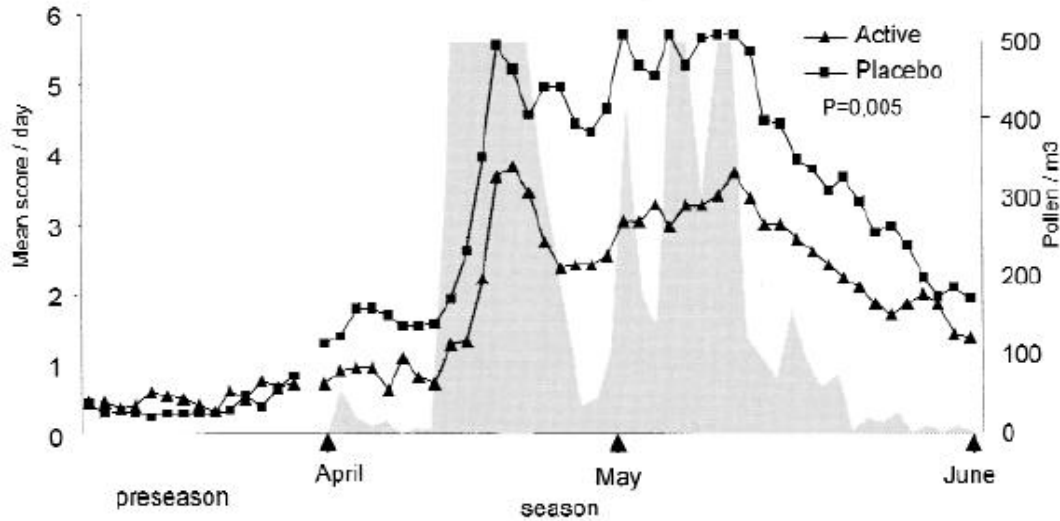
**BMJ 1986;293:948**

- 26 fatalities 1957-1986
- 16/17 in patients with asthma
- Immunotherapy only to be carried out in clinics offering full range of life support.

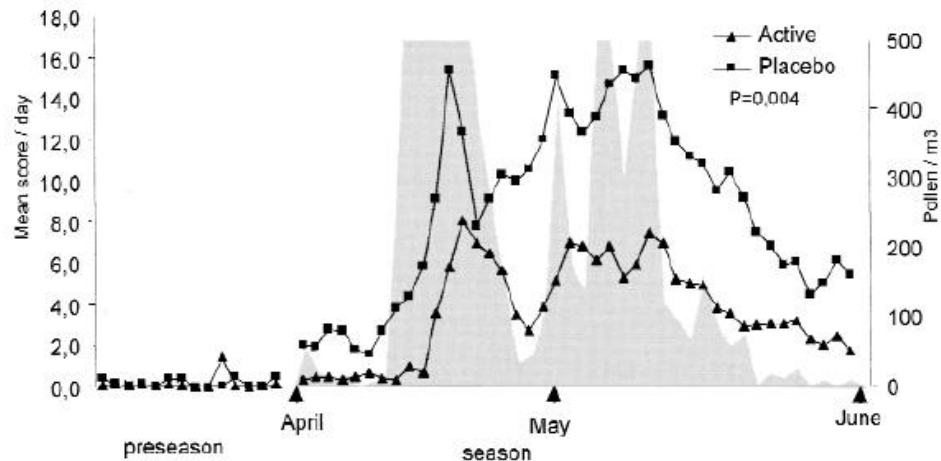
# Birch pollen immunotherapy for hayfever

