

# + udito & equilibrio: co-fattori della fragilità dell'anziano?

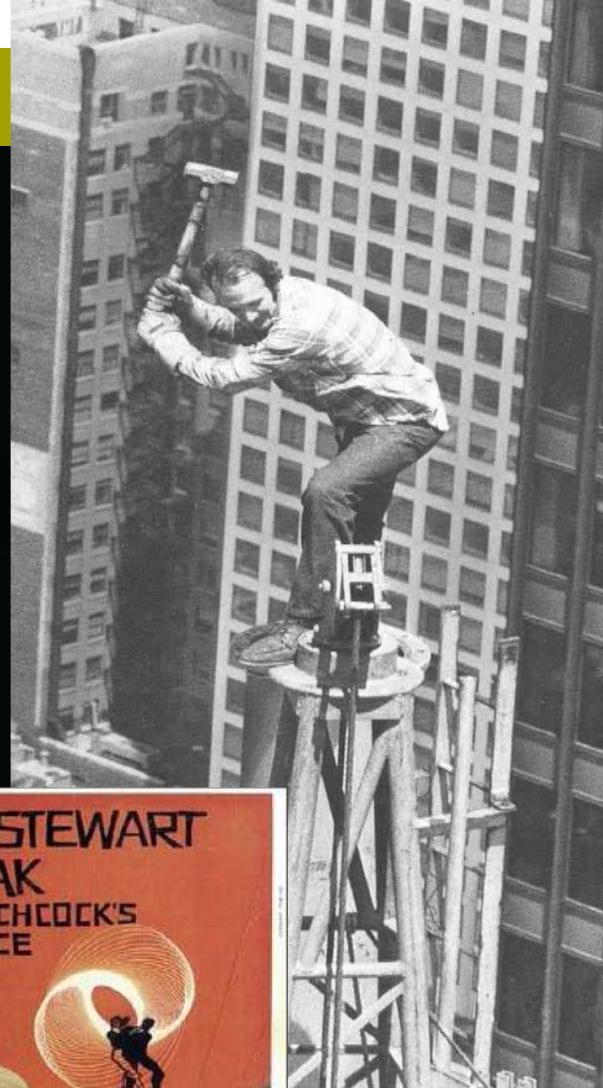
*Alessandro  
Martini*

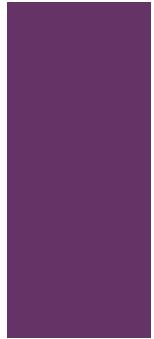


VENERDI' 11 NOVEMBRE 2016  
ORE 15,00  
Aula Magna - Palazzo Bo  
Università di Padova

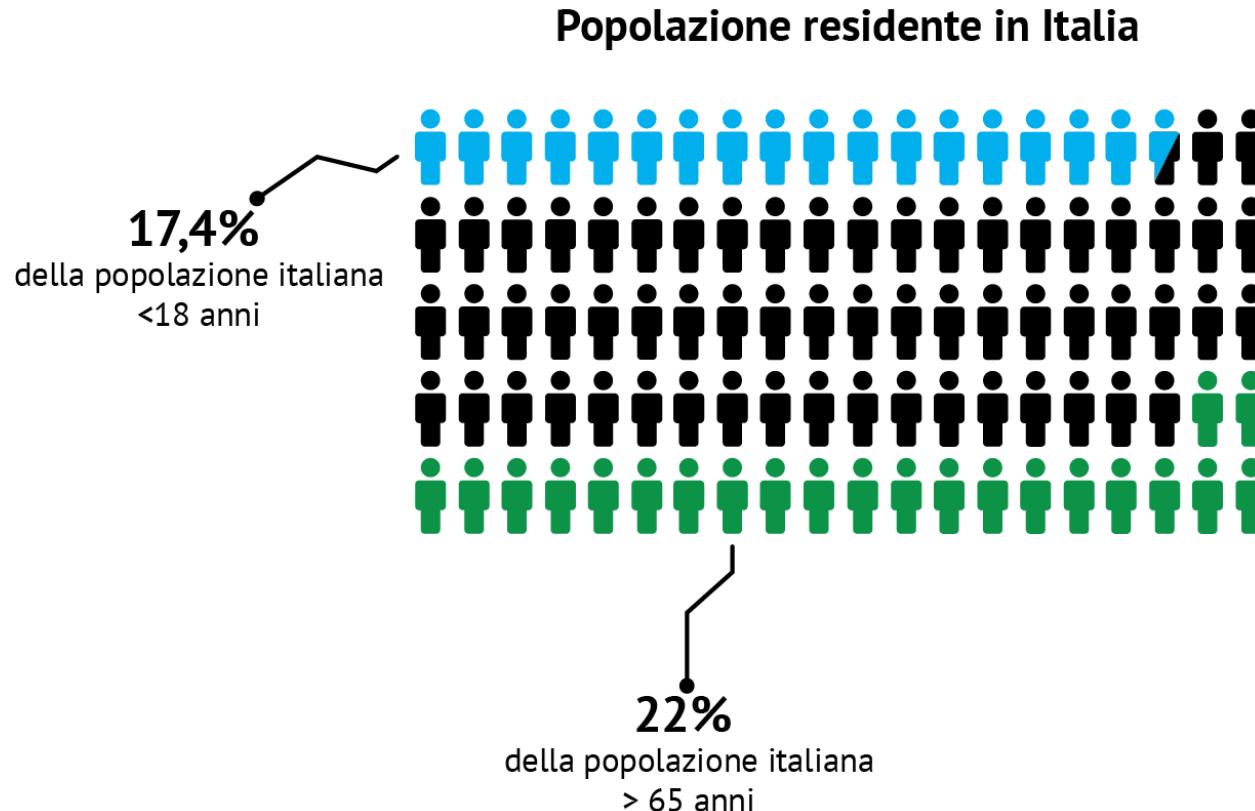
**Invecchiare nel corpo,  
invecchiare nella mente:  
armonie e disarmonie**

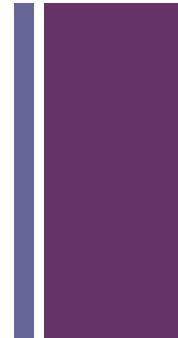
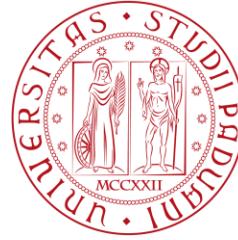
UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI PADOVA  
Facoltà di Medicina e Chirurgia  
Dipartimento di Neuroscienze



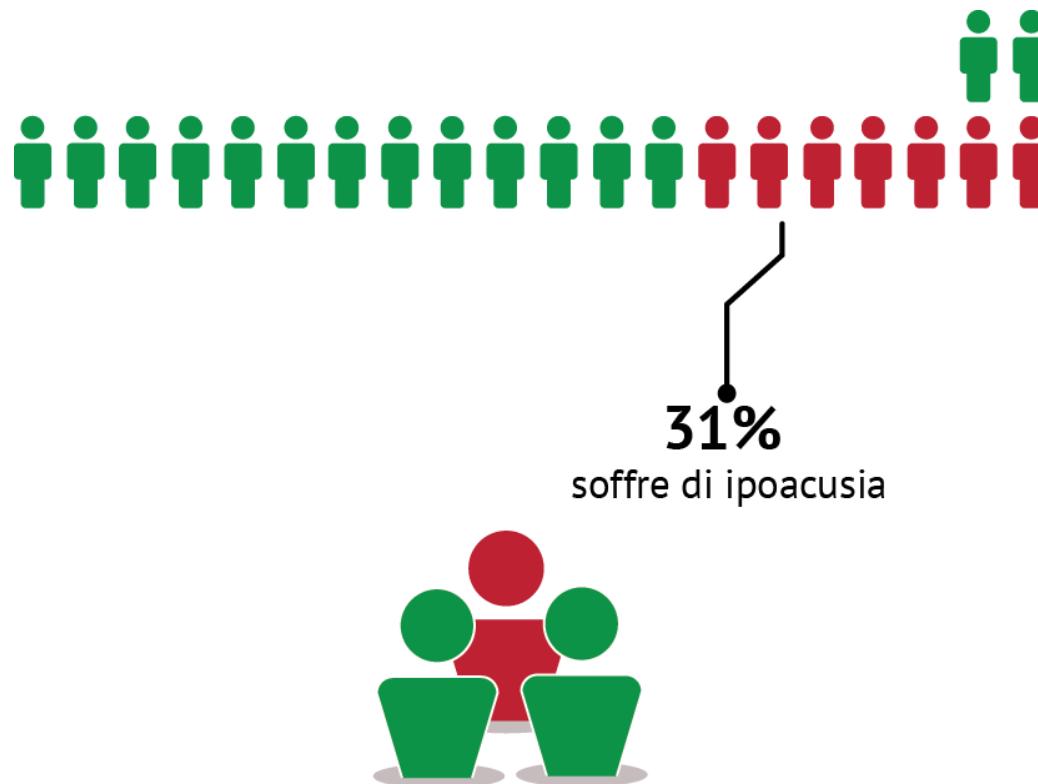


# Epidemiologia della ipoacusia in Italia





# Epidemiologia della ipoacusia in Italia





# La comunicazione umana

- Speech is the main mode of communication
- Hearing impairment (HI) can be compensated
  - – Techn: hearing aids (HA)
  - – Sociocultural: sign language
- Plasticity arises from
  - – HI
  - – Compensation





# La comunicazione in condizioni ...difficili

- – unfamiliar language
- – unfamiliar speaker
- characteristics
- – noise and reverberation
- – HI - masking, filtering,
- distortion
- – fatigue and
- – load
- – (Matty et al., 2012).





## La comunicazione in condizioni ...difficili



- Hearing aids:
  - – May counteract some adverse conditions for persons with HI
  - – But signal processing may actually generate adverse conditions (e.g. distortion)



## La comunicazione in condizioni ...difficili



- demands high level cognitive resources such as working memory (WM)

# + La *working memory* per la comunicazione

- • short-term maintenance and processing of relevant information
- • limited capacity
- • Individual differences
- • children<adults>older adults
- Simple span tasks
  - – E.g. digit span
  - – Storage capacity only
- Complex span tasks
  - – E.g. reading span
  - – Simultaneous storage and processing capacity
- Predict performance on challenging language tasks?
  - The-car-drove-fast "Yes" 71504
  - The-birch-tree-sang" "No" 284936
  - ... 8351609
  - "Fast, sang, ..." 25736184
  - ... 940627135
  - ... 2753180649



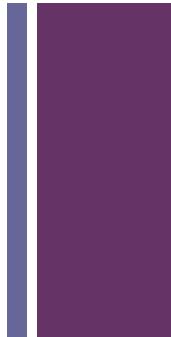


# Aumentare le capacità cognitive

- Phonological
- distinctiveness
- • Semantic context



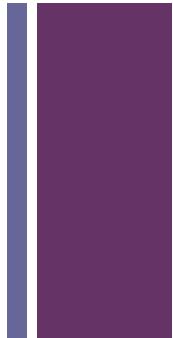
The Suitor's Visit  
(c.1658)  
Gerard Terborch



- Cognition is vital for speech communication under adverse conditions
- • Economic use of cognitive resources may be facilitated by
  - – Phonological distinctness
  - – Semantic coherence
  - – Well fitted hearing aids
  - • Most important in older adults?

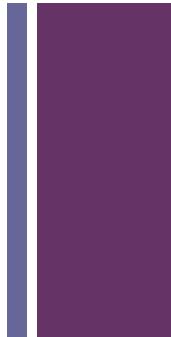


Dante Illuminating Florence with His Poem,  
Domenico di Michelino



- Neurocognitive organisation in deaf native signers – benchmark for understanding the complex interactions between agerelated sensory and cognitive decline as well as audiological, cognitive and social interventions aimed at supporting speech communication.





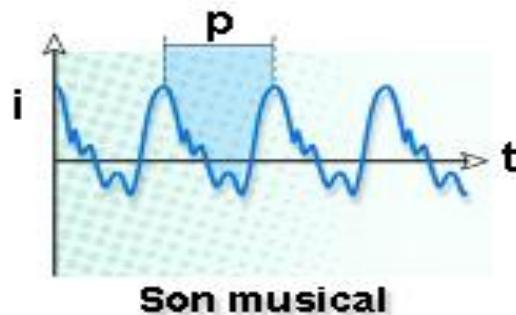
- Come funziona l'orecchio
- Come funziona il rapporto orecchio/cervello
- Poche migliaia di cellule cocleari / milioni di neuroni corteccia uditiva





