

# Nutritional intervention in early Alzheimer's disease

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# Agenda

- Nutrition and brain function
- Single nutrient intervention
- Diet and risk of Alzheimer's disease
- What is an FSMP?
- Souvenaid as a viable management option for AD



# Nutritional need to maintain brain function



- The brain needs specific nutrients to build and maintain its structure<sup>1</sup>
- Nutritional deficiencies are associated with impaired brain function, for example:
  - Omega 3 fatty acid levels affect mood, behaviour, stress, depression and dementia<sup>1-3</sup>
  - Vitamin B deficiency is linked to neurologic disorders and psychologic disturbances<sup>1</sup>
- The need to supply specific nutrients to the brain may be increased in neurological disease, such as AD<sup>4</sup>

# Single nutrient interventions in AD/MCI: in general no beneficial effects on cognition



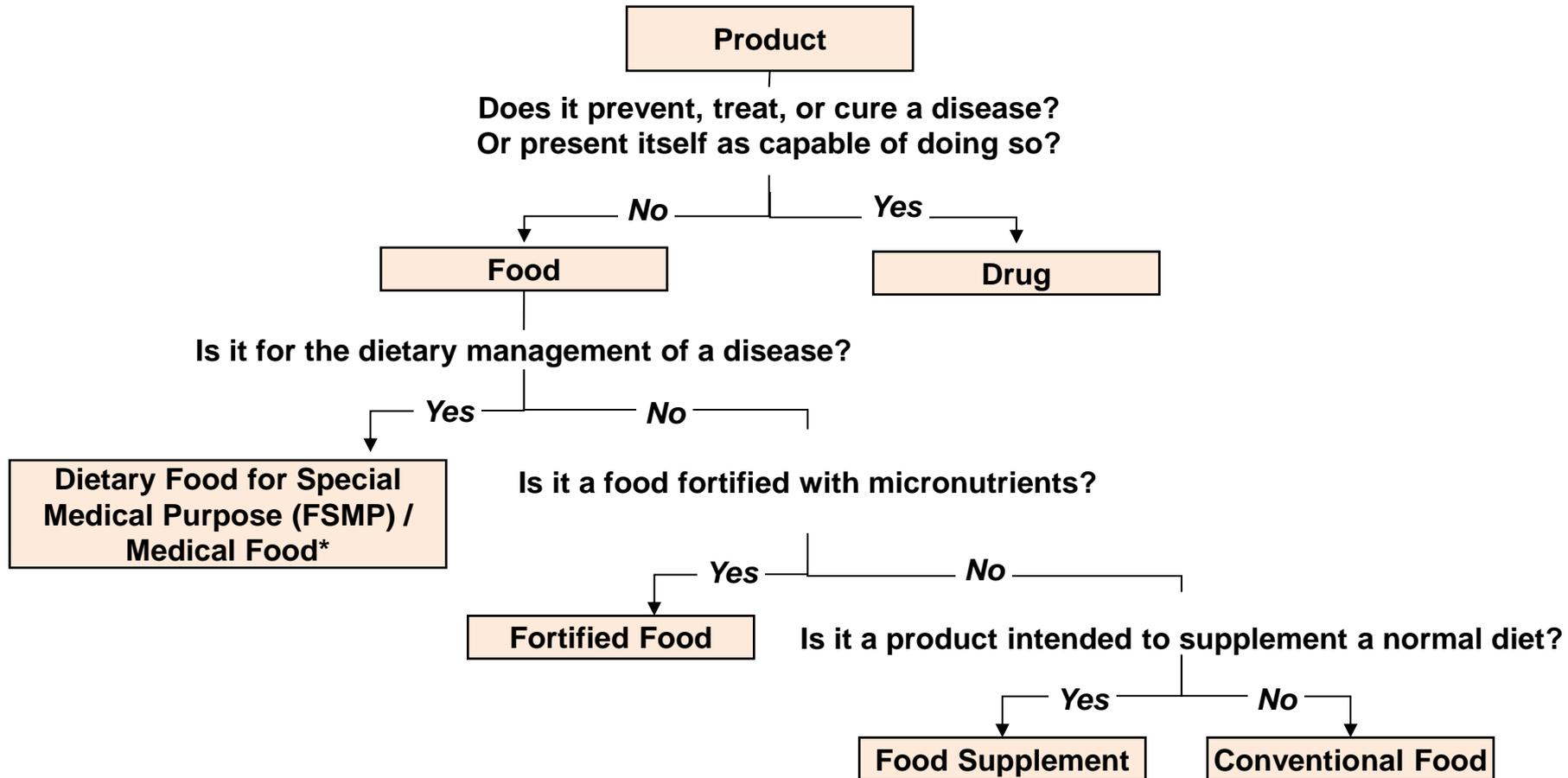
Nutrient	Author	Journal	#Subjects/ Duration	Outcome
n3 PUFAs	Quinn 2010	JAMA	 402 18 months	DHA compared with placebo <b>did not slow the rate of cognitive and functional decline</b> in mild-moderate AD patients.
	Freund-Levi 2006	Arch Neurol	 174 6 months	Administration of n3PUFA in mild -moderate AD patients did <b>not delay the rate of cognitive decline</b> according to the MMSE or the cognitive portion of the ADAS. However, positive effects were observed in a small group of patients with very mild AD (MMSE>27)