(2 years, n=46) year 2, 1998

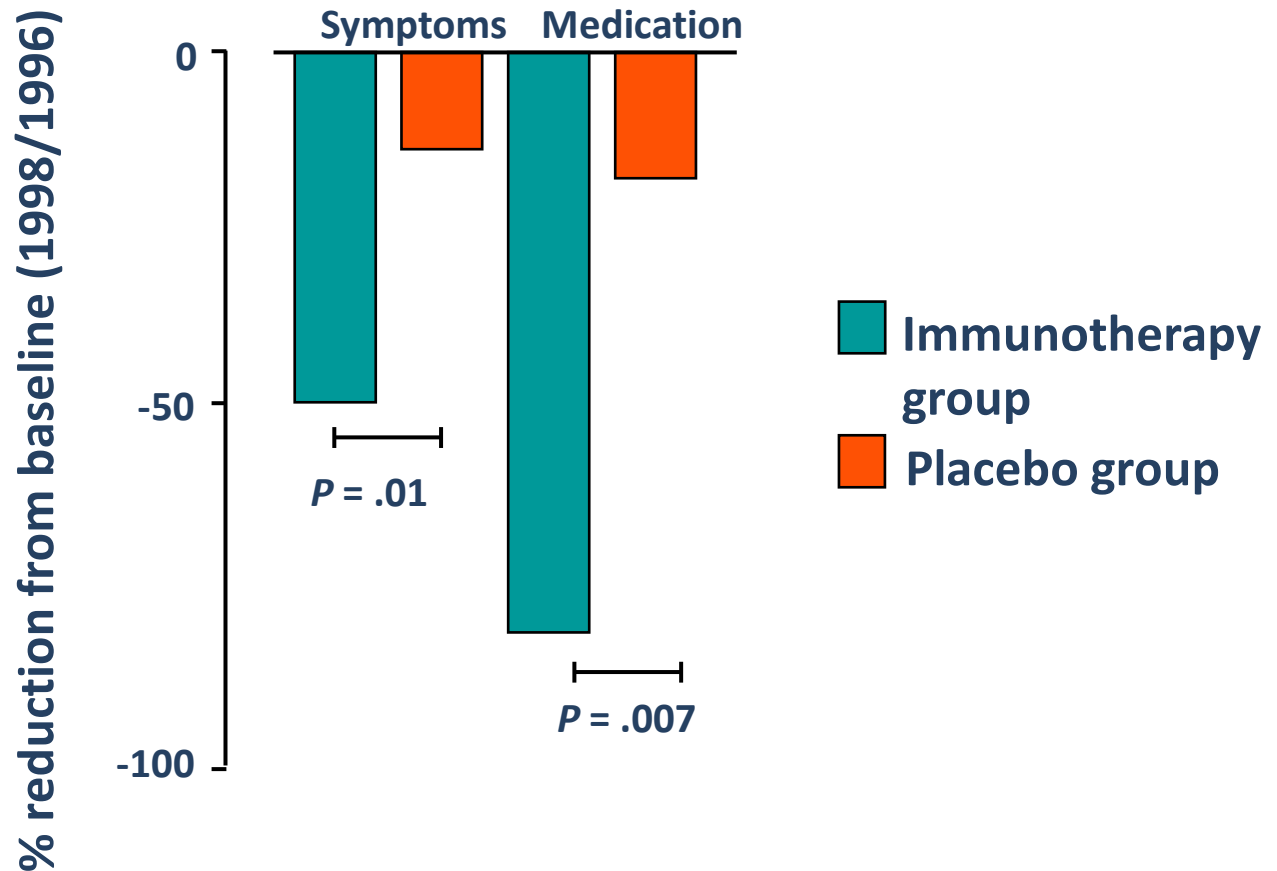
## Symptoms



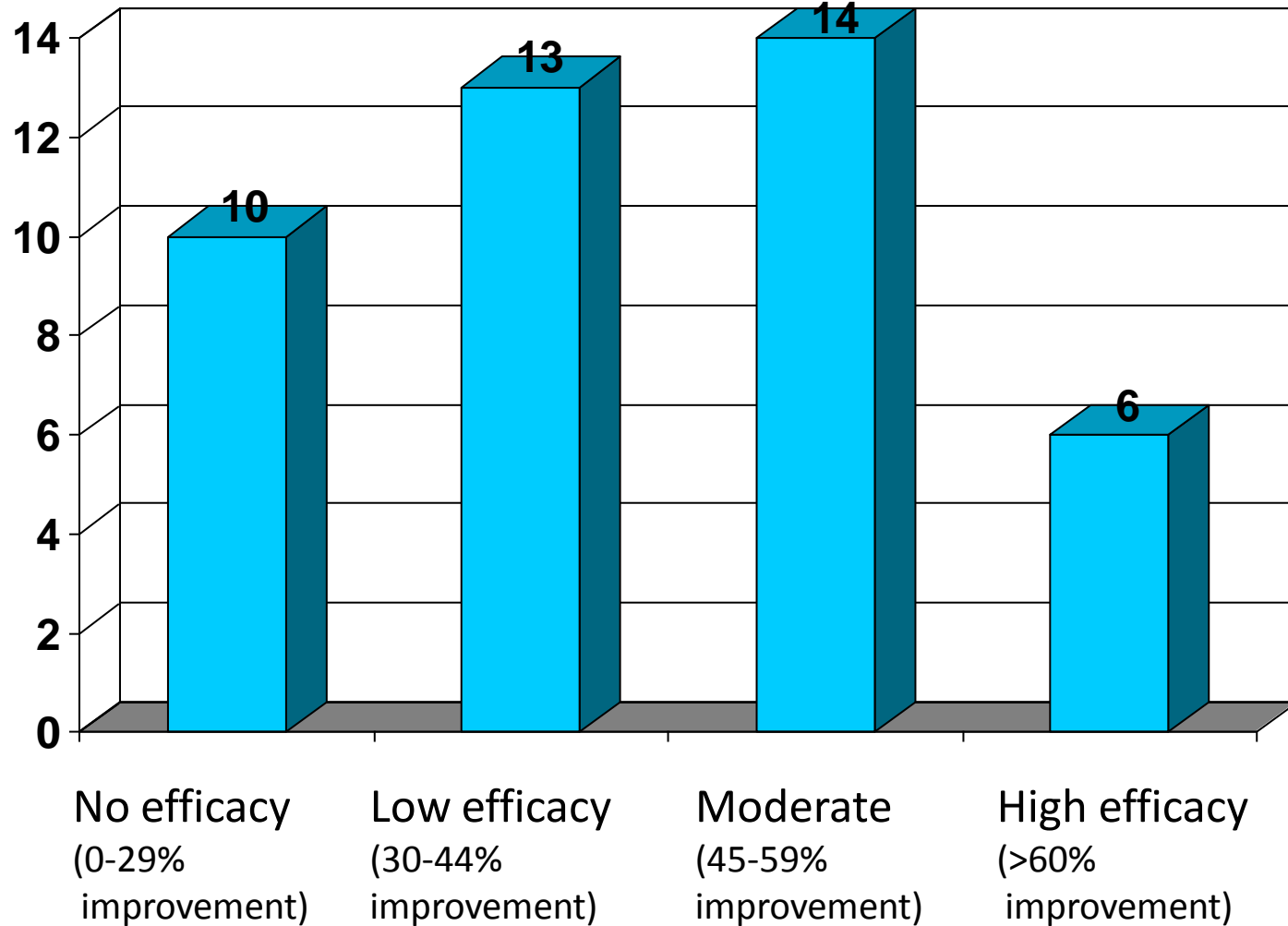
## Medication



# Grass pollen immunotherapy for seasonal rhinitis/asthma



## Immunotherapy for rhinitis (43 studies)

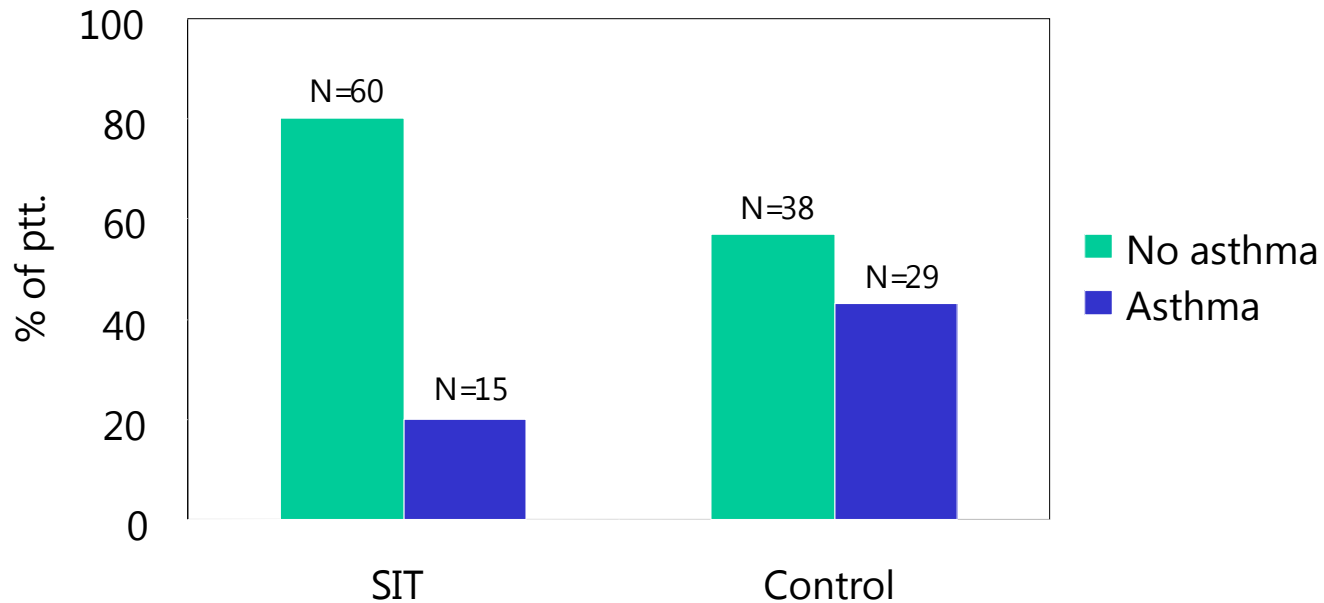


# Preventative allergy treatment study

## Development of asthma at 5 years

N = 142 patients without asthma in season one

**Odds-ratio = 2.68 (1.3 – 5.7)**



# IT: Prevention of New Sensitizations

New sensitizations after 3 years:  
55% SIT group vs 100% control group.

*Des Roches et al, JACI 1997*

New sensitizations after 3 years:  
25% SIT group vs 67% control group.

*Pajno et al, Clin Exp Allergy 2001*

New sensitizations after 4 years  
23% SIT group vs 68% control group.