# Scopo del sistema uditivo

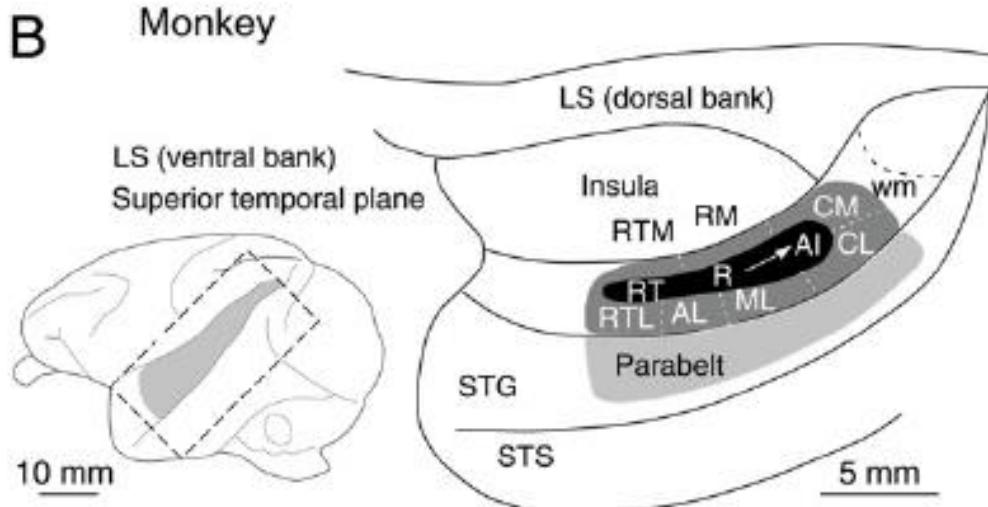
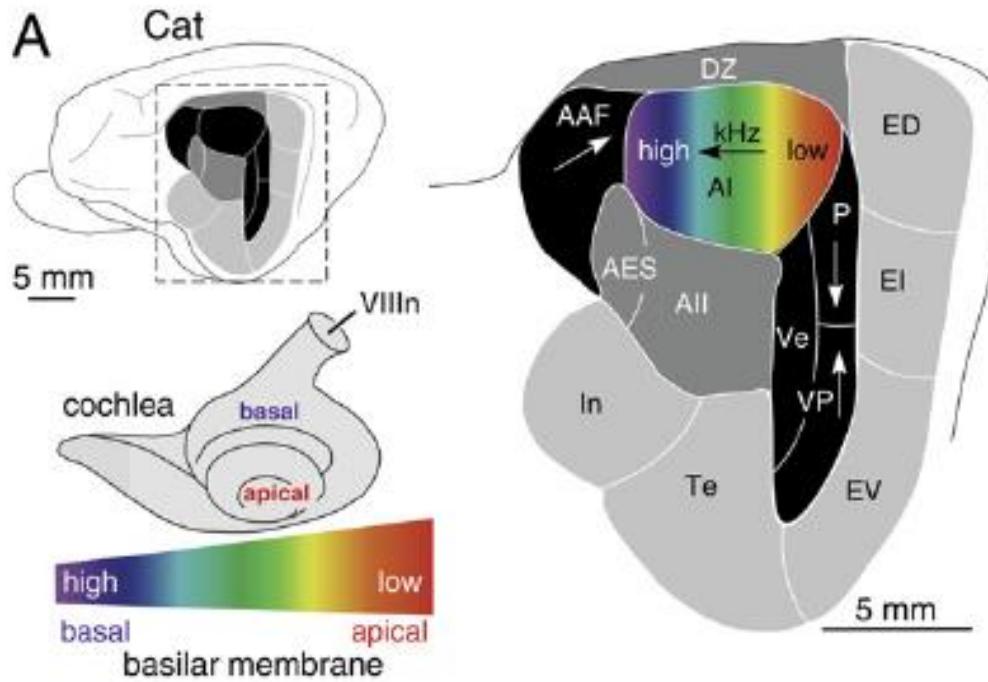
**fonema acustico**



**udito**

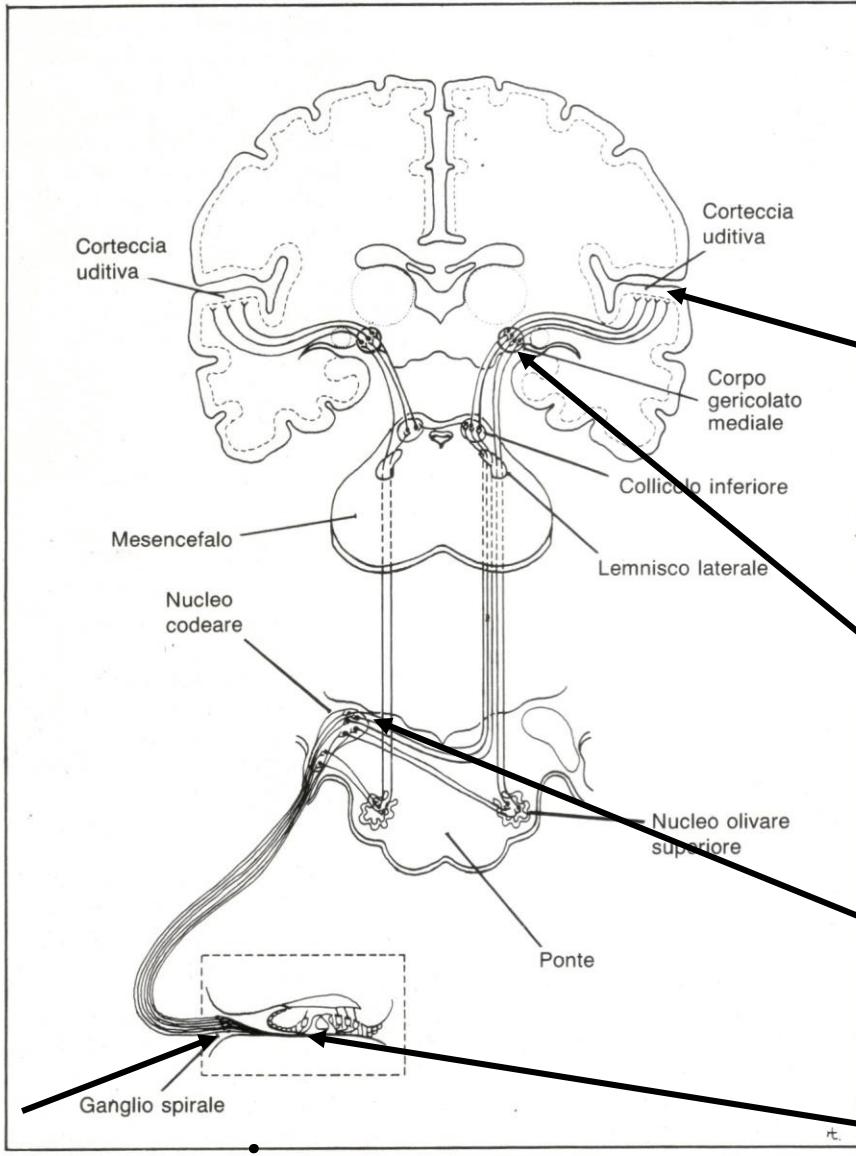
rappresentazione mentale di un animale con quattro gambe che nitrisce (un cavallo)



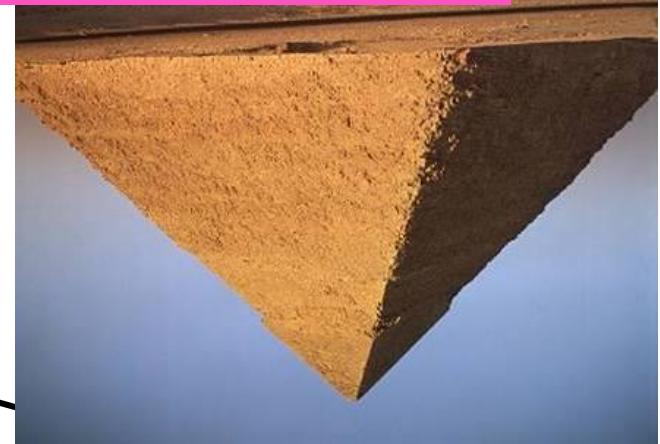


organizzazione della via  
uditiva  
dalla coclea  
alla corteccia uditiva  
*l'auditory processing*

# La piramide rovesciata



**30.000 neuroni**



**10.000.000  
neuroni**

**364.000 neuroni**

**88.000 neuroni**

**3.000 CCI**

+

## L'udito è più «intelligente» della vista??

- «Tra queste stesse <sensazioni>, inoltre, riguardo alle cose necessarie, è migliore la vista, per sé, ma **riguardo all'intelletto, per accidente, è migliore l'udito.** La facoltà della vista, infatti, riporta differenze numerose e varie poiché tutti i corpi partecipano del colore, talché di ciò che è comune si ha sensazione al grado massimo per mezzo suo (intendo comuni forma, grandezza, movimento, numero).
- [1] Aristotele, *La sensazione e i sensibili*, 436 b 12 – 437 a 17, in Aristotele, *L'anima e il corpo*. Parva Naturalia, a cura di Andrea Carbone, Bompiani, Milano 2002.





«L'udito, invece, <riporta> soltanto le differenze del suono, e in pochi <animali> anche quelle della voce. Per accidente, tuttavia, l'uditio concorre alla saggezza in una parte maggiore: il discorso, infatti, è causa di apprendimento una volta che sia stato udito, non per sé bensì per accidente, giacché è composto di nomi e ciascun nome è un simbolo. Pertanto tra quelli che sono privi di una delle due sensazioni fin dalla nascita, i ciechi sono più saggi rispetto ai sordomuti»[1].

- [1] Aristotele, *La sensazione e i sensibili*, 436 b 12 – 437 a 17, in Aristotele, *L'anima e il corpo. Parva Naturalia*, a cura di Andrea Carbone, Bompiani, Milano 2002.

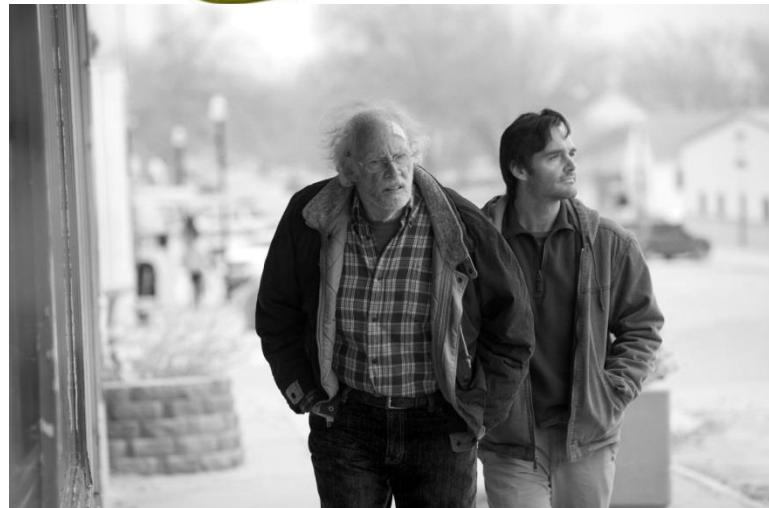
+ ■ L'orecchio non è solo un registratore

■ (come l'occhio non è solo una macchina fotografica)

■ L'orecchio «sente» - il cervello «ascolta»

■ **hearing & listening**

■ Sentire – ascoltare - interpretare- memorizzare - agire



+ L'età media della popolazione mondiale è destinata ad aumentare



L'incidenza del decadimento cognitivo e della demenza aumentano significativamente dopo i 65 anni



Anche la popolazione mondiale è destinata ad aumentare





L'ipoacusia ha una forte correlazione positiva con l'aumentare dell'età nella popolazione anziana

Ipoacusia, decadimento cognitivo ed invecchiamento sono condizioni correlate tra loro





## Prepariamoci ad affrontare grandi numeri

- Il 10% della popolazione mondiale è affetto da problemi uditivi in grado di compromettere le capacità comunicative e di relazione
- Questa percentuale sale al 40% dopo i 65 anni di età
- La demenza, dal canto suo, ha una prevalenza dello 0,4% nella popolazione mondiale, percentuale che sale al 6,4% dopo i 65 anni.

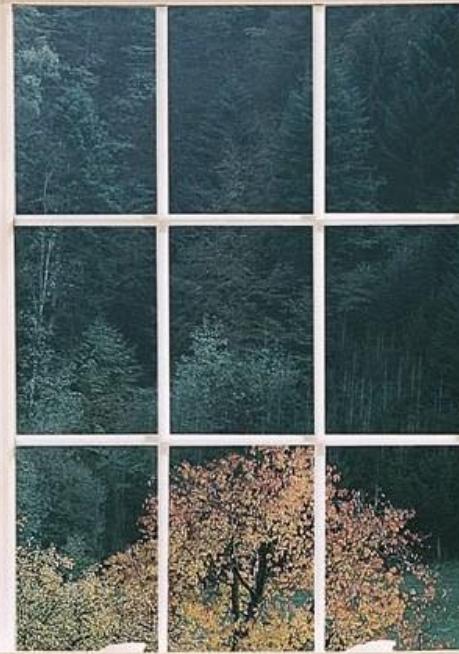
- l'ipoacusia severa è in grado di aumentare, in maniera indipendente rispetto ad altri potenziali fattori, di ben **5 volte il rischio di sviluppare demenza** (Lin et al. 2011).
- Rallentare di un solo anno l'evoluzione del quadro clinico, porterebbe ad una riduzione del 10% del tasso di prevalenza della demenza nella popolazione generale

A close-up photograph of a small, fluffy yellow chick with a pink beak and black eyes. It is positioned next to a large, white, oval-shaped egg. They are resting on a bed of dry, golden-brown straw. The chick is facing towards the left of the frame.