B-vitamins	Aisen 2008	JAMA	 409 18 months	This regimen of high-dose B vitamin supplements does <b>not slow cognitive decline</b> in individuals with mild to moderate AD.
	McMahon 2006	N Eng J Med	 276 24 months	The results of this trial do <b>not support the hypothesis that homocysteine lowering with B vitamins improves cognitive performance.</b>
Vitamin E / Antioxidants	Dysken 2014	JAMA	 304 Mean f-up 27 months	Among patients with mild to moderate AD, 2000 IU/d of <b>alpha-tocopherol compared with placebo resulted in slower functional decline.</b>
	Petersen 2005	N Eng J Med	 769 36 months	Vitamin E had <b>no benefit in patients with mild cognitive impairment.</b>
	Galasko 2012	Arch Neurol	 52 16 weeks	However, this treatment (vitamin E + vitamin C plus $\alpha$ -lipoic acid) raised the caution of <b>faster cognitive decline</b>
Vitamin D2	Stein 2011	J Alz Disease	 32 8 weeks	We conclude that high-dose vitamin D provides <b>no benefit for cognition</b> or disability over low-dose vitamin D in mild-moderate AD
Ginkgo biloba	DeKosky 2008	JAMA	 3069 median f-up 6.1 Y	Ginkgo biloba at 120 mg twice a day was <b>not effective in reducing either the overall incidence rate of dementia or AD incidence</b> in elderly individuals with normal cognition or those with MCI.