*Purello D'Ambrosio et al, Clin Exp Allergy 2001*



# Immunotherapy in asthma: systematic review (88 randomised controlled trials 1954-2005)

## Odds ratios (<1 favours immunotherapy)

Significant improvement in asthma scores -0.59

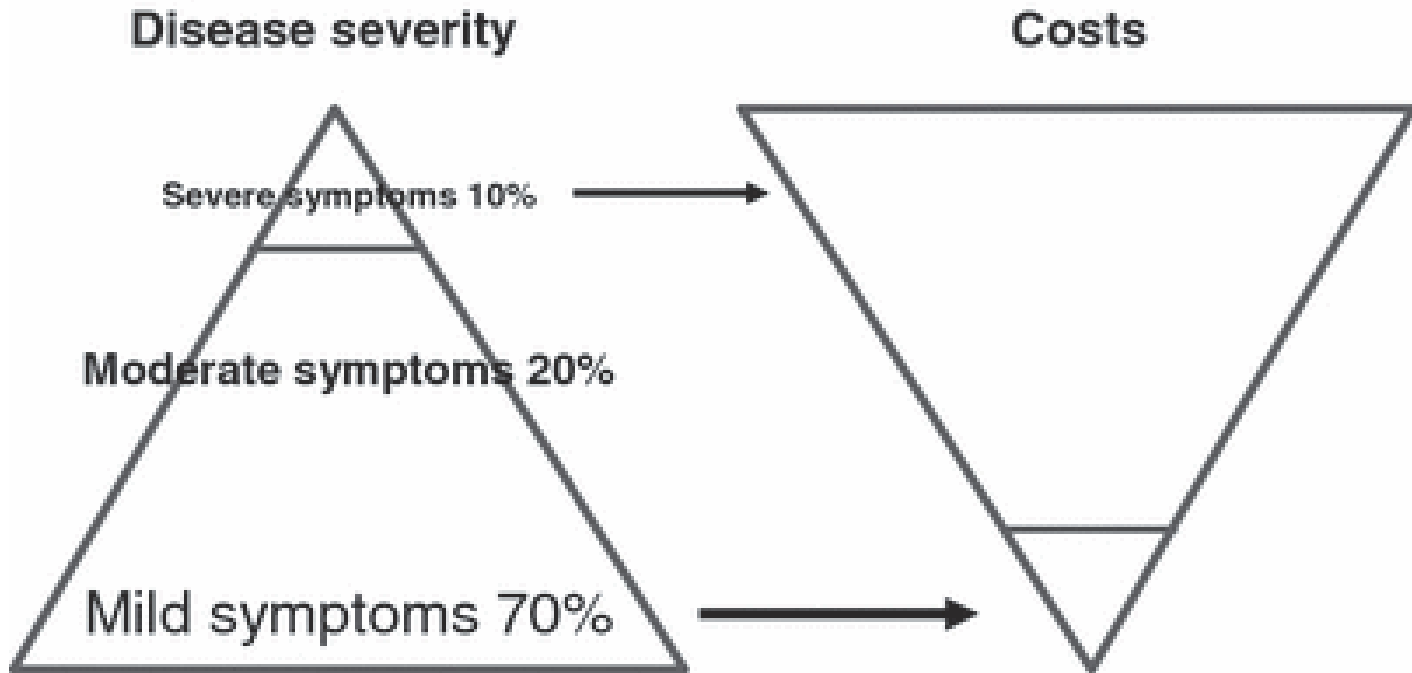
NNT to prevent exacerbation 3

NNT to avoid increased medication 4

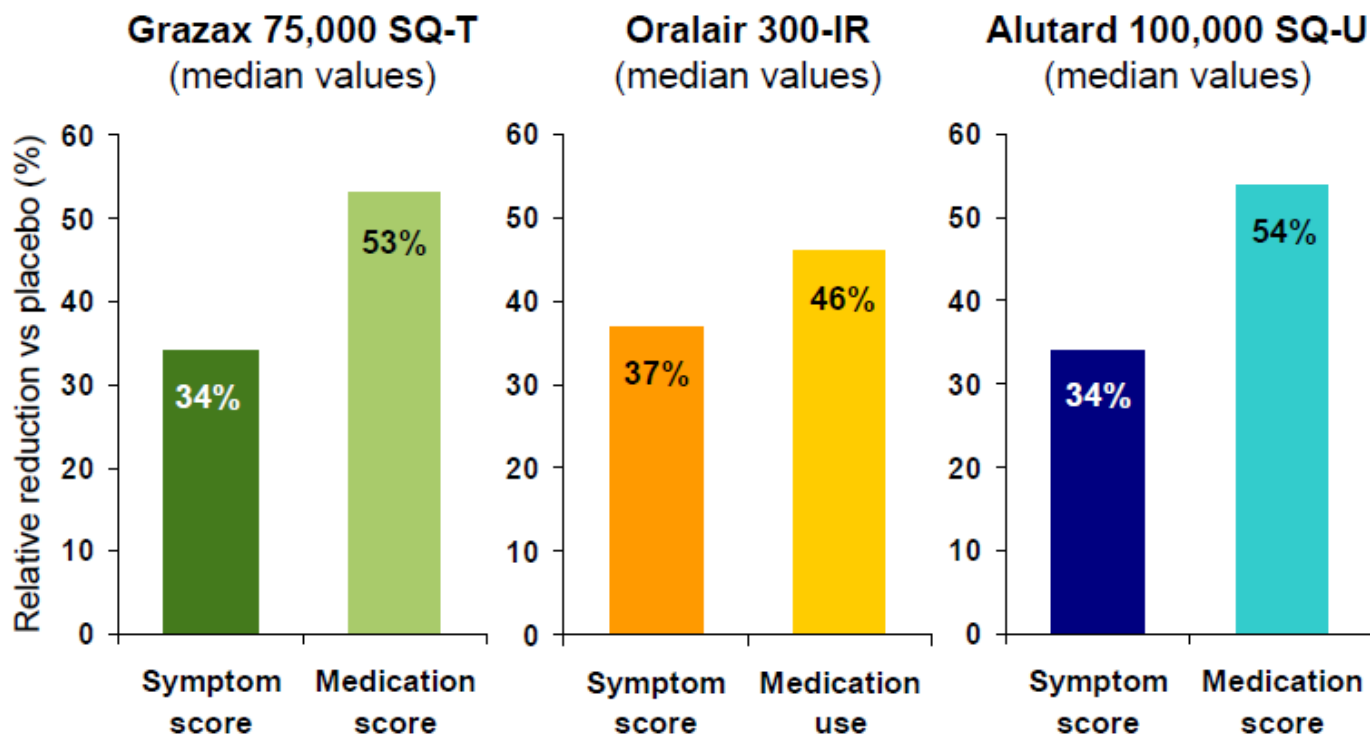
Significantly reduce specific bronchial hypereactivity

Abramson MJ, Puy RM, Weiner JM. Injection allergen immunotherapy for asthma. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2010, Issue 8