Ipoacusia

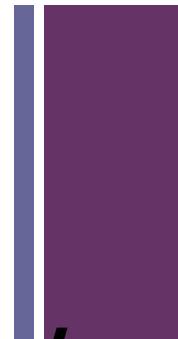
Decadimento  
cognitivo

# *Sistemi Neurosensoriali*



# +Ipoacusia

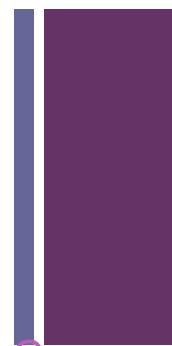
Fattore di rischio



Sintomo/  
Segno  
clinico

Test di screening

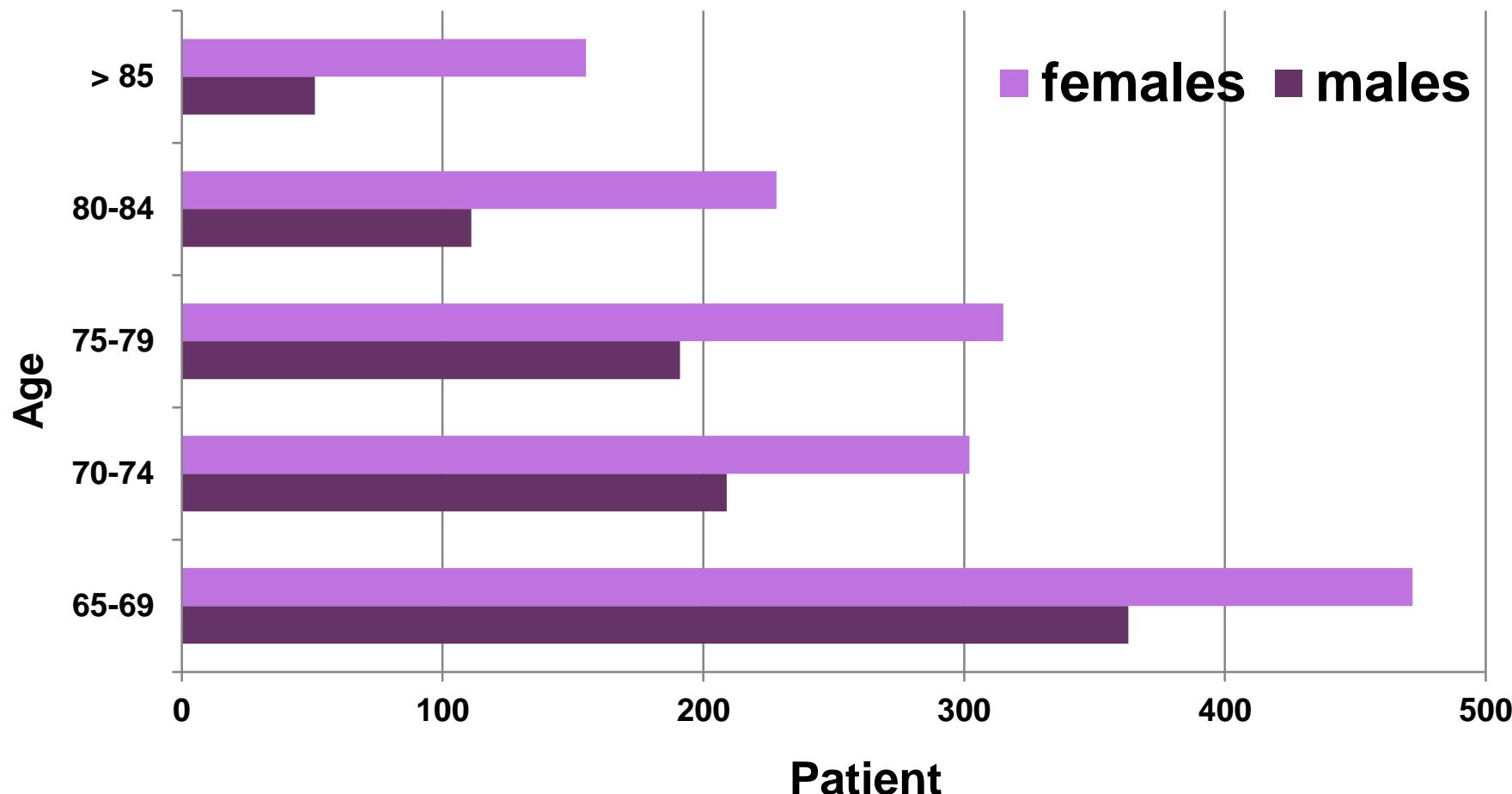
# +Age and Sex distribution of hearing loss

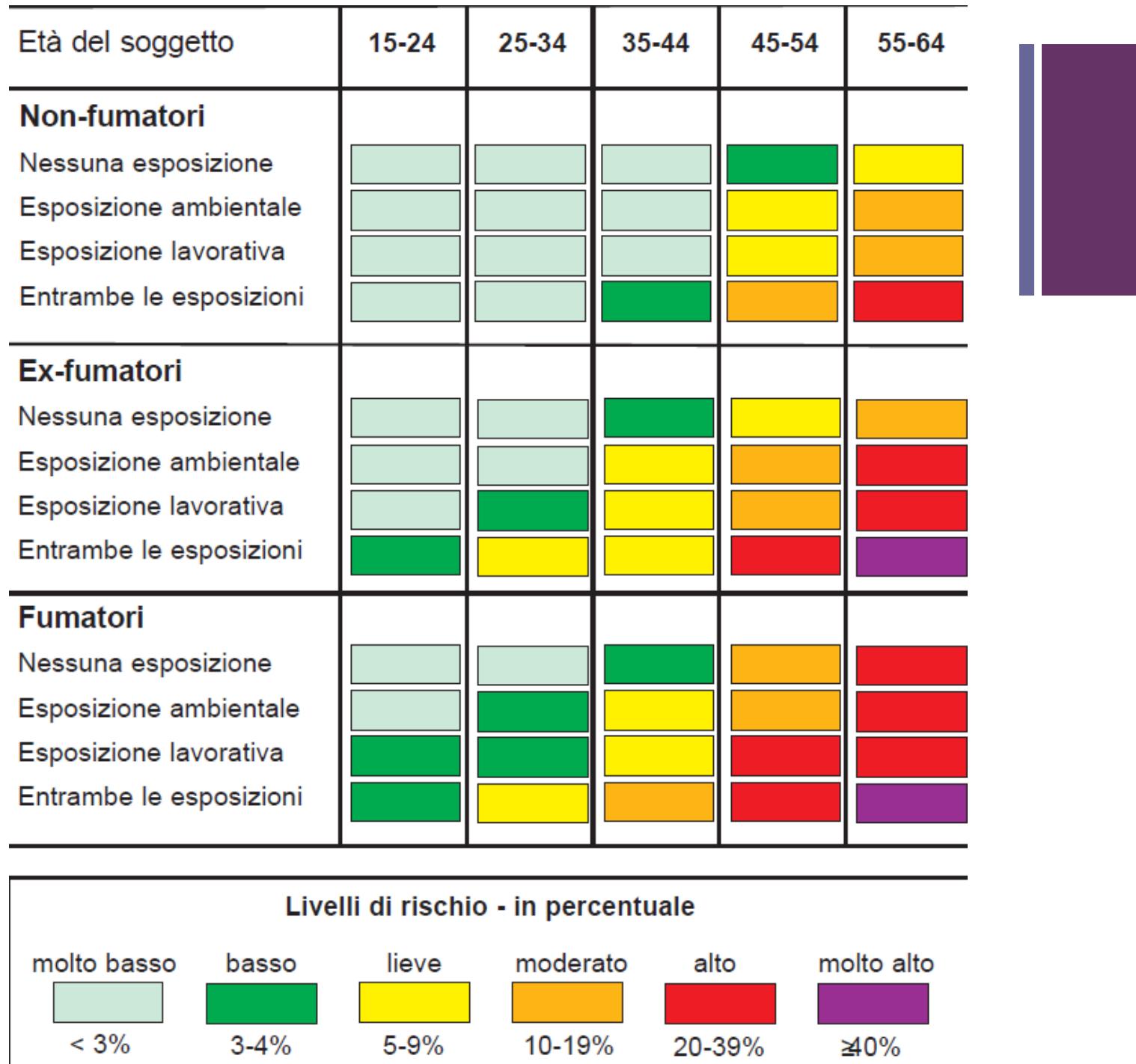


Audiology Volume 40, Issue 6, 2001, Pages 285-293

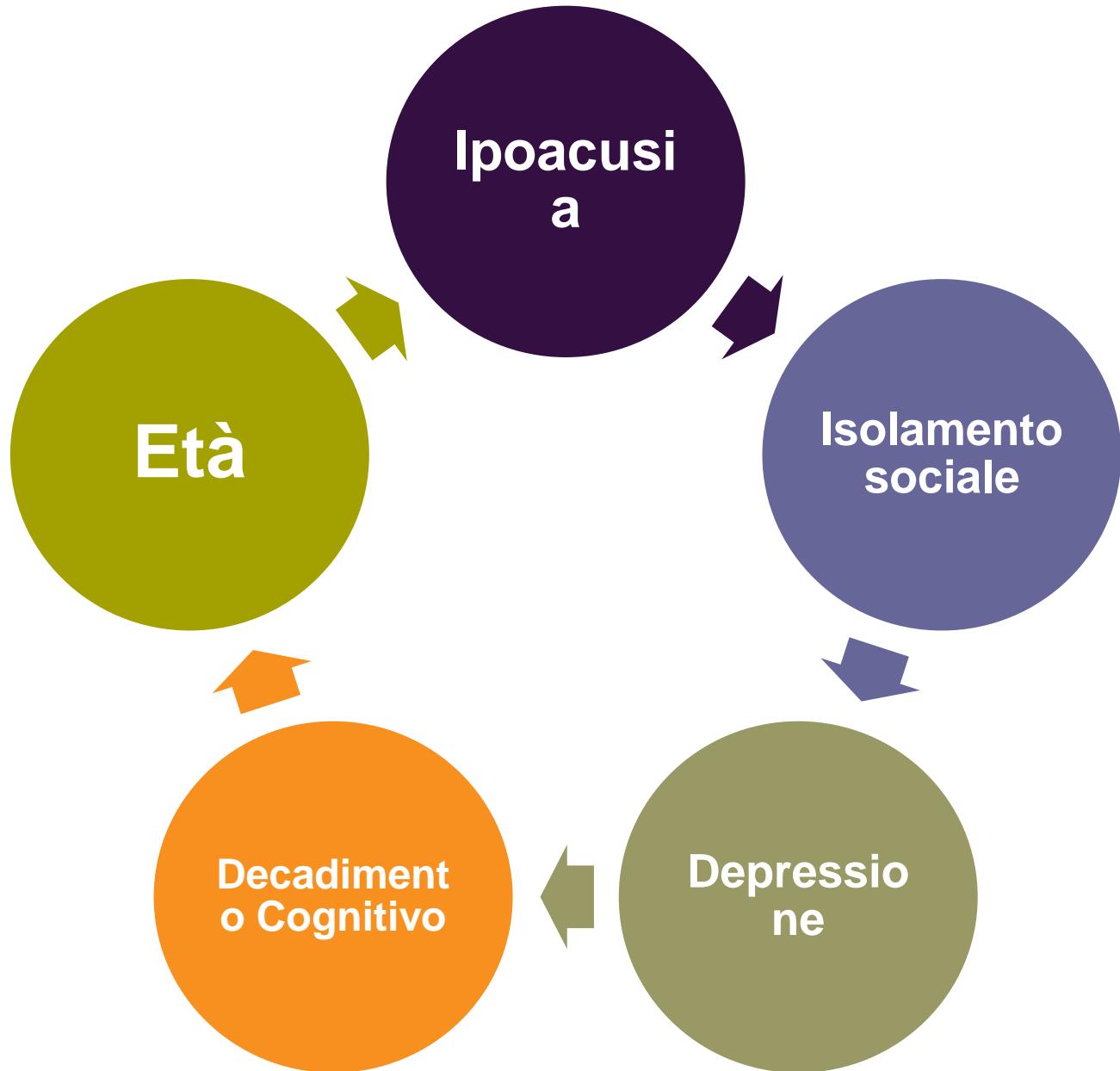
Hearing in the elderly: A population study.

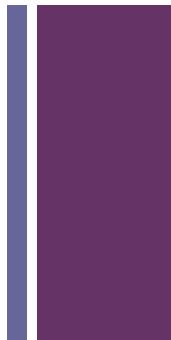
Martini, A., Mazzoli, M., Rosignoli, M., Trevisi, P., Maggi, S., Enzi, G., Crepaldi, G.





# + In ogni caso l'obiettivo è

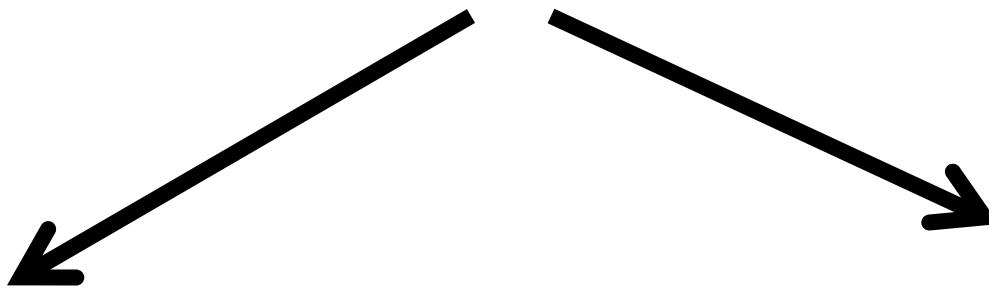




## Fattori

Modificabili

NON  
Modificabili





## **Su quali basi possiamo ipotizzare che la riabilitazione uditiva sia in grado di modificare tali fattori?**

- E' come se noi dovessimo dimostrare che il diabete, può essere trattato con delle protesi acustiche
- Relazione temporale causa effetto: la diagnosi di ipoacusia deve precedere quella di decadimento cognitivo
- Effetti neurologici: sinapsi, liberazione di fattori neurotrofici
- Plasticità



# Cosa sappiamo?

- La riabilitazione uditiva è in grado di migliorare la qualità di vita del paziente
- Può preservare le sinapsi neuronali e l'organizzazione corticale
- È in grado di liberare fattori neurotrofici che potrebbero contrastare processi involutivi
- Può contrastare l'insorgenza di plasticità negativa

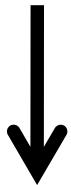
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# la riabilitazione uditiva è realmente efficace?