# Diet and AD risk



- Epidemiological data has shown an association between certain dietary patterns and a lower risk of AD, e.g.<sup>4</sup>
  - Regular intake of fish (providing PUFAs)<sup>5,6</sup>
  - Mediterranean diet
  - Adherence to nutritional recommendations in middle-age adults is associated with future memory performance<sup>7</sup>
- These data suggest that supplementation with specific combinations of nutrients is more effective in improving cognitive performance than single nutrient supplementation
- AD is multifaceted and heterogenous disease so it is unlikely that a single intervention will be the answer

# Regulatory overview



\* For individuals with distinctive/special dietary needs which cannot be met by modification of normal diet.

# Definition of FSMP

European Union



“.. a category of foods for particular nutritional uses specially processed or formulated and intended for the **dietary management of patients and to be used under medical supervision**. They are intended for the exclusive or partial feeding of patients with a limited, impaired or disturbed capacity to **take, digest, absorb, metabolize or excrete** ordinary foodstuffs or certain nutrients contained therein or metabolites, or with other medically-determined nutrient requirements, whose dietary management **cannot be achieved only by modification of the normal diet**, by other foods for particular nutritional uses, or by a combination of the two” (Directive 1999/21/EC).

FSMPs must be based on sound medical and nutritional principles and that its use in accordance with the manufacture’s instructions is **safe, beneficial and effective in meeting the particular nutritional requirements of the patients** for which it is intended, as **demonstrated by generally accepted scientific data** (Directive 2009/39/EC, repealed/replaced by Regulation 609/2013).

# Souvenaid: an FSMP

Fortasyn™ Connect

Designed to:

UMP  
Omega-3 fatty acids  
Choline  
Phospholipids  
B vitamins  
Antioxidants



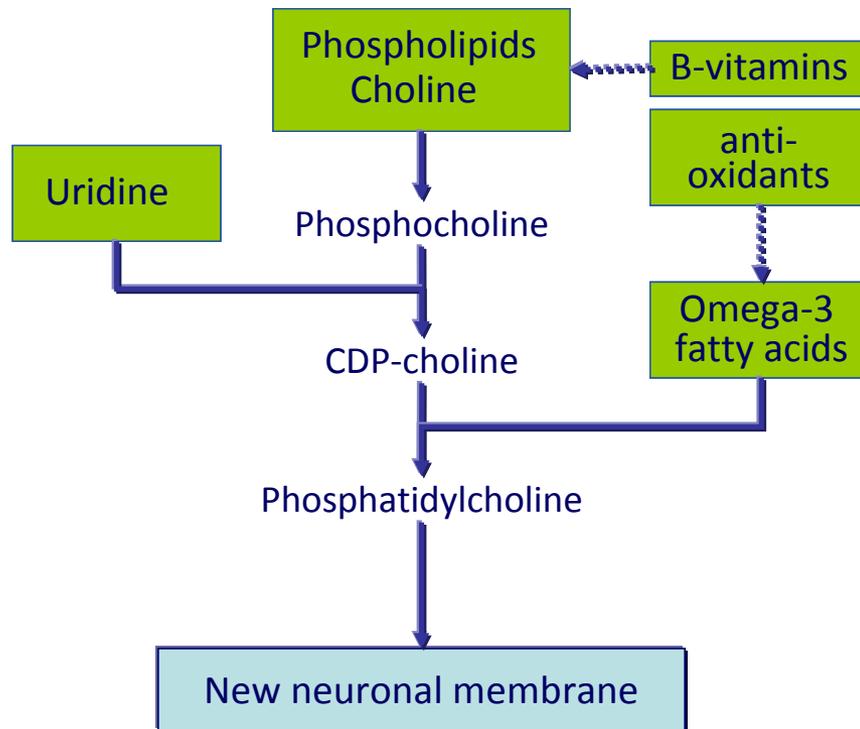
Support the formation  
of synapses



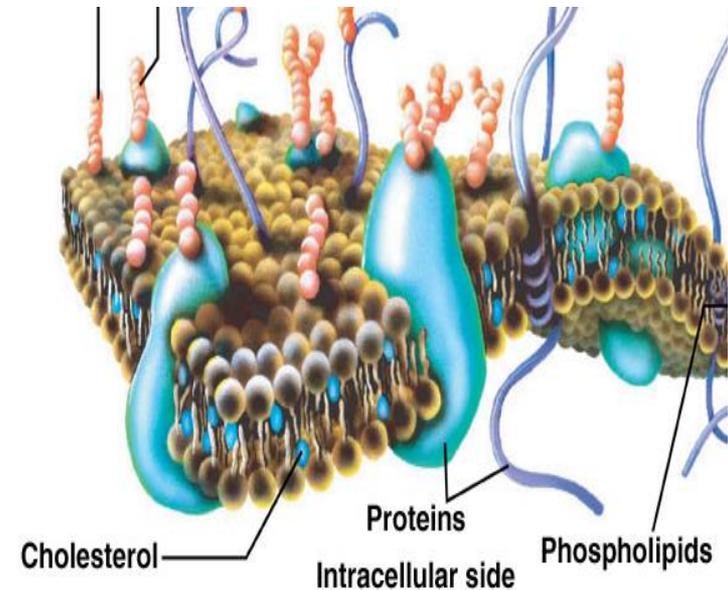
DHA 1200 mg  
EPA 300 mg  
UMP 625 mg  
Choline 400 mg  
Folic acid 400 µg  
B6 1 mg  
B12 3 µg  
Vit C 80 mg  
Vit E 40 mg  
Se 60 µg  
Phospholipids 106mg