Finnish Allergy Programme 2008–2018 – time to act and change the course



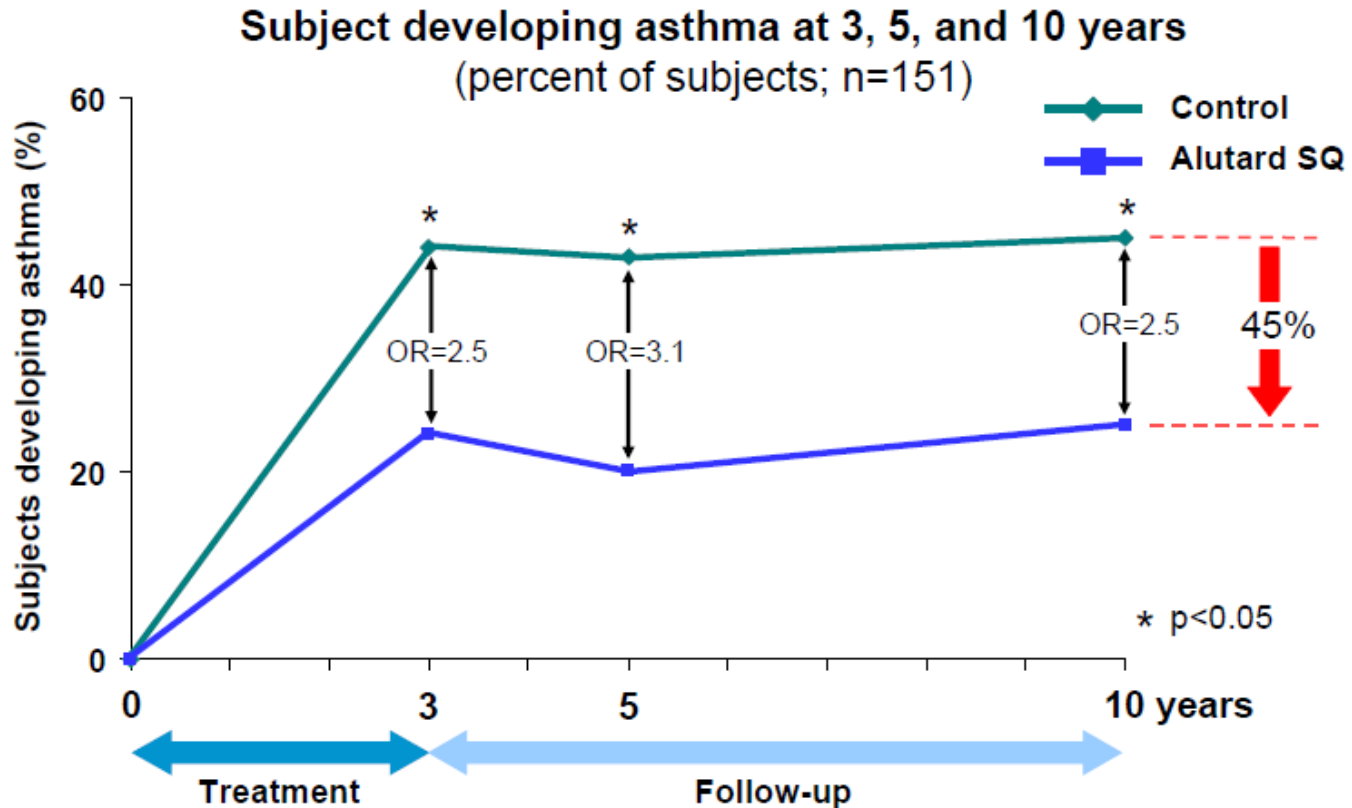
# Efficacy 1<sup>st</sup> treatment season: adults Comparable to sub-cutaneous immunotherapy



Dahl et al. JACI 2006;118:434-40; Didier et al. JACI 2007;120:1338-45; Frew et al. JACI 2006;117:319-25