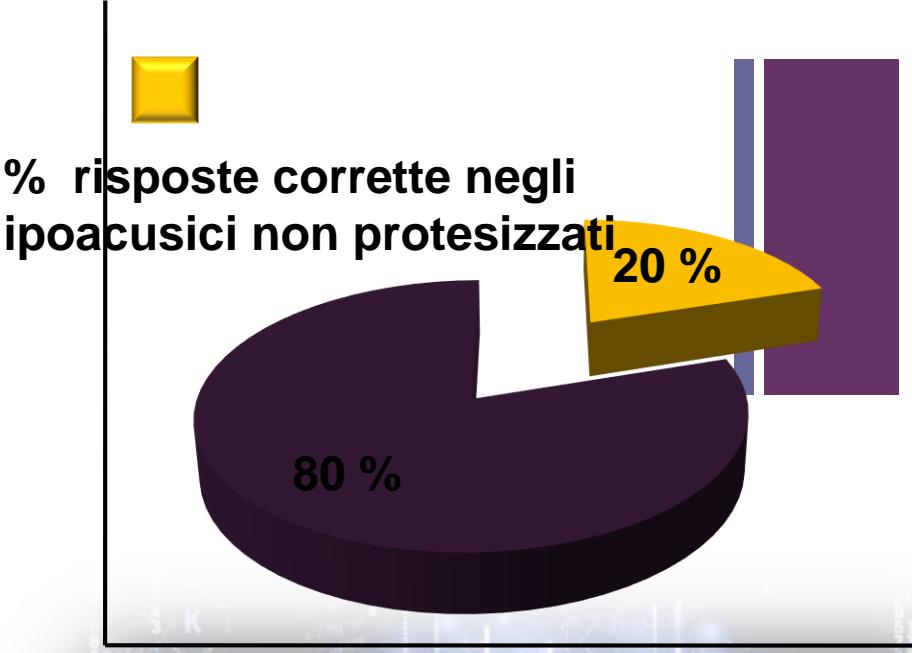
- riduzione dell'isolamento sociale
- miglioramento dell'umore
- preservazione della funzione e della struttura
- delle sinapsi
- riduzione deficit discriminativo
- miglioramento dell'attenzione selettiva



# +Working memory



- Integrazione delle informazioni
- Scelta e pianificazione delle strategie
- Analisi delle dimensioni spaziali
- Visualizzazione e manipolazione delle analisi mentali
- Apprendimento della lettura e delle lingue straniere
- Codifica e comprensione del linguaggio





+

CALO FERTILITA'

AUMENTO LONGEVITA'

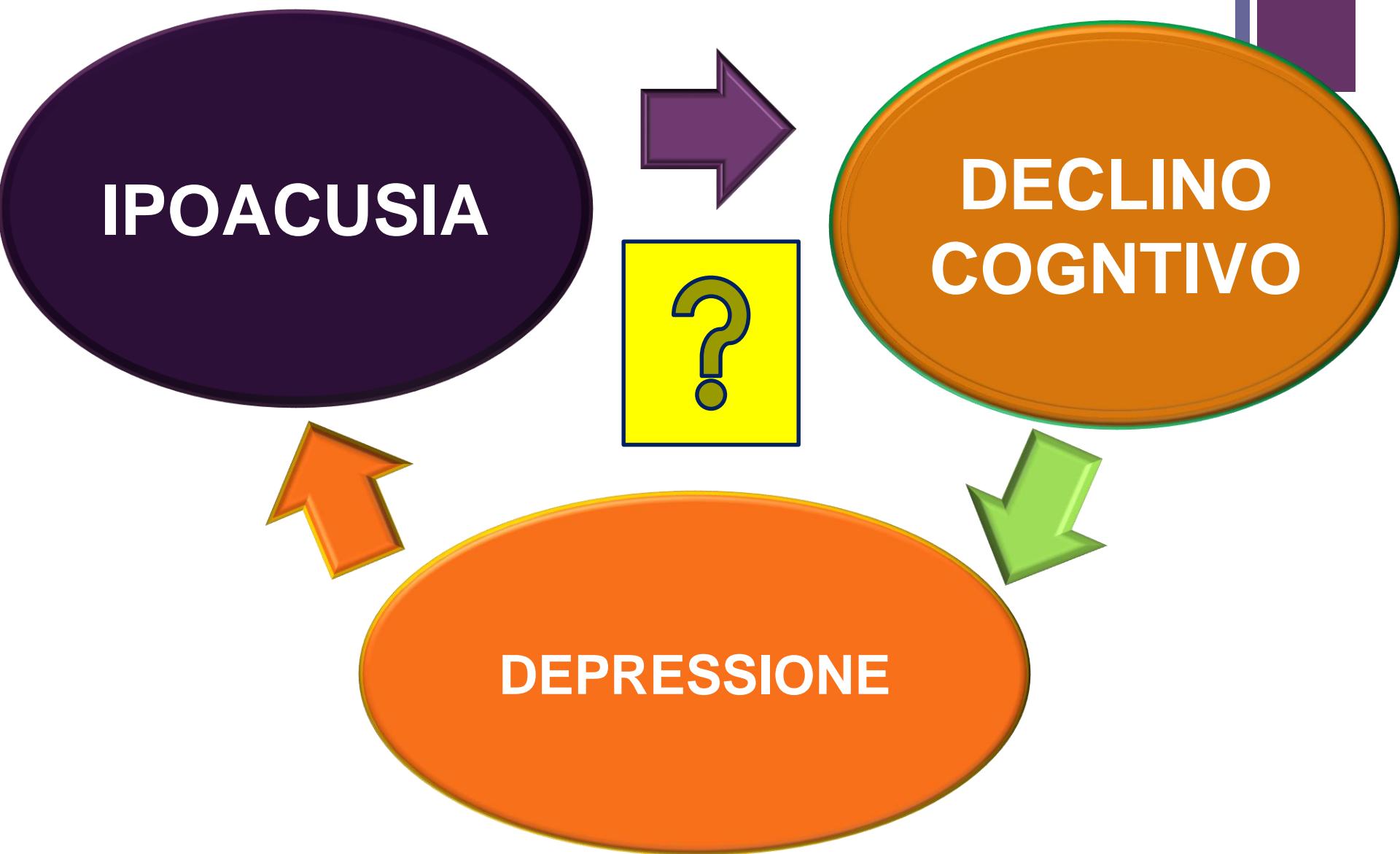
PROGRESSI  
SCIENTIFICI

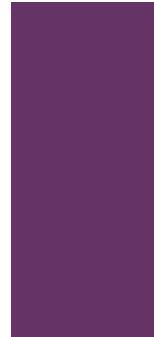
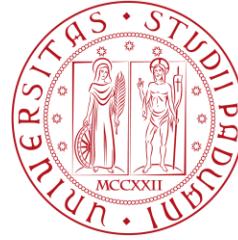
INCREMENTO  
PROBLEMATICHE  
DELL'ETA'  
AVANZATA

CRESCITA  
POPOLAZIONE  
OVER 65



# + FATTORI DI RISCHIO

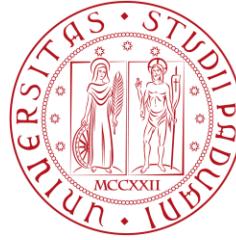




25%  
degli ipoacusici over 65  
decide di protesizzarsi

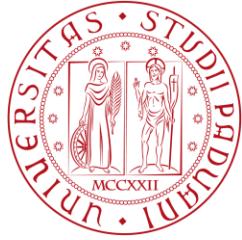


di questi,  
**3 su 10** decidono  
di non utilizzare gli  
apparecchi acustici



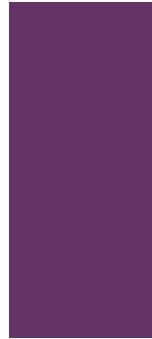
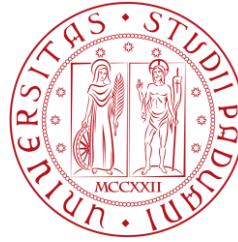
di questi,  
**3 su 10** decidono  
di non utilizzare gli  
apparecchi acustici

- Non riescono a far tornare normale l'udito
- Non funzionano bene in situazioni rumorose
- Ho provato un apparecchio acustico e non ha funzionato



- Non riescono a far tornare normale l'udito
  - Non funzionano bene in situazioni rumorose
  - Ho provato un apparecchio acustico e non ha funzionato

The word cloud is composed of various Italian words related to communication and psychology, such as 'INFORMAZIONE', 'COUNSELING', 'CONSIGLIO', 'IPOACUSIA', 'AIUTO', 'DUBBI', 'FAMIGLIA', 'PARLATO', 'COUNSELOR', and 'COUNSELING'. The words are arranged in a circular pattern, with some words appearing in multiple colors (black, red, blue) and sizes, suggesting different contexts or levels of emphasis.



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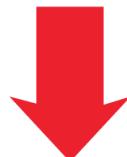
## Dissociazione tono-vocale



**alterazioni di funzioni  
superiori extra-uditive**



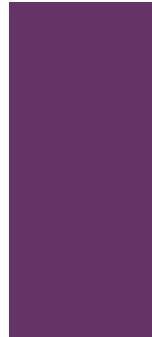
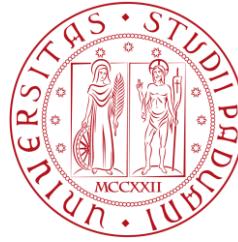
**alterazione  
dell'attenzione  
selettiva**



**alterazione della  
velocità di  
elaborazione**



**alterazione  
della memoria**



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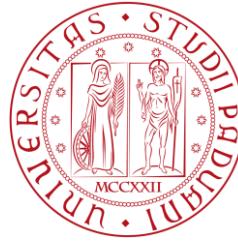
alterazione  
dell'**attenzione**  
**selettiva**

alterazione della  
**velocità di**  
**elaborazione**

alterazione  
della **memoria**



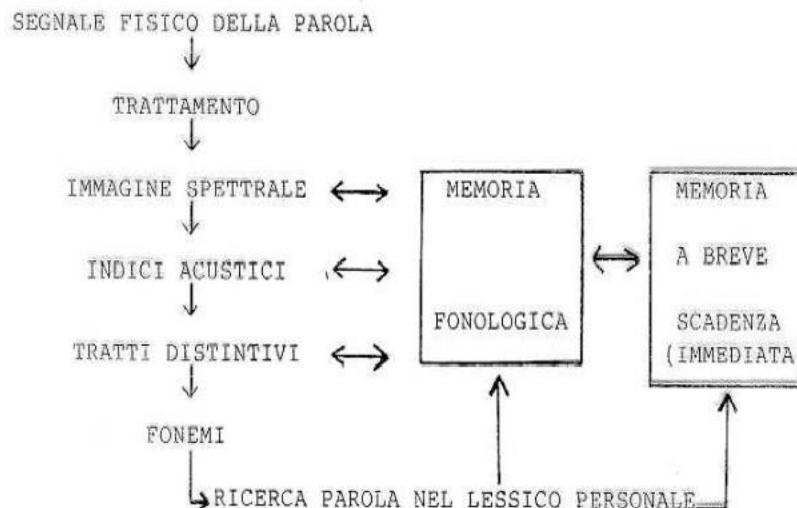
Riduzione della **ridondanza intrinseca**

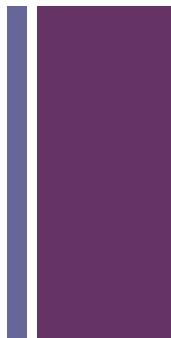


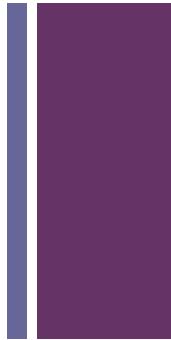
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## MEMORIA A BREVE TERMINE E DISCRIMINAZIONE FONETICA

SPAN

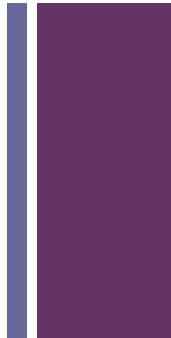
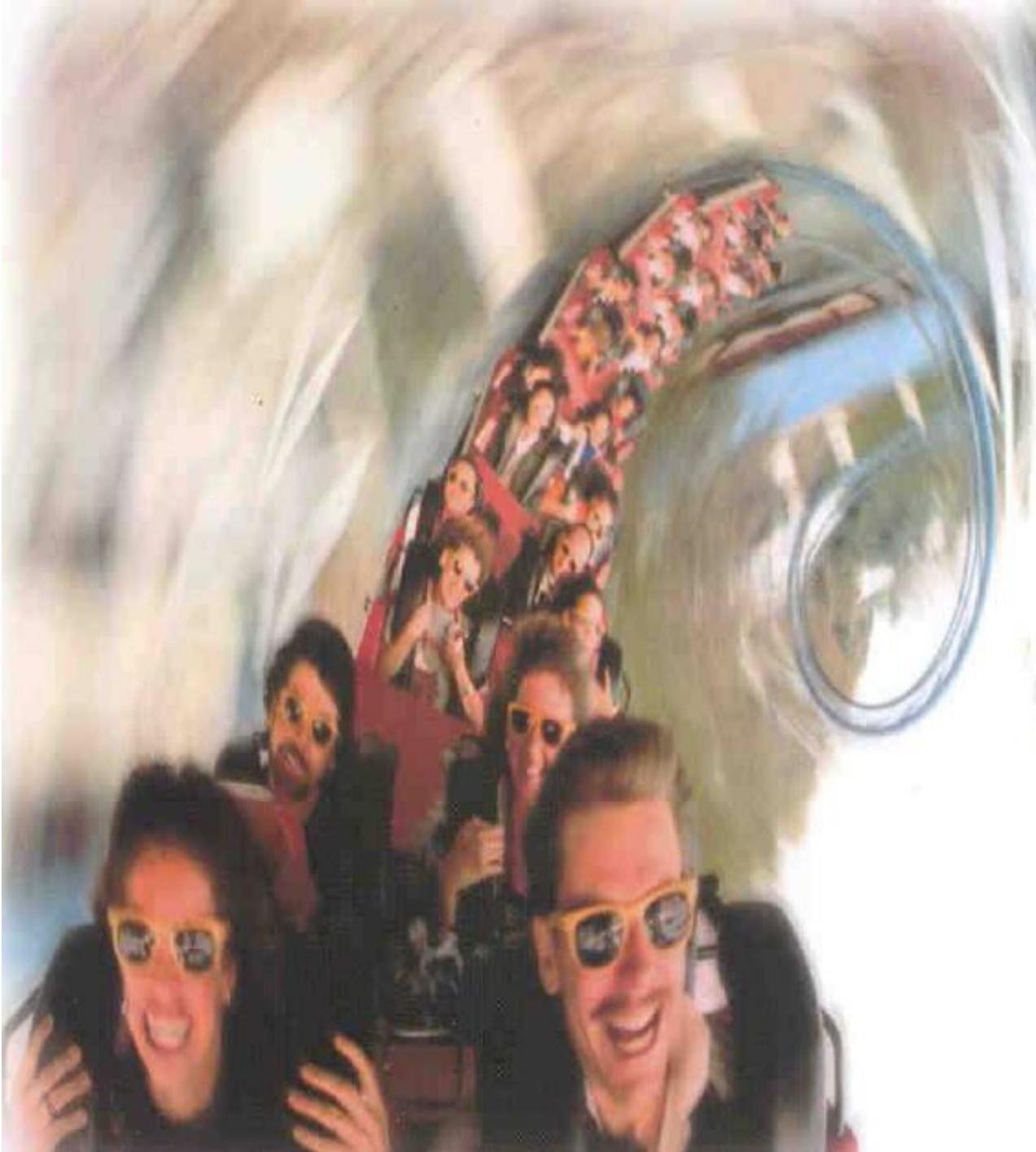