# Dietary precursor control of neural membrane synthesis

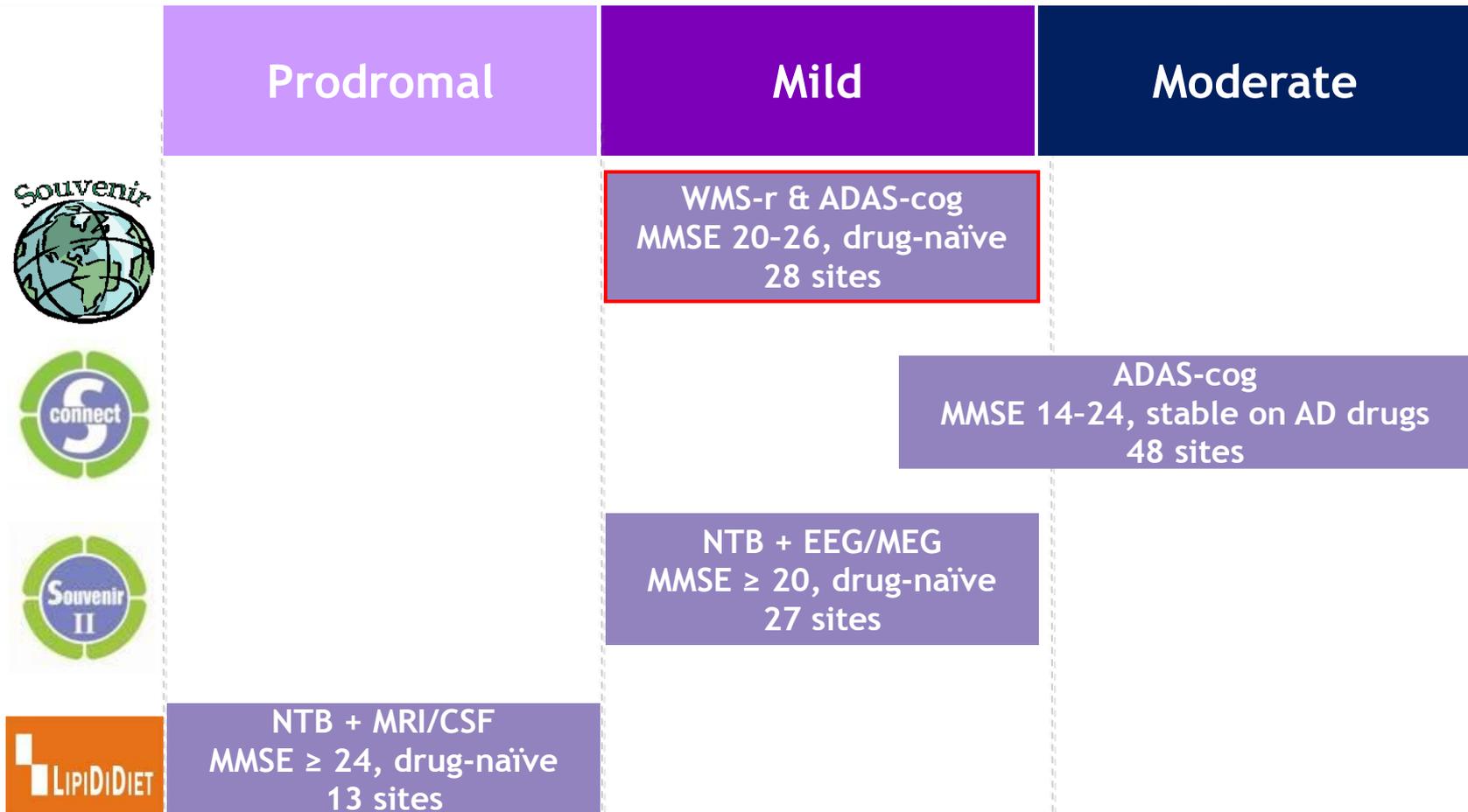
The Kennedy pathway for biosynthesis neuronal membrane



Phospholipids are main constituents of synapses



# Full clinical trial programme



Souvenir I: this project receives funding from NL STW.