# SCIT preventive effect

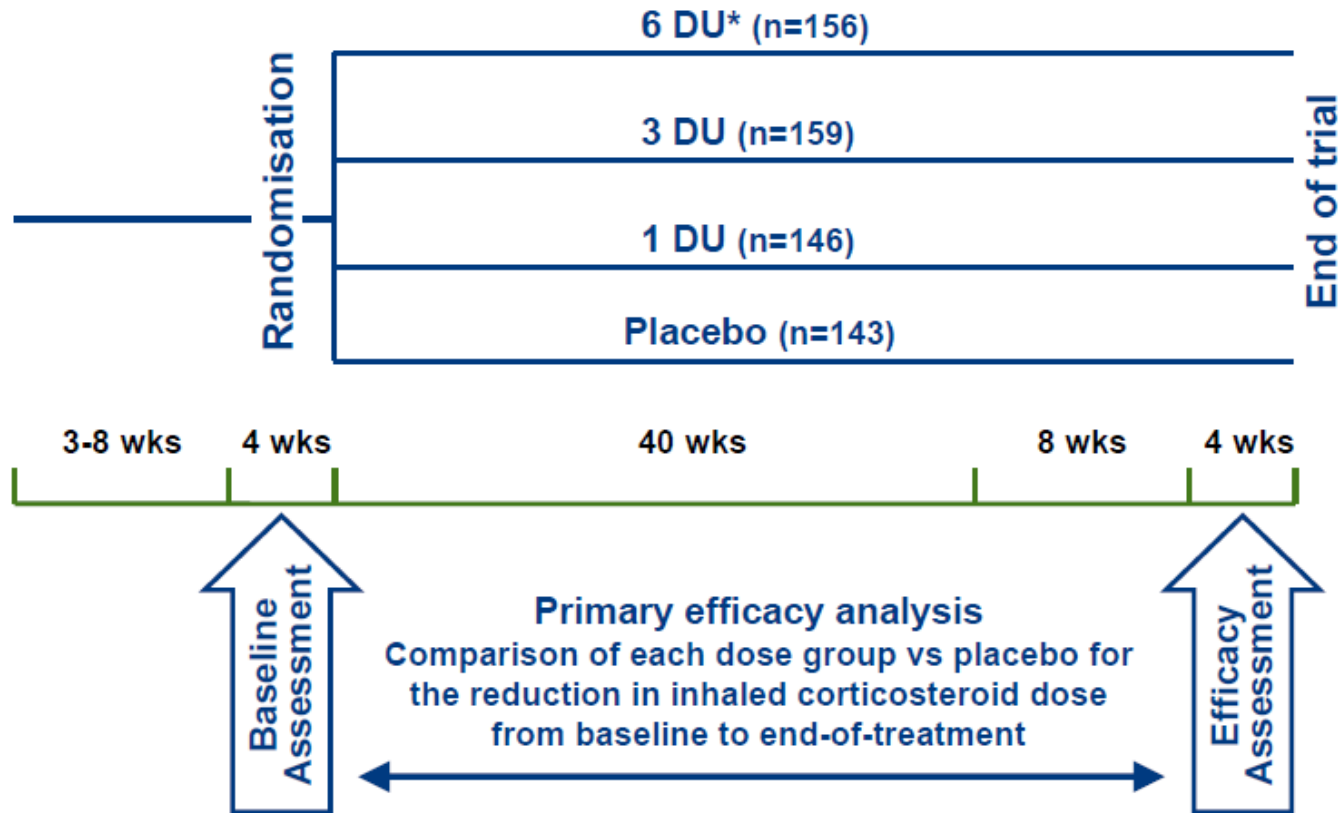
## Reduced risk of developing asthma



1. Möller et al. JACI 2002;109:251-6 2. Jacobsen et al. Allergy 2007;62:943-8

# ALK house dust mite AIT

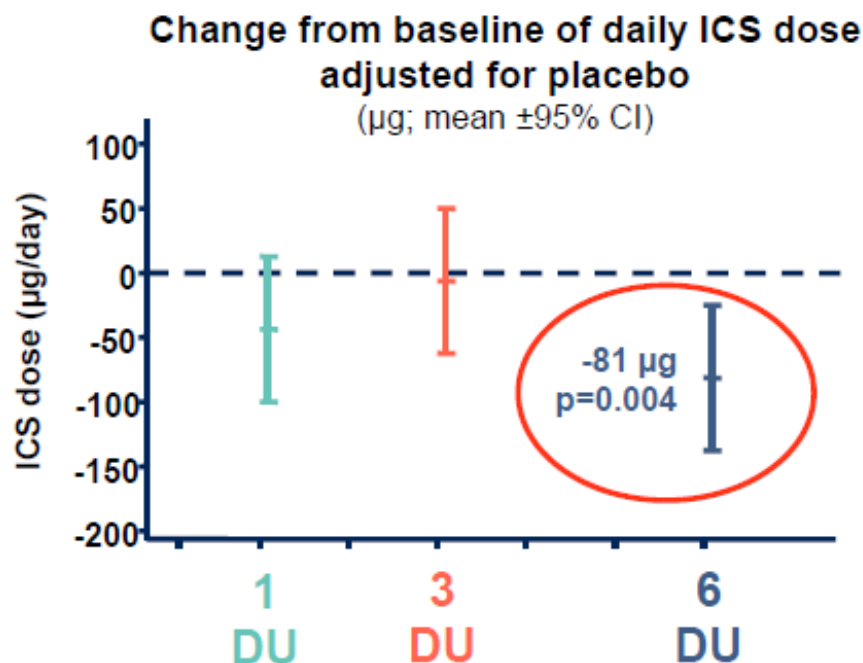
## Clinical proof of concept in asthma: MT-02 trial



\*DU = Development Unit (allergen content not disclosed, contains *Der p* and *Der f* major allergen)

# ALK house dust mite AIT

## Median ICS dose reduced by 50% in 6 DU group

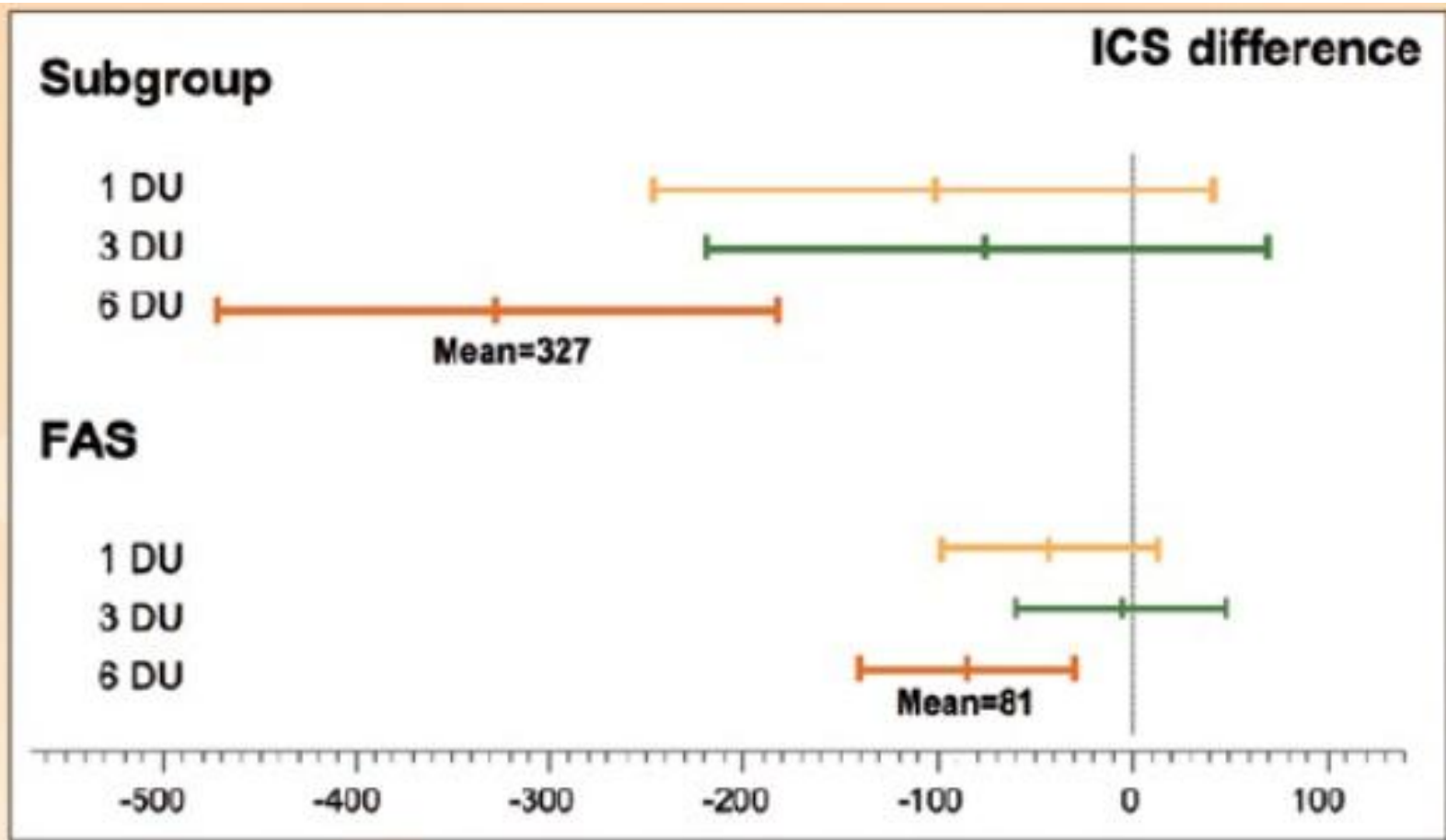


	N	Change from baseline		Diff vs placebo
		Median	%	
Placebo	143	-100 µg	-25%	-
6 DU	156	-200 µg	-50%	-100 µg