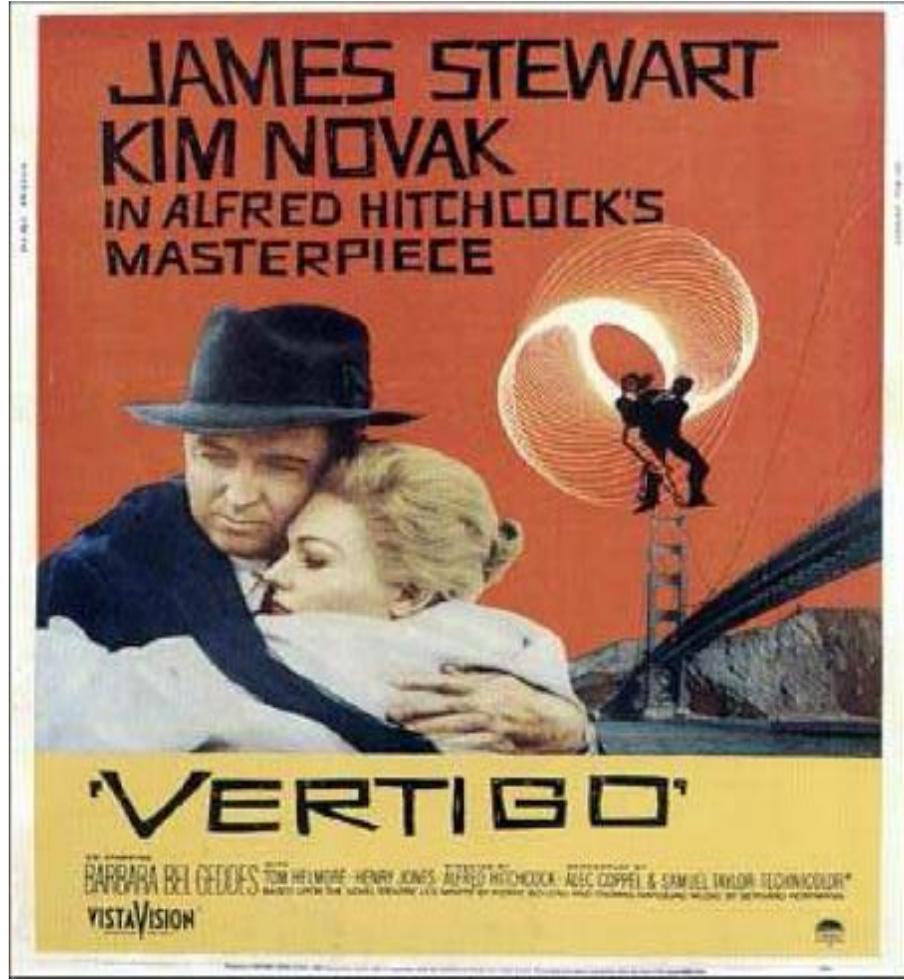


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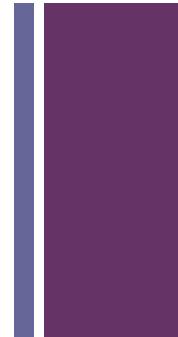


# + Alterazioni dell'andatura nell'anziano

I disordini del cammino sono frequenti nella popolazione anziana e la loro prevalenza aumenta con l'età, con diverse conseguenze:

- *Senso di instabilità nella marcia e cadute*
- *Riduzione della mobilità*, che porta a perdita di automatismi nel mantenimento dell'equilibrio e dell'indipendenza
- *Paura di cadere*, che immobilizza i pazienti

# + Modificazioni del cammino nell'anziano



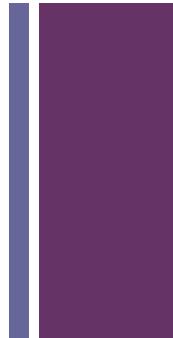
Cause: sarcopenia, riduzione mobilità articolare, minore efficienza trasmissione neuromuscolare

- Riduzione della velocità della marcia dai 70 anni, per un aumento progressivo della fase di appoggio bipodalico (dal 18% negli adulti al 26% negli anziani)
- Leggera rotazione esterna dei piedi (circa 5°) per aumentare la stabilità della base d'appoggio
- Diminuzione della lunghezza del passo: sia per la debolezza muscolare al polpaccio sia per la difficoltà del controllo dell'equilibrio monopodalico (cammino lento e cauto)
- Modificazioni cognitive:

pianificazione strategica del cammino (evitare ostacoli, scelta percorso, valutazione errata proprie capacità fisiche,...) dual task (“stop talking when walking” )

+

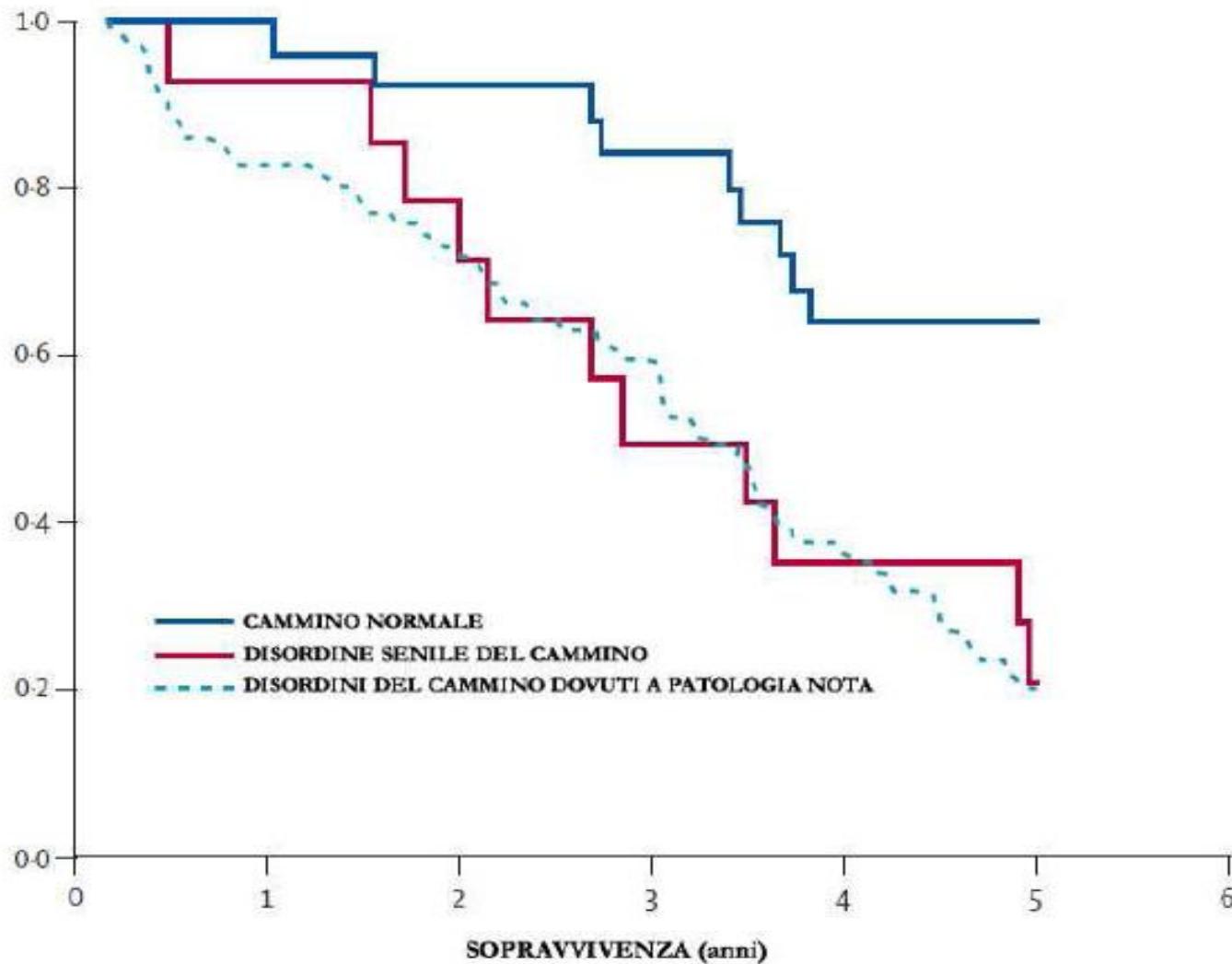
# PRESBIASTASIA



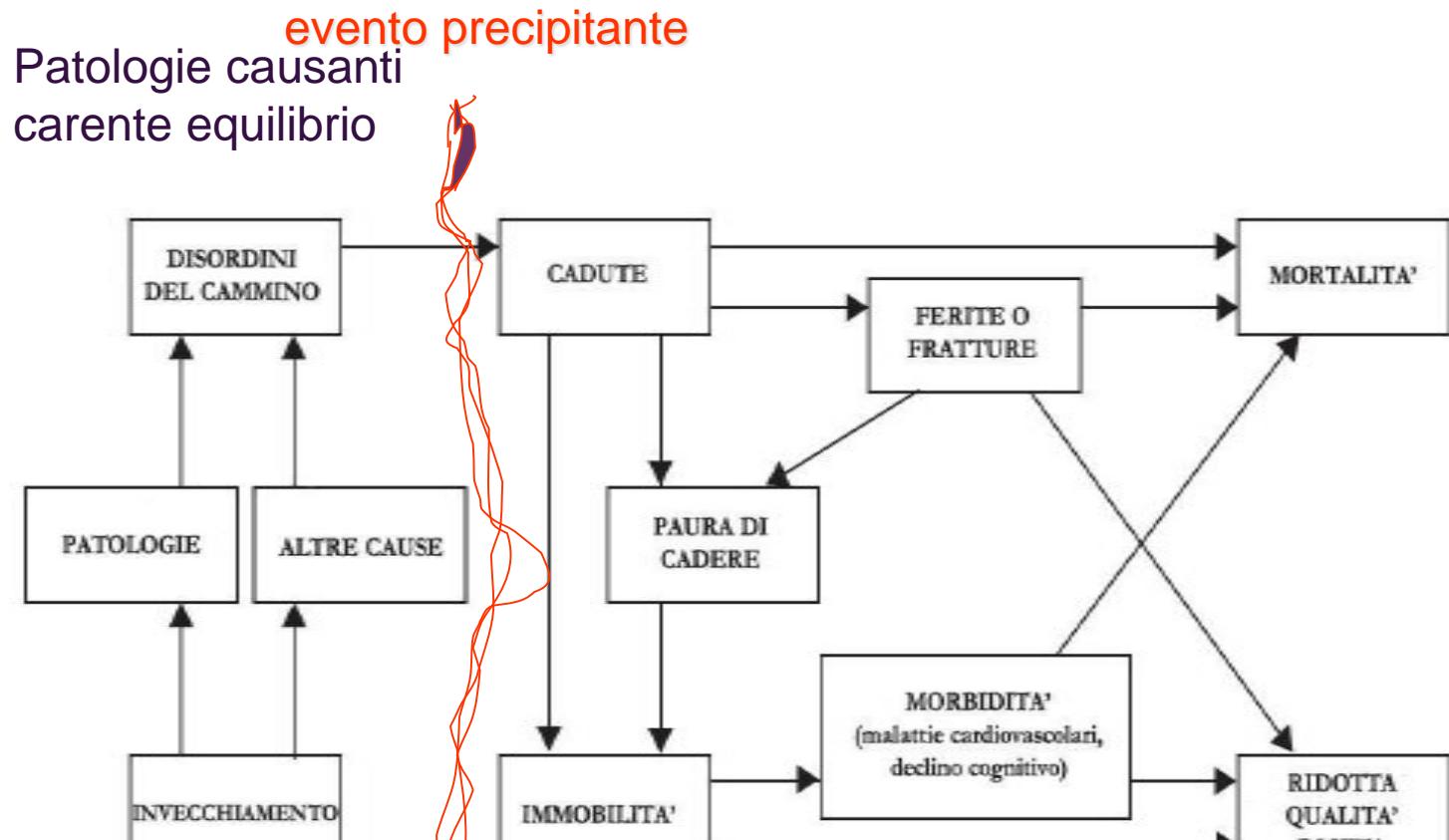
- Con questo termine ci si riferisce ad alterazioni strutturali e fisiologiche conseguenti all'invecchiamento delle strutture implicate nel mantenimento dell'equilibrio.
- L'eziologia non è conosciuta, e utilizziamo questo termine quando non è possibile identificare una causa nota di dizziness.
- Può essere considerata una alterazione idiopatica dell'equilibrio dell'anziano ((??)).