Souvenir II: This project receives funding from the NL Food & Nutrition Delta project, FND N° 10003.

LipiDiDiet: Funded by the EU FP7 project LipiDiDiet, Grant Agreement N° 211696.

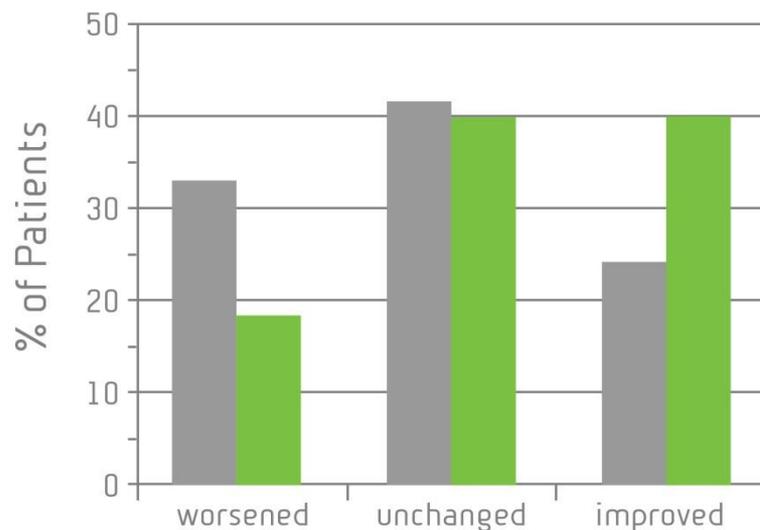
# Souvenir I: Primary endpoint MMSE 20-26, drug-naïve 12 weeks



Delayed verbal memory (Wechsler Memory Scale - recall task)

Significantly more responders in mild AD after 12 weeks ( $p=0.021$ )\*

Significantly more responders in very mild (MMSE 24-26) AD after 12 weeks ( $p=0.019$ )\*