Confirmatory phase III trial programme being planned



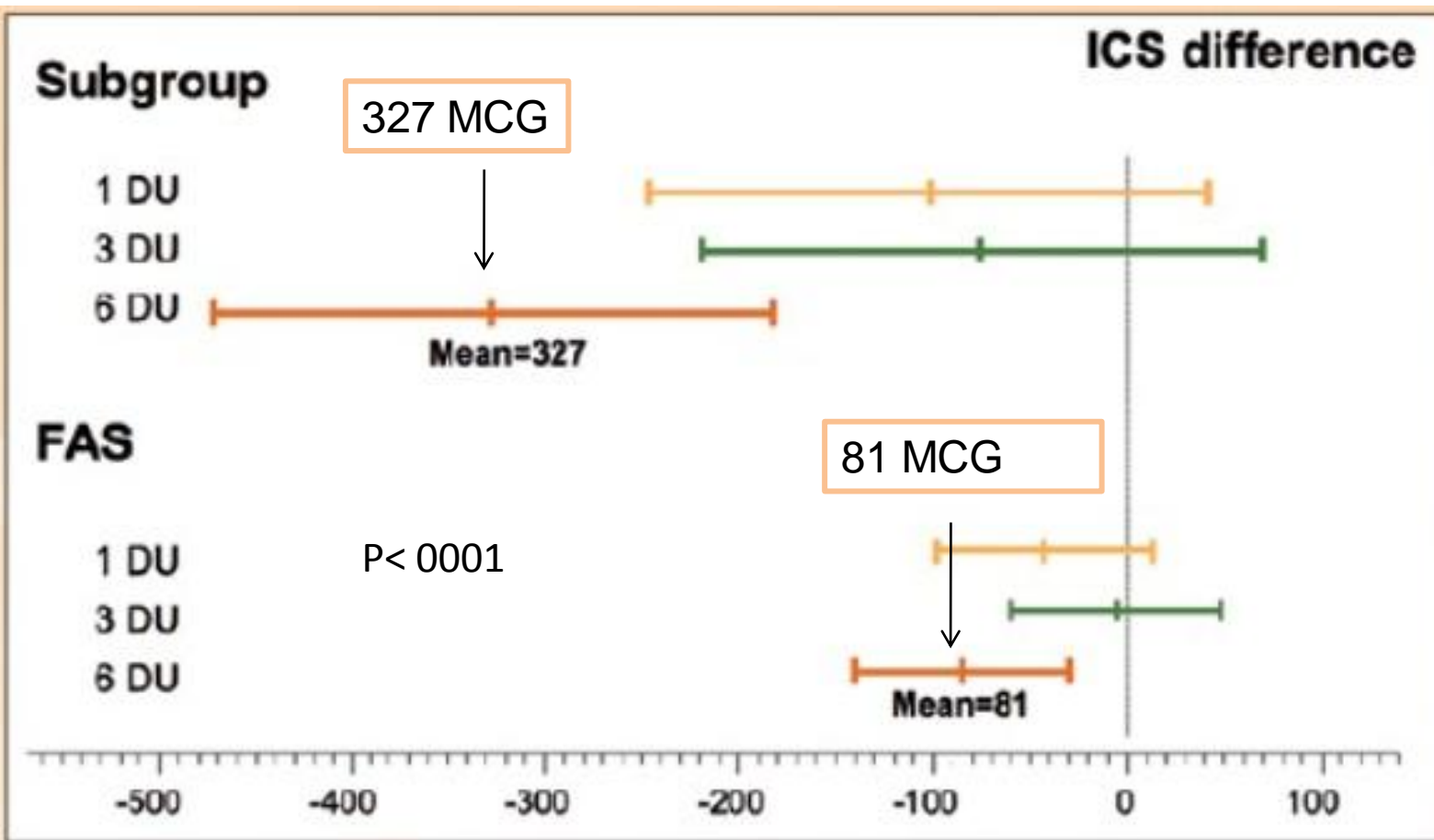
Post Hoc analysis: presented EACCI 2011: de Blay,Riis,Canonica



**Figure 1:** Difference to placebo in reduction of ICS ( $\mu\text{g}$ ) with 95% confidence intervals; FAS: full analysis set (N=604); Subgroup: daily ICS use of 400-800  $\mu\text{g}$  and ACQ score of 1-1.5 (N=108)

Sub group: ACQ 1-1.5, Max dose bud 800 mcg

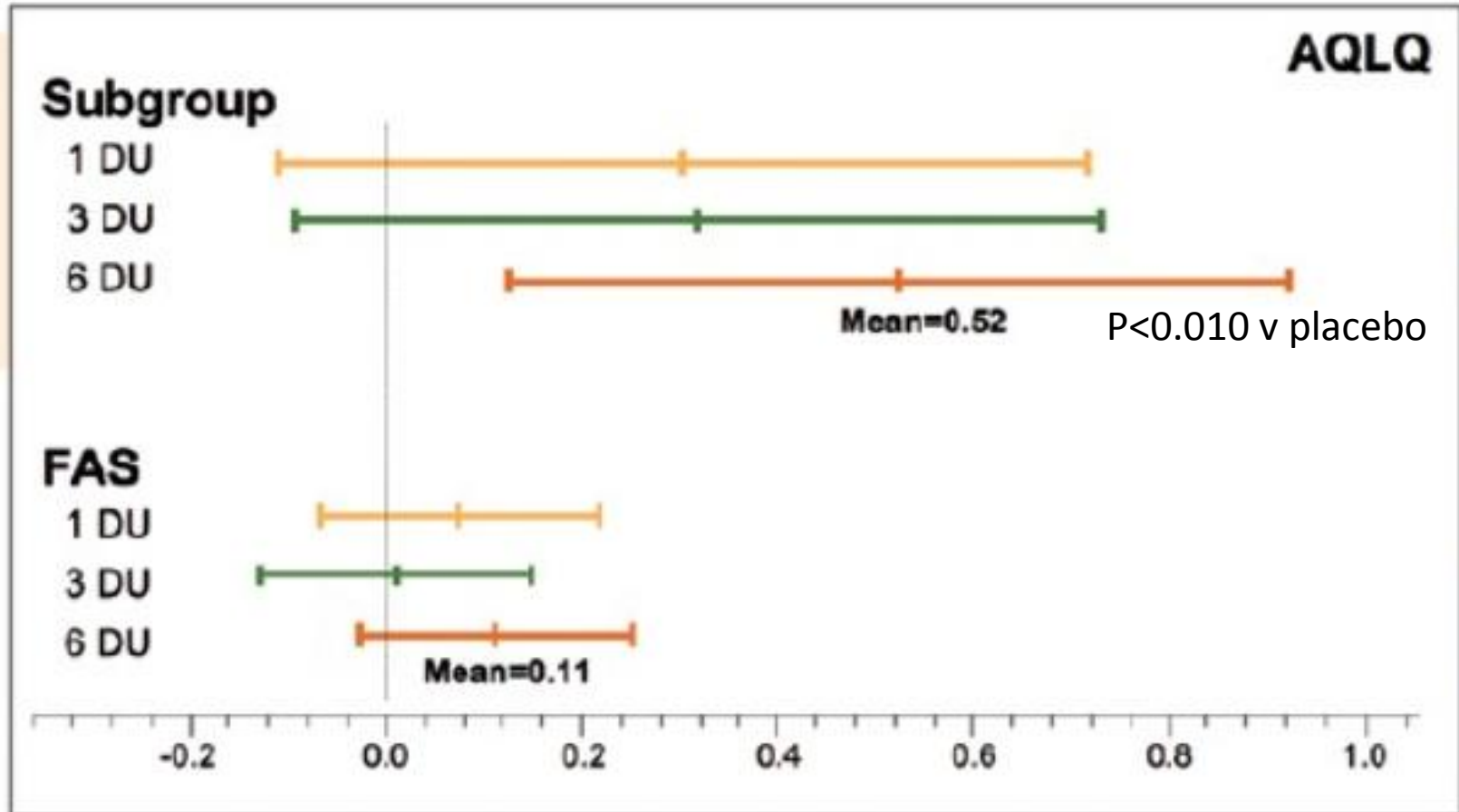
Post Hoc analysis: presented EACCI: de Blay,Riis,Canonica



**Figure 1:** Difference to placebo in reduction of ICS ( $\mu\text{g}$ ) with 95% confidence intervals; FAS: full analysis set (N=604); Subgroup: daily ICS use of 400-800  $\mu\text{g}$  and ACQ score of 1-1.5 (N=108)

Sub group: ACG 1-1.5, dose bud 400-800 mcg

Post Hoc analysis: presented EACCI: de Blay,Riis,Canonica



**Figure 2:** Difference to placebo in overall AQLQ with 95% confidence intervals; FAS: full analysis set (N=604); Subgroup: daily ICS use of 400-800 µg and ACQ score of 1-1.5 (N=108)

# Long term evidence for sublingual immunotherapy

# Immunotherapy:

how do subcutaneous and sublingual compare on evidence

	Subcutaneous	Sublingual
Efficacy	Proven <sup>1-6</sup>	<b>Proven<sup>7-9</sup></b>
Long-term efficacy	Proven <sup>1-4</sup>	<b>Anticipated<sup>7</sup></b>