# + Conseguenze disturbi del cammino

Verghese 2002



# + Gli outcome negativi



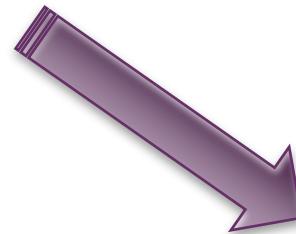
Mantenimento funzioni

DISABILITA'  
,

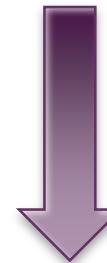


# Disturbi della vista e dizziness

- Cataratta
- Glaucoma
- Degenerazione maculare
- Correzione diottrica errata



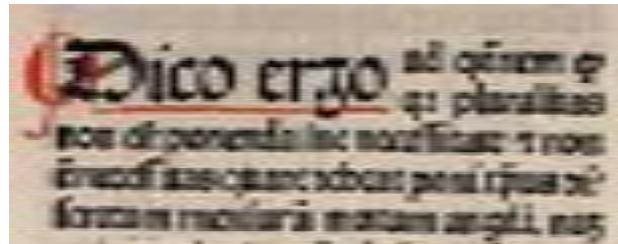
- Disturbo acuità visiva
- Sensibilità al contrasto
- Percezione della profondità



DIZZINESS

# + “Occam’s Razor, Geriatric Syndromes, and the Dizzy Patient”

Drachman Ann. Intern. Med. 2000, 132, 403.



*“Pluralitas non est ponenda sine necessitate”* (William of Ockham 14°sec.)

- Concept of parsimony in diagnosis
- But calling dizziness in the elderly a “geriatric syndrome” carries significant risk: if it implies to some physicians that dizziness is an usual concomitant of aging....
- Identifying it as a “geriatric syndrome” should call attention to the multiplicity of factors that can conspire to produce the symptom, but it must never suggest that dizziness is just another undiagnosable syndrome...

# Le grandi sindromi geriatriche (Complessità e Multifattorialità)

- Confusione mentale, demenza e delirium
- Perdita di coscienza
- Incontinenza
- Depressione
- Disabilità
- Disturbi dell'andatura  
dell'equilibrio
- Cadute



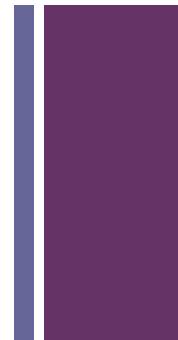


## INQUADRAMENTO CLINICO ED EPIDEMIOLOGIA DEI FATTORI CAUSALI

- VPPB (26%)
- Vestibolopatia cronica (13%)
- Tossicità da aminoglicosidi (7%)
- Ictus cerebri o TIA (7%)
- Neuropatia periferica (5%)
- Aritmia cardiaca (5%)
- Etiologia non riconosciuta (14%)
- Più di una patologia contribuente 49% !!!



# DEFINIZIONI



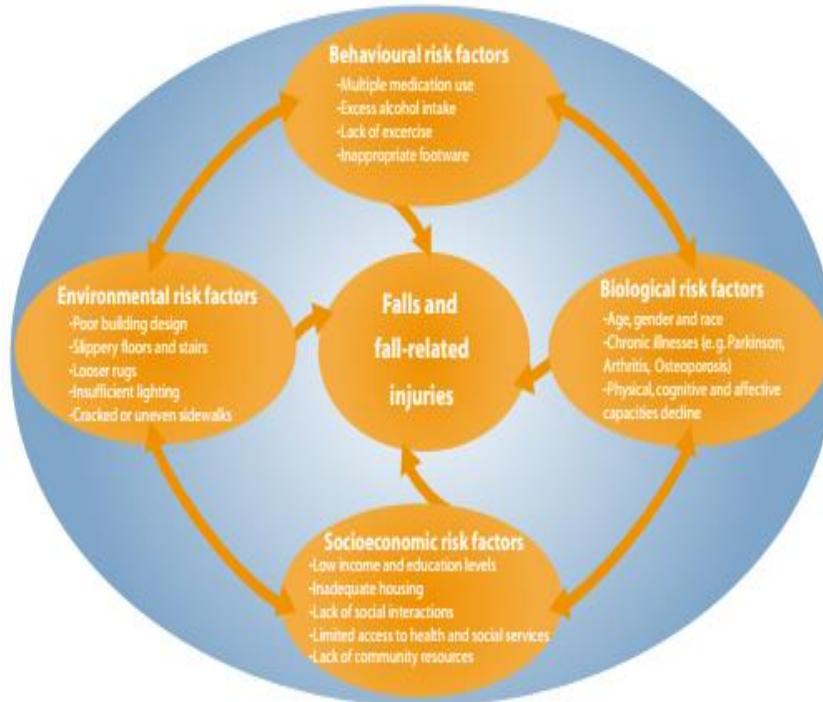
- VERTIGINE = VERTIGO, dal latino “vertere” , illusione di movimento percepita dal soggetto in forma oggettiva o soggettiva, accompagnata da fenomeni neurovegetativi
- DIZZINESS = capogiro (v. soggettiva)
- DISEQUILIBRIO/INSTABILITÀ’ = dal latino “libra” , deriva dell’ equilibrio posturale che sfugge al controllo volontario e può provocare caduta



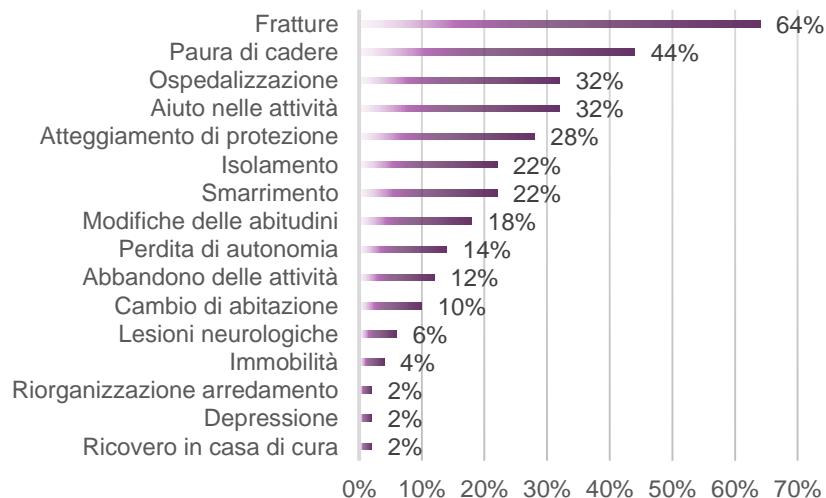
## Il problema delle cadute nell'anziano

- 56% degli accessi al Pronto Soccorso (causa prevalente)
- 26-31% degli anziani cade nel corso di un anno
- 50% se si considerano i residenti in case di cura
- 43% cade più di una volta

# Fattori di rischio e conseguenze delle cadute

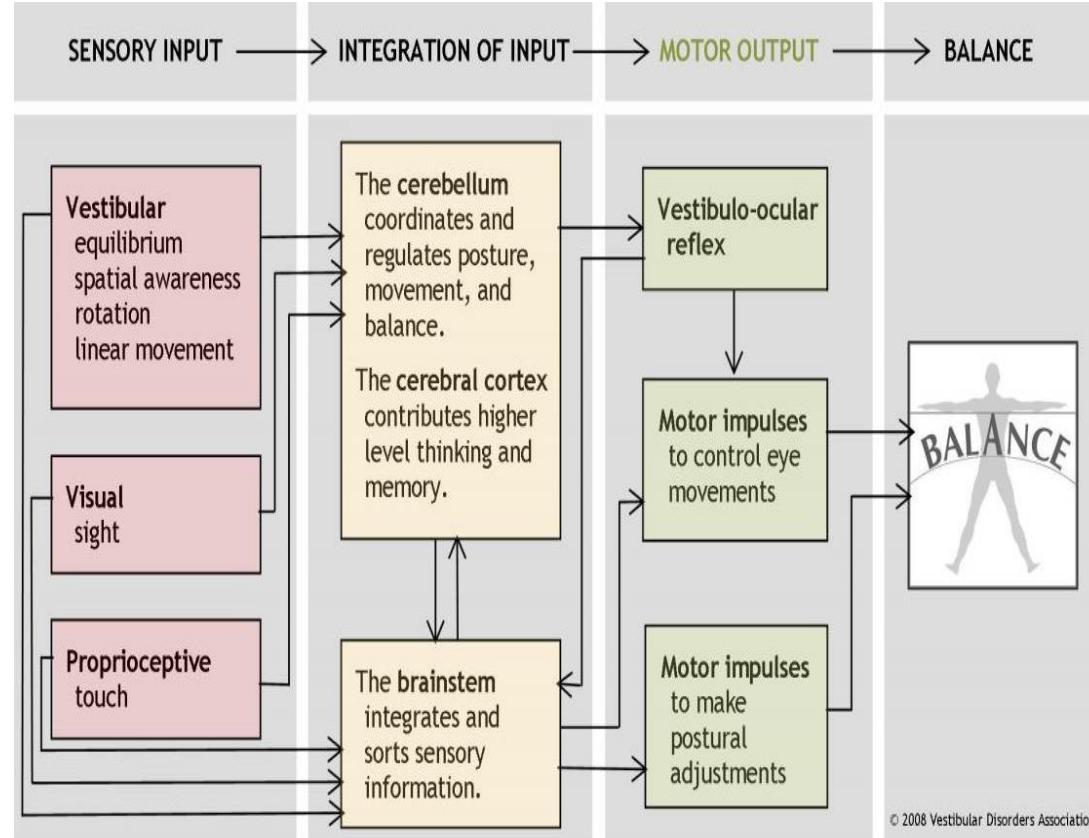


## CONSEGUENZE DELLE CADUTE





# Basi fisiologiche dell'equilibrio

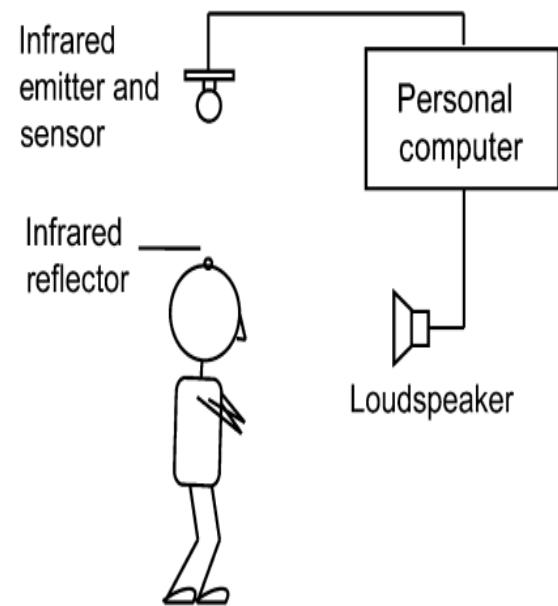


© 2008 Vestibular Disorders Association



# Udito e controllo posturale

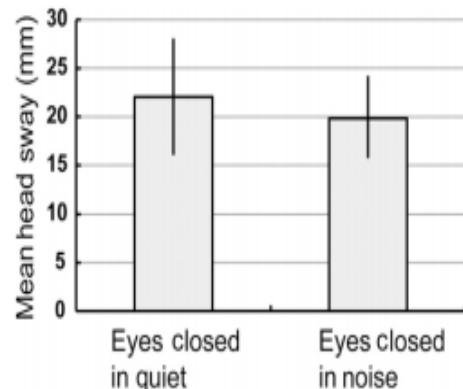
- Zhong e Yost (2013)
- 19 soggetti con età media 27 anni
- Osservano movimento della testa dalla posizione iniziale durante:
  - Tandem Romberg Test
  - Fukuda Stepping Test
- In assenza ed in presenza di suono, ad occhi chiusi ed aperti



# Udito e controllo posturale

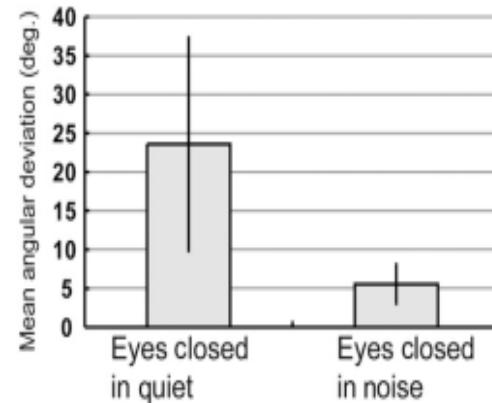
## Tandem Romberg Test

- Riduzione da 21,9 a 19,9 mm della deviazione media della testa in presenza vs in assenza di suono (9%)
- 16 partecipanti su 19 hanno riportato un miglioramento



## Fukuda Stepping Test

- Riduzione dell'angolo di deviazione medio da 23,6 a 5,6° in presenza vs in assenza di suono (76%)
- 19 partecipanti su 19 hanno riportato un miglioramento





# Ipoacusia e cadute

- Viljanen (2009)
- Ricerca se capacità uditiva possa predire cadute
- 217 coppie di gemelle con età media 69 anni
- Sottoposte a:
  1. Audiometria tonale
  2. Misurazione movimento CoP
  3. Follow-up di un anno per cadute



# Ipoacusia e cadute

- Suddivisi in quattro quartili in base alla BEHL
- Velocità del CoP aumenta dal I al IV quartile
- Incidenza delle cadute aumenta dal I al IV quartile

Hearing Acuity (BEHL <sub>0.5–4 kHz</sub> ) Quartiles (N = 429)				
	First, the Best, Quartile (1), Mean (SD)	Second Quartile (2), Mean (SD)	Third Quartile (3), Mean (SD)	Fourth, the Poorest, Quartile (4), Mean (SD)
COP movement in semitandem stance (n = 420)				
Mediolateral velocity (mm/s)	14.1 (3.3) <sup>3,4</sup>	15.1 (4.2)	15.7 (4.6) <sup>1</sup>	15.9 (4.3) <sup>1</sup>
Anteroposterior velocity (mm/s)	10.9 (4.2) <sup>3,4</sup>	11.4 (3.7)	12.2 (4.1) <sup>1</sup>	12.3 (3.8) <sup>1</sup>
Velocity moment (mm <sup>2</sup> /s)	40.7 (24.4) <sup>3,4</sup>	46.3 (25.5)	50.6 (33.4) <sup>1</sup>	52.8 (32.0) <sup>1</sup>
Fall occurrence (n = 423)				
n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)
At least one fall	46 (43)	51 (49)	49 (45)	53 (53)
At least two falls	18 (17) <sup>4</sup>	19 (18)	25 (23)	30 (30) <sup>1</sup>
At least one injurious fall	27 (25)	30 (29)	27 (25)	37 (37)

Note: COP = center of pressure; SD = standard deviation; BEHL<sub>0.5–4 kHz</sub>, better ear hearing threshold level at frequencies of 0.5–4 kHz. Hearing quartile limits from the best to the poorest were as follows: BEHL<sub>0.5–4 kHz</sub> <11.5, 11.5–17.5, 18–27, and >27 dB. Adjusted Wald test's p values for COP variables are given for logarithmized values. Superscript <sup>1,3,4</sup> indicate statistically significant differences (p value <.05) between hearing acuity quartiles.