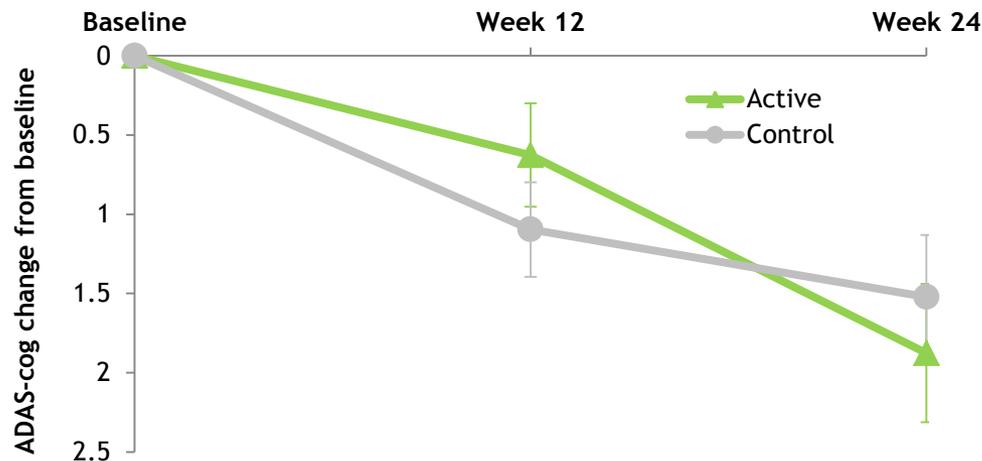


\* Chi-square - skewed distribution: 40% scored 0 on WMS-r @

# S-Connect: Primary endpoint

ADAS-cog 24 weeks, MMSE 14-24, stable on AD drugs

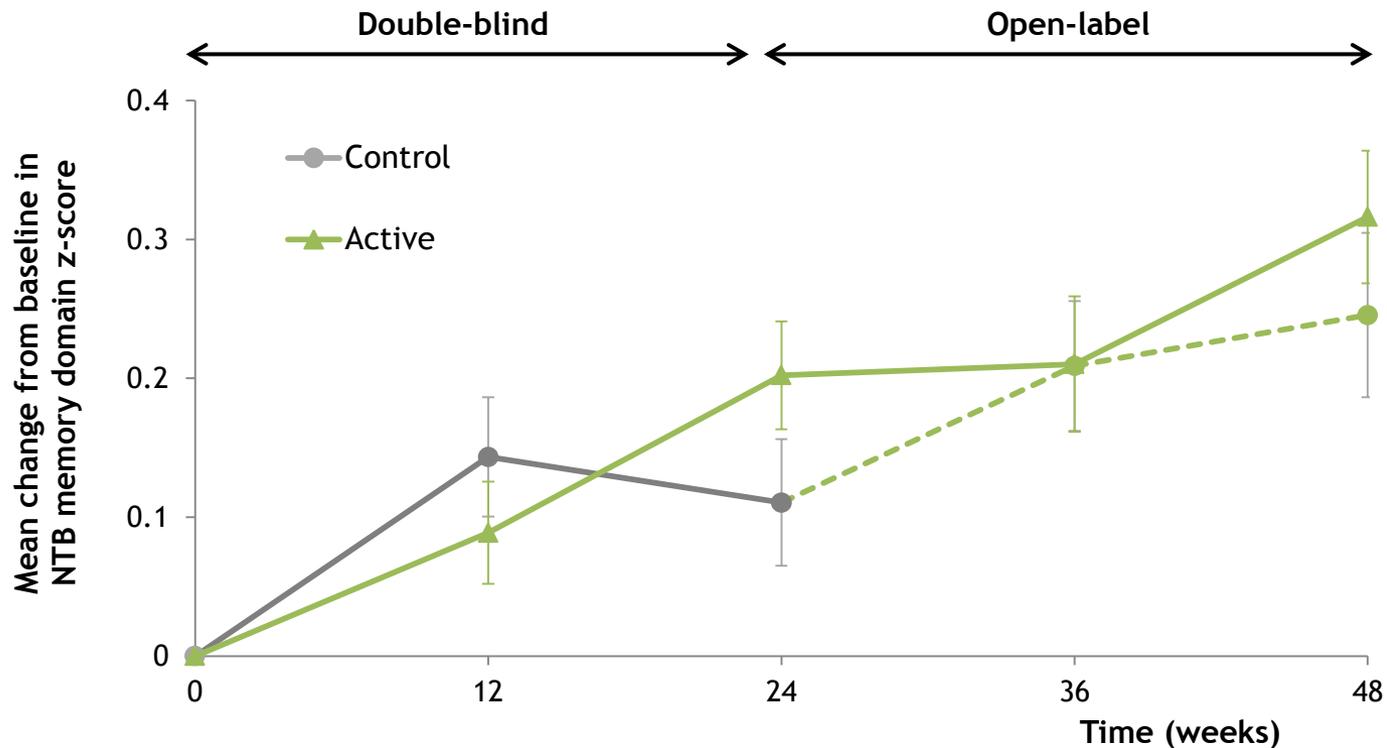
No significant effect\* ( $p=0.513$ ) during 24 weeks



ITT, MMRM, data are mean  $\pm$  SE.

\*Statistical analysis run by Rush Alzheimer's Disease Center, Rush University Medical Center.

# Exploratory Outcome: Sustainable NTB memory domain improvement



	0	12	24	36	48
Control (N)	-	100	103	85	83
Active (N)	-	107	103	83	83

Significant increase from week 24 to week 48 in both groups.  
 Active - Active:  $p=0.038$   
 Control - Active:  $p=0.029$

Thank you for your  
attention

Any questions?