1. Durham SR *et al. NEJM* 1999
2. Jacobsen L *et al. Allergy* 1997
3. Hedlin G *et al. JACI* 1995
4. Mosbech H *et al. Allergy* 1988
5. Frew AJ *et al. JACI* 2006
6. Möller C *et al. JACI* 2002
7. Di Rienzo V *et al. Clin Exp Allergy* 2003
8. Novembre E *et al. JACI* 2004
9. Dahl *et al. Allergy* 2006

# Long term efficacy of immunotherapy

**3 years treatment with subcutaneous immunotherapy has been shown to be effective to give at least 6 years benefit after treatment<sup>1</sup>**



**3 years continuous treatment with Grazax is under evaluation (clinical study GT-08)**

**Study is in its 3rd year**

*The World Health Organisation position paper states that many clinicians advise 3-5 years of therapy for patients who have had a good therapeutic response<sup>2</sup>*

1. Jacobsen L *et al.* *Allergy* 1997

2. Bousquet *et al.*, WHO Position Paper, *JACI* 1998



Could Primary care assist in delivering tolerance induction to allergens?

Se puede atención primaria ayudar a entregar la inducción de tolerancia a los alérgenos?



Hypoallergenic foods  
Alimentos hipoalérgicos



Aggressive cleaning  
Limpieza agresiva



Pet removal  
eliminación de animales domésticos

# Could Primary care assist in delivering tolerance induction to allergens?

**Avoidance is of little benefit**



Hypoallergenic foods  
Alimentos hipoalergénicos



Aggressive cleaning  
Limpieza agresiva

**Evitación se demuestra un beneficio limitado**



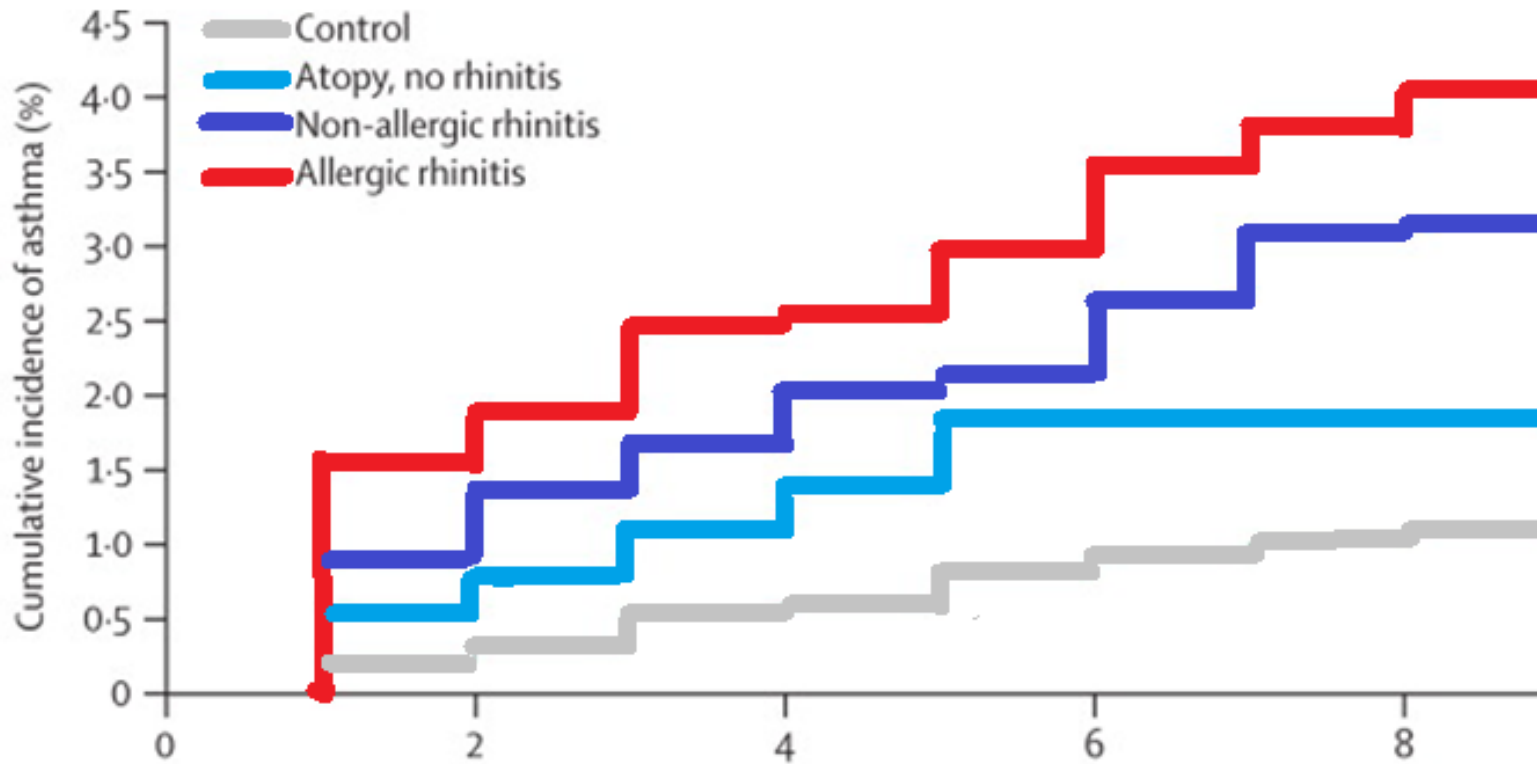
Pet removal  
eliminación de animales domésticos

# Efficacy of sublingual immunotherapy in asthma: systematic review of randomized-clinical trials using the Cochrane Collaboration method