# Ipoacusia e cadute

## ■ Per quali motivi gli ipoacusici cadono di più?

1. Prossimità di vestibolo e coclea
2. Maggior attenzione per decifrare segnali sonori e minori risorse cognitive per gestione dell'equilibrio
3. Input uditivi forniscono informazioni per orientamento spaziale
4. Perdita uditiva porta ad isolamento e riduzione attività sociali, causando accelerazione del processo di disabilità fisica



# Apparecchi acustici e controllo posturale

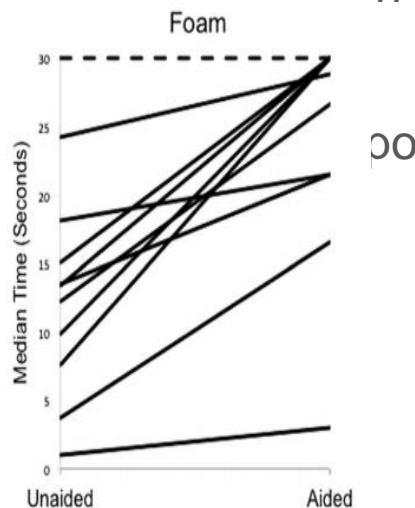
■ Rumalla (2015)

- 14 soggetti con età media 77 anni e portatori di apparecchi bilateralemente
- Sottoposti a due test:
  - Romberg Test su spugna
  - Tandem Stance Test
- In presenza di suono (rumore bianco a 65 dB), testati con e senza apparecchi

# Apparecchi acustici e controllo postura

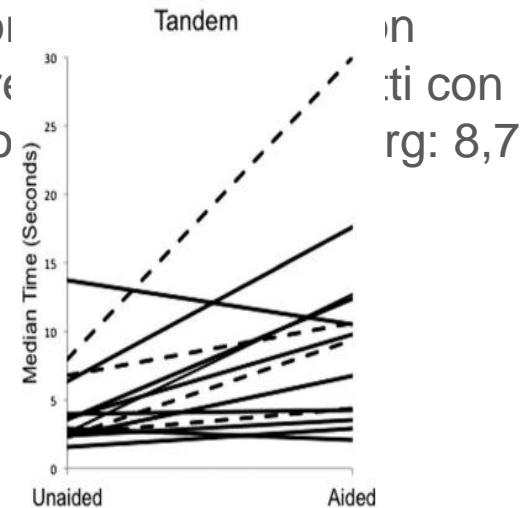
## Romberg Test su spugna

- 10 su 14 soggetti hanno migliorato i tempi con gli apparecchi vs senza apparecchi
- 4 soggetti hanno raggiunto tempo limite
- Miglioramento medio con apparecchi: 5,3 sec
- Esclusi soggetti massimi



## Tandem Stance Test

- 14 su 14 soggetti hanno migliorato i tempi con gli apparecchi vs senza apparecchi
- Miglioramento medio con apparecchi: 8,7 sec
- Miglioramento con apparecchi: 10,7 sec
- Esclusi soggetti massimi

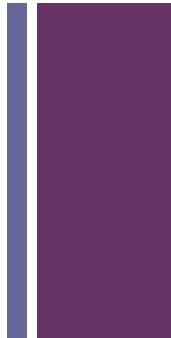




# Conclusioni

- Perdita uditiva non è solo un «disturbo della comunicazione»
- Influisce anche sulla gestione dell'equilibrio, ma non in maniera *diretta*
- Udito assume una certa importanza nel controllo posturale in presenza di altri deficit sensoriali
- Perdita uditiva nell'anziano porta ad aumento del rischio di cadute perché:
  - Concentra risorse cognitive nella comprensione dei suoni
  - Riduce attività sociali, velocizzando processo di disabilità fisica
- Importante l'applicazione di apparecchi acustici

+





# La vertigine nell'anziano

- La progressiva involuzione della funzione vestibolare rappresenta uno dei problemi sanitari più frequenti nella popolazione anziana
- L'handicap fisico e psicologico che deriva dalla involuzione del sistema vestibolare, che il più delle volte si manifesta con disequilibrio e instabilità nei movimenti, può riflettersi negativamente sulla qualità e sullo stile di vita in età avanzata
- La progressiva riduzione dell'autosufficienza, sia delle capacità comunicative che della autonomia fisico-motoria, è motivo di isolamento e della riduzione delle abituali attività che si osservano nell'anziano

+

## Studio epidemiologico sulla qualità della vita nell'anziano nella Regione Veneto

- Studio epidemiologico “*la qualità della vita dell'anziano nel Veneto*”
- soggetti > 65 anni
- 9 centri, 5 rurali e 4 urbani
- 2700 soggetti dalle liste elettorali
- suddivisi per sesso e età in modo da corrispondere alla popolazione anziana del Veneto
- esaminati: 2398, 1533 fem 3 865 m
- Visitati a domicilio da medici allo scopo istruiti

# Studio epidemiologico sulla qualità della vita nell'anziano nella Regione Veneto

## *Problemi uditivi*

- 75% risulta non avere problemi comunicativi ( $I > 80\%$ ) connessi alla sordità
- almeno il 10% presenta una gravissima difficoltà uditiva ( $I < 40\%$ )
- difficoltà comunicative ( $I < 50\%$ ) circa 20%
- protesizzati solo 3%



## Studio epidemiologico sulla qualità della vita nell'anziano nella Regione Veneto

La valutazione delle abilità fisiche e dello stato di equilibrio è stata effettuata attraverso :

- questionario
- prove di performance e posturali (test di Rosow,Negy e Guralnik) (*functional reach, timed chair stands, timed up and go, grip strength, usual and fastest gait speed, and six-minute walk*)

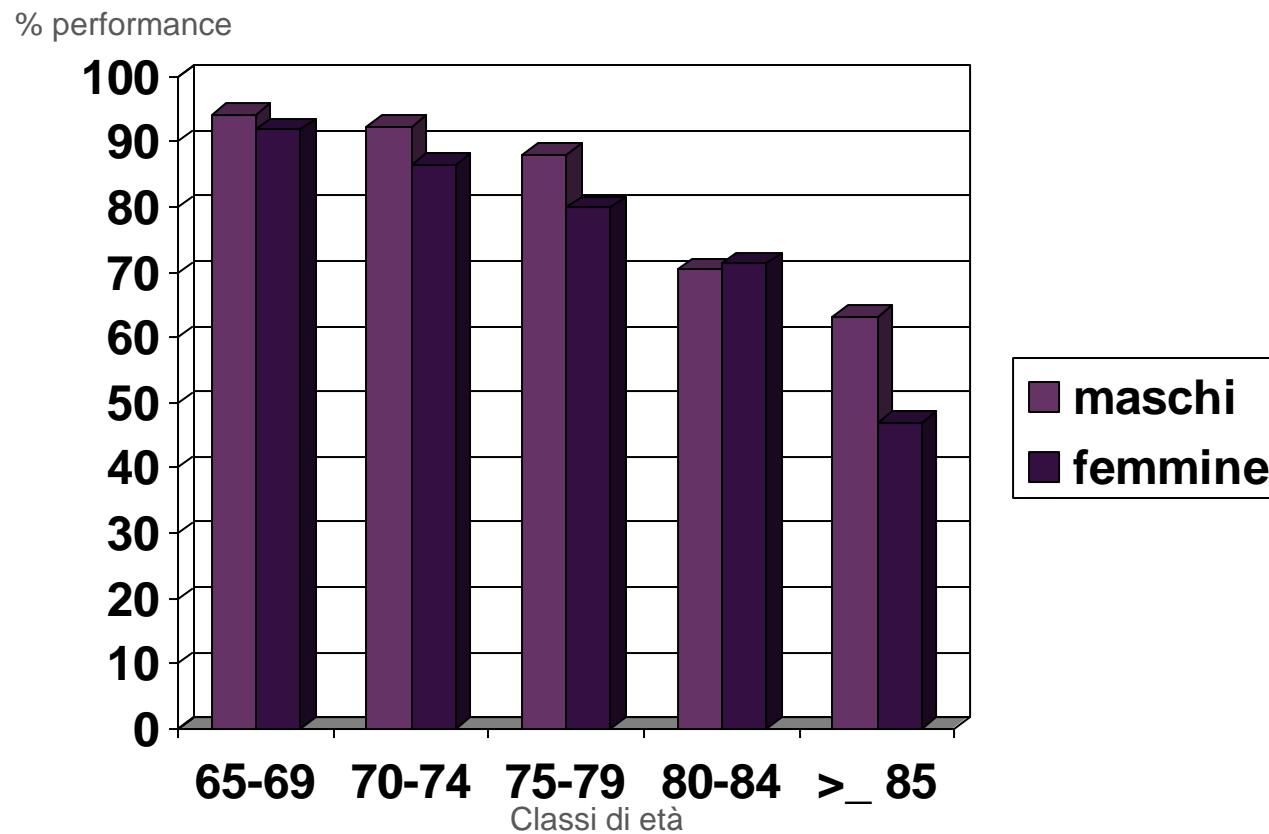
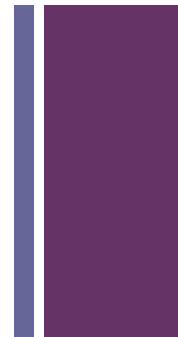


## Studio epidemiologico sulla qualità della vita nell'anziano nella Regione Veneto

- nella fascia 65-79 anni il 16.3% ha problemi di disequilibrio
- sopra gli 80 anni, il 37.7% presenta difficoltà fisiche e problemi di equilibrio
- 45 mila soggetti in Veneto necessitano di una valutazione specialistica (numero presunto in base dati ISTAT)



# Studio epidemiologico sulla qualità della vita nell'anziano nella Regione Veneto



# Studio epidemiologico sulla qualità della vita nell'anziano nella Regione Veneto

- Sono state considerate complessivamente le prove relative a “nessuna” o “lieve” difficoltà di equilibrio e performance in relazione a ciascuna classe di età e al sesso
- Nei maschi, graduale riduzione della efficienza fisica, caduta brusca dopo 85 anni
- 65-69: 94,2%
- 70-74: 91,6%
- 75-79: 85,6%
- > 85: 63,1%
- Nelle femmine i problemi di equilibrio e le disabilità fisiche si manifestano, come nei maschi, progressivamente all'aumentare dell'età, ma in forma più accentuata e precoce : l'età critica è anticipata rispetto all'altro gruppo.
- 65-69: 91,2%
- 70-74: 86,6%
- 75-79: 78,6%
- > 85: 47,1%



## Studio epidemiologico sulla qualità della vita nell’anziano nella Regione Veneto

*Fattori che influenzano maggiormente equilibrio/performace*

due gruppi:

- 150 soggetti con punteggio alle prove posturali  $>75^\circ$  percentile (*gravi difficoltà alla esecuzione degli items + percezione soggettiva di stato di disabilità fisica*)
- 430 soggetti “gruppo controllo” normali alle prove posturali e di perfomance (punteggio nessuna difficoltà di esecuzione) con autovalutazione stato salute ottimale

# Studio epidemiologico sulla qualità della vita nell'anziano nella Regione Veneto

*Fattori che influenzano maggiormente equilibrio/performace*

- Significativamente diversi per età **80,6 casi/ 73,7 ctr**
- Predominanza femminile gruppo maggiori difficoltà (**72% casi sono donne**)
- Gruppo controllo 46,7 maschi - 53,3 femmine

# Studio epidemiologico sulla qualità della vita nell'anziano nella Regione Veneto

*Fattori che influenzano maggiormente equilibrio/performace*

Malattia	Prevalenza di malattia		
	% ctr	% casi	S
■ Artrite/artrosi	51.6	82.7	**
■ Diabete	9.6	22.0	**
■ Ipertensione	33.8	49.0	*
■ Angina pectoris	5.1	10.7	*
■ Mal. croniche fegato	4.0	6.0	ns
■ Mal. renali	6.3	11.3	ns
■ Emorragia cerebrale	0.9	13.3	**
■ M. di Parkinson	0.7	6.7	**
■ Tumore	4.7	15.0	**
■ Ricoveri ospedalieri	8.6	47.0	**

# Studio epidemiologico sulla qualità della vita nell’anziano nella Regione Veneto

*Fattori che influenzano maggiormente equilibrio/performace*

- Nel gruppo dei “casi” si notano percentuali molto elevate per tutte le patologie che coinvolgono il sistema motorio

In particolare:

- artrite/artrosi 82:7%
- mal. croniche come diabete/angina/emorragia cerebrale/Parkinson e tumore, pur con percentuale inferiore, incidono 5-10 volte più che nel gruppo di controllo

# Studio epidemiologico sulla qualità della vita nell'anziano nella Regione Veneto

*Fattori che influenzano maggiormente equilibrio/performace*

I ricoveri ospedalieri rappresentano quasi il 50% della popolazione con gravi difficoltà motorie, ciò sta ad indicare che il ricovero avviene non solo per un problema immediato di terapia della malattia in atto, ma soprattutto per la diminuita autosufficienza e/o per la difficoltà di assistenza domiciliare di questi pazienti.



## Postural orientation and equilibrium: what do we need to know about neural control of balance to prevent falls?

Horak FB. Age Ageing. 2006 Sep;35 Suppl 2:ii7-ii11.

Figure 2. Normal and abnormal limits of stability. (A) Healthy man leaning his body's centre of mass (CoM) (white dot) towards his forward limits of stability, represented as the area of a cone. (B) Woman with multisensory deficits attempts to lean forward without moving her body CoM forward. (C) Woman with multisensory deficits attempts to lean backwards but immediately takes a step to increase her base of support. The projection of the body CoM over the base of foot support is indicated schematically with a white arrow.