Z. Calamita H. Saconato, A. B. Pelá Á. N. Atallah

25 Studies

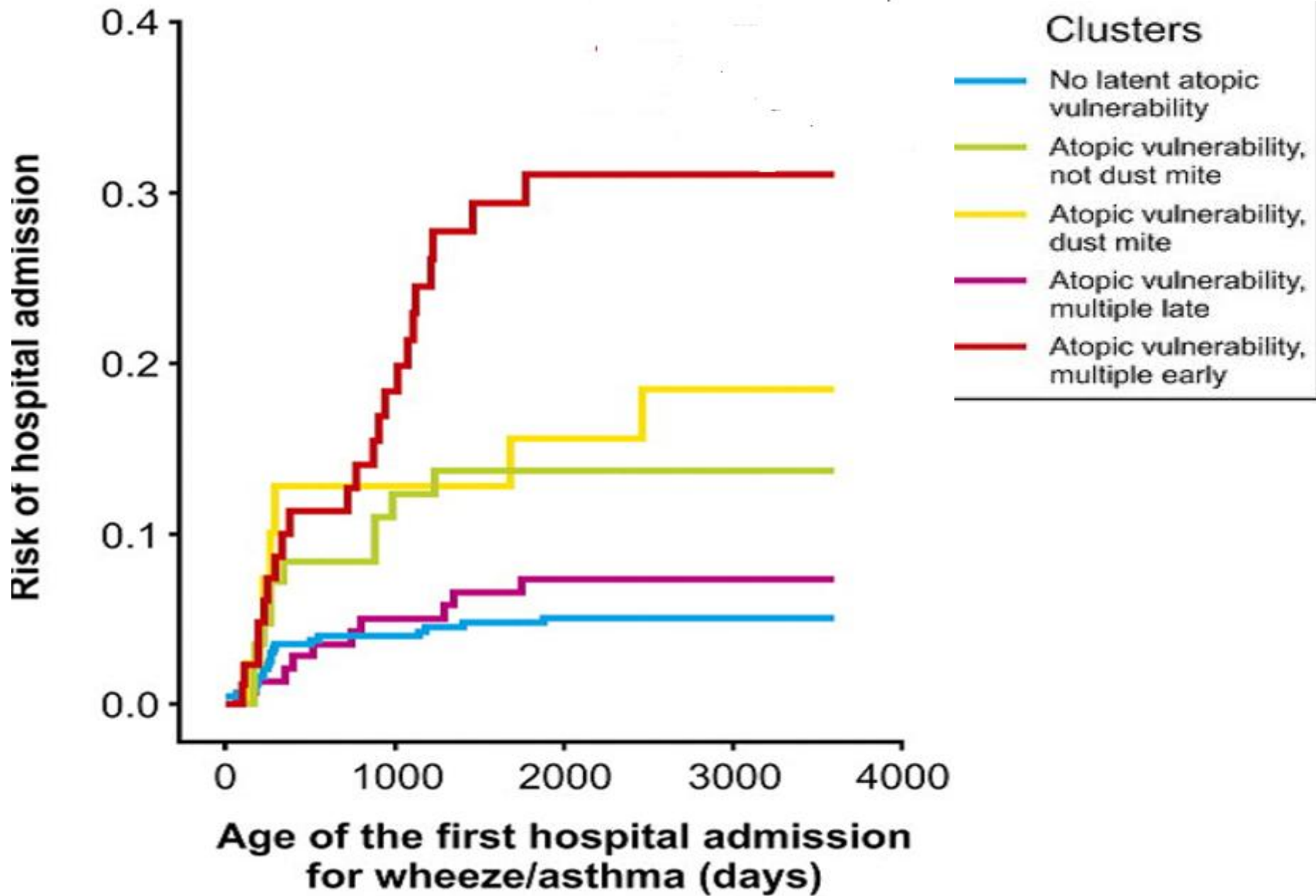
NNT to prevent worsening	3.7
Standardised mean difference	-0.38
Allergy Symptoms SMD	-1.18
Resp function SMD	1.48

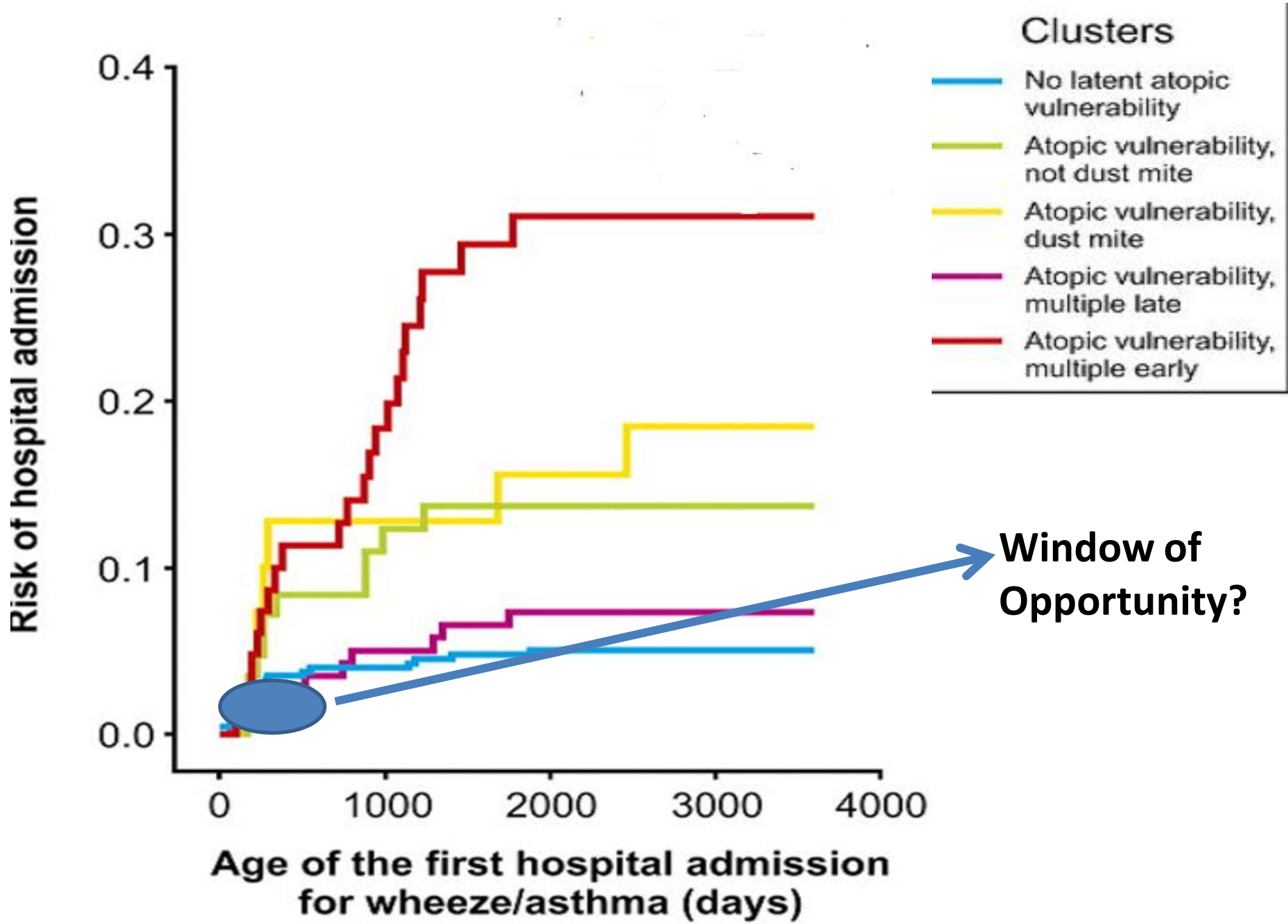


Probability of developing asthma, % (95% CI)

Control	0	0.2 (0.1-0.5)	0.5 (0.3-0.9)	0.8 (0.5-1.2)	1.0 (0.7-1.5)
Atopy, no rhinitis	0	0.6 (0.2-1.5)	1.1 (0.6-2.3)	1.9 (1.1-3.2)	1.9 (1.1-3.2)
Non-allergic rhinitis	0	0.9 (0.5-1.5)	1.7 (1.1-2.5)	2.2 (1.5-3.1)	3.1 (2.3-4.1)
Allergic rhinitis	0	1.6 (1.0-2.4)	2.5 (1.7-3.5)	3.0 (2.2-4.1)	3.8 (2.9-5.1)

***Rhinitis and onset of asthma: a longitudinal population-based study 2008 Lancet 372:1049-57***  
***Shaaban R, Zureik M, Soussan D, et al***





## Summary

- Allergic disease is on the increase
- Early multiple sensitisation is a factor in the genesis of asthma
- HDM is an important component of this

## Hypothesis:

Identifying those with multiple sensitisations

Administering SLIT for HDM/Grass/Pollen could reduce further Allergic sensitisation and reduce the development of asthma

## Unknowns:

Whom?

How Long?

What dose?