# **Bedside balance testing in elderly people.**

Domínguez MO, Magro JB. Curr Aging Sci. 2009 Jul;2(2):150-7.



- Balance impairment in older people is a problem for both patients and physicians. Patients suffer from dizziness and fear of falling, and as many of them also have mobility problems the risk of falling is higher than in younger patients with balance impairment. Balance testing in young patients is often a time-consuming task requiring expensive devices such as videonystagmography, posturography or evoked potentials. The task is more difficult in elderly patients, who have mobility problems, hearing loss, chronic pathology, medication, etc., or who cannot afford expensive testing. In this paper, we briefly review the physiopathology of the balance system considered as a data-processing system. Based on these concepts, we review the main tests that can be easily performed at bedside or in the patient's home using no devices at all. These tests are basic oculomotor testing (like spontaneous nystagmus, head impulse test, dynamic visual acuity, head-shaking nystagmus), provocation tests (like Dix-Hallpike manoeuvre and variants for positional vertigo). Finally, stance tests with a special focus on those which can identify altered postural control patterns and high risk of falling (like the modified Clinical Test for Sensory Interaction in Balance and the Timed Up and Go test). We comment their utility, how they should be performed and what results can be obtained.



## Postural orientation and equilibrium: what do we need to know about neural control of balance to prevent falls?

Horak FB. Age Ageing. 2006 Sep;35 Suppl 2:ii7-ii11.

- Postural control is no longer considered simply a summation of static reflexes but, rather, a complex skill based on the interaction of dynamic sensorimotor processes.
- The two main functional goals of postural behaviour are postural orientation and postural equilibrium.
- Postural orientation involves the active alignment of the trunk and head with respect to gravity, support surfaces, the visual surround and internal references.
- Sensory information from somatosensory, vestibular and visual systems is integrated, and the relative weights placed on each of these inputs are dependent on the goals of the movement task and the environmental context.
- Postural equilibrium involves the coordination of movement strategies to stabilise the centre of body mass during both self-initiated and externally triggered disturbances of stability.



# Postural orientation and equilibrium: what do we need to know about neural control of balance to prevent falls?

Horak FB. Age Ageing. 2006 Sep;35 Suppl 2:ii7-ii11.

- The specific response strategy selected depends not only on the characteristics of the external postural displacement but also on the individual's expectations, goals and prior experience.
- Anticipatory postural adjustments, prior to voluntary limb movement, serve to maintain postural stability by compensating for destabilising forces associated with moving a limb.
- The amount of cognitive processing required for postural control depends both on the complexity of the postural task and on the capability of the subject's postural control system.
- The control of posture involves many different underlying physiological systems that can be affected by pathology or sub-clinical constraints.
- Damage to any of the underlying systems will result in different, context-specific instabilities.
- The effective rehabilitation of balance to improve mobility and to prevent falls requires a better understanding of the multiple mechanisms underlying postural control.



# Audiologic features of elderly with Benign Paroxysmal Positional Vertigo

Nathali Singaretti Moreno<sup>I</sup>; Ana Paula do Rego André<sup>II</sup>  
Otorrinolaringol. vol.75 no.2 Mar./Apr. 2009

Rev. Bras.

- Benign Paroxysmal Positional Vertigo (BPPV) is one of the most common causes of dizziness; it constitutes the most common vestibular disorder in the elderly with vertigo. Its characteristic clinical aspect is dizziness at head movement, with not hearing alteration.
- 37 senior citizens with posterior semicircular canal BPPV and also of 37 elderly without complaints of dizziness and/or vertigo
- Both groups had high rates of hearing loss, especially the descending curve sensorineural type, and there was no statistically significant difference between the groups.
- **CONCLUSION:** Having such data, we can conclude that *posterior semicircular canal BPPV has no impact on the hearing loss* features of senior citizens; nonetheless, because of the spontaneous degeneration of the vestibulocochlear system, such population has a prevalence of hearing loss.



## Physical Performance and a Test of Gaze Stabilization in Older Adults

Bryan K. Ward, MD,<sup>\*</sup> Maha Mohammed, MS, PT,<sup>†</sup> Jennifer S. Brach, PT, PhD,<sup>†</sup> Stephane A. Studenski, MD,<sup>‡</sup> Susan L. Whitney, PT, PhD,<sup>\*†</sup> and Joseph M. Furman, MD, PhD<sup>\*</sup> [Otol Neurotol.](#)  
[2010 January; 31\(1\): 168–172.](#)

- Balance declines with increasing age, contributes to increased risk of falls, and is consequently a frequent source of morbidity and mortality in older adults.
- While large studies of balance in older adults have assessed measures of vision and standing balance, none have used a performance-based functional test of vestibulo-ocular function.
- Numerous studies have identified a decline of vestibulo-ocular function with aging, but have not studied associations between vestibular functional decline and physical performance measures of mobility and balance.
- This decline in vestibular function appears to occur without symptoms of disequilibrium.



## Physical Performance and a Test of Gaze Stabilization in Older Adults

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[2010 January; 31\(1\): 168–172.](#)

- The **gaze stabilization test (GST)** was designed as a clinical test of vestibular function. The test assesses how quickly the head can be moved while maintaining focus on a computer-based target, thus theoretically providing an estimate of vestibulo-ocular reflex (VOR) function.
- Prior work using the gaze stabilization test has focused on its potential as a diagnostic tool for vestibular disorders.
- Patients with vestibular dysfunction have been shown to have reduced scores on the GST, requiring slower head movements to correctly identify an optotype of the same size as compared to healthy controls.
- The GST has been found to be highly reliable for diagnosing patients with unilateral vestibular deficits.



## Physical Performance and a Test of Gaze Stabilization in Older Adults

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[2010 January; 31\(1\): 168–172.](#)

- While over 90% of participants completed testing in the pitch and yaw planes, only 85% (73/86) had interpretable scores, due to prolonged perception time, independent of VOR.
- The mean (SD) head movement velocity in the pitch plane was 94.5 (26.7) degrees per second and in the yaw plane was 95.5 (29.3) degrees per second.
- There was a strong association between age and GST performance in the pitch and yaw planes ( $r=0.68$ ,  $p<0.001$ ). Poor GST performance in the yaw plane was associated with balance capacity with eyes closed.
- Additionally, there was a trend toward an association between self-reported balance and GST performance in both pitch ( $p=0.08$ ) and yaw planes ( $p=0.10$ ).



## LOSS OF OTOLITH FUNCTION WITH AGE IS ASSOCIATED WITH INCREASED POSTURAL SWAY MEASURES

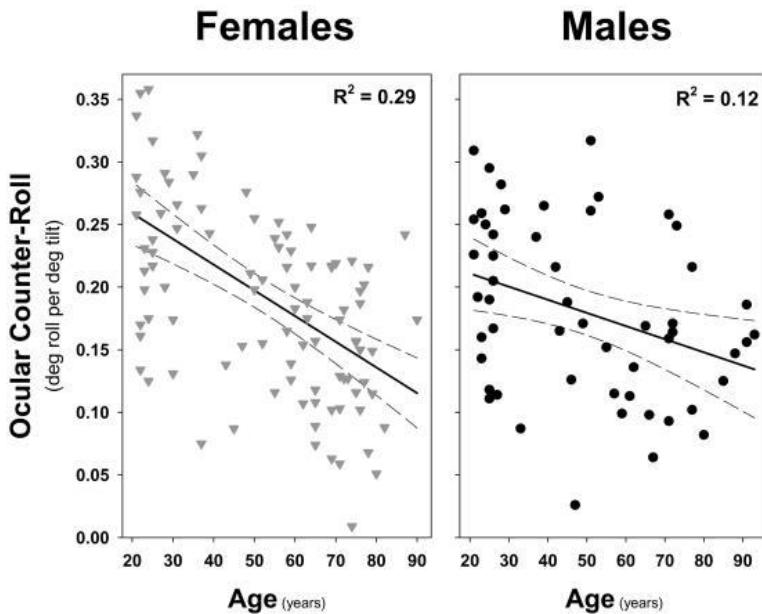
Jorge M. Serrador, PhD,<sup>1,2</sup> Lewis A. Lipsitz, MD,<sup>1,2,3</sup> Gosala S. Gopalakrishnan, PhD,<sup>2</sup> F. Owen Black, MD,<sup>4</sup> and Scott J. Wood, PhD<sup>5</sup> [Neurosci Lett. 2009 November 6; 465\(1\): 10–15.](#)

- OCR (otolith counter-rolling) decreases linearly with age and at a greater rate in females than males.
- This loss of vestibular otolith-ocular function is associated with increased mediolateral measures of sway which have been shown to be related to increased risk of falls.
- These data suggest a role for *loss of otolith function* in *contributing to fall risk in the elderly*.
- Further prospective, longitudinal studies are necessary to confirm these findings.

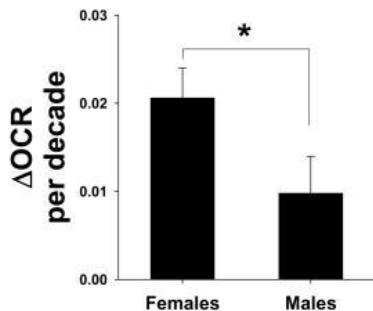
# LOSS OF OTOLITH FUNCTION WITH AGE IS ASSOCIATED WITH INCREASED POSTURAL SWAY MEASURES

Jorge M. Serrador, PhD,<sup>1,2</sup> Lewis A. Lipsitz, MD,<sup>1,2,3</sup> Gosala S. Gopalakrishnan, PhD,<sup>2</sup> F. Owen Black, MD,<sup>4</sup> and Scott J. Wood, PhD<sup>5</sup> [Neurosci Lett. 2009 November 6; 465\(1\): 10–15.](#)

A



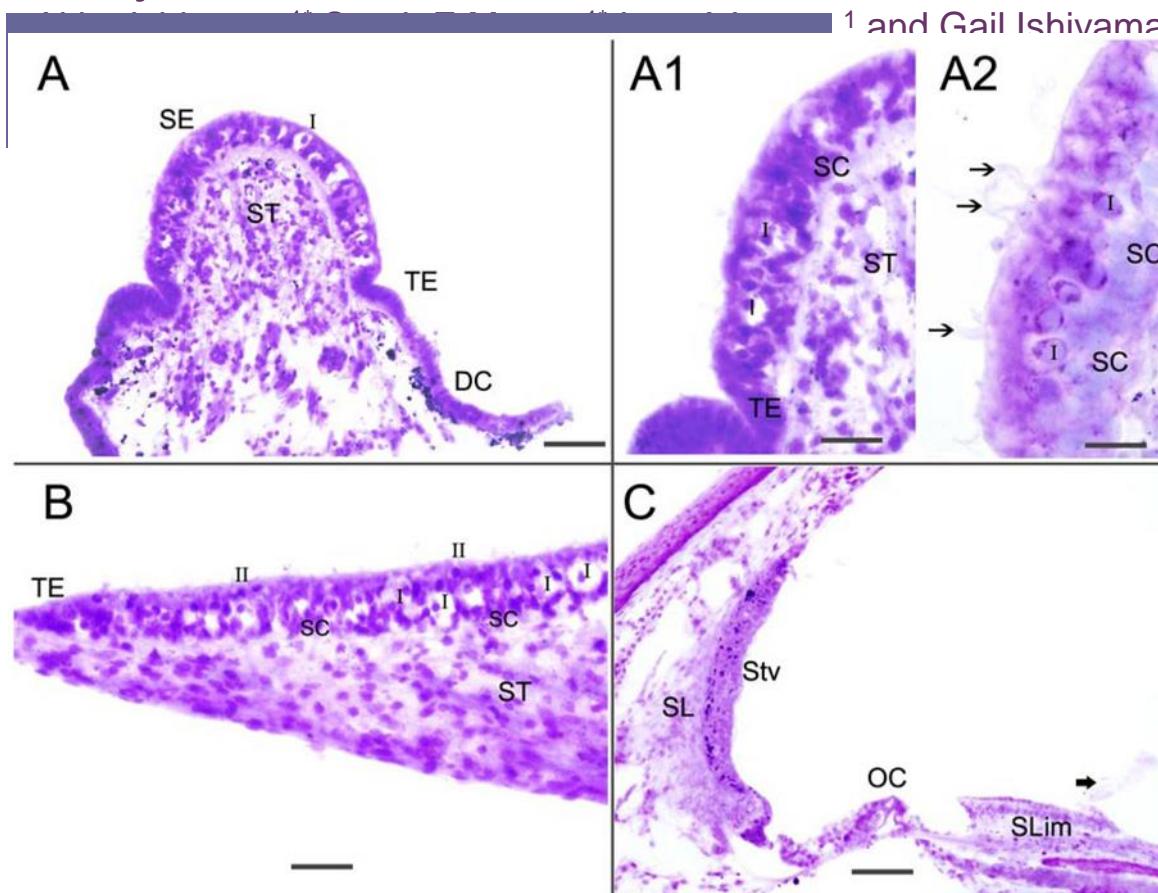
B



- A) Age related changes in ocular counter-roll (OCR) for females (left) and males (right) Linear regression demonstrated significant declines in ocular counter-roll with age. Rate of decline in ocular counter-roll was statistically greater in the females. Solid lines represent linear regressions with dotted lines representing 95% confidence intervals.
- B) Slopes of decline in OCR with age. Females had significantly greater decreases in OCR per decade. \*, significant difference between sexes,  $P < 0.05$ . Values are Mean  $\pm$  SEM



# Immunohistochemical distribution of basement membrane proteins in the human inner ear from older subjects



Hematoxylin and eosin stained frozen section of the crista ampullaris (Fig 1A-A2), macula utricle (Fig 1B) and cochlea (Fig 1C). Fig 1A shows the crista sensory epithelia (SE), the transitional epithelia (TE), the dark cell area (DC) and the stroma tissue (ST).

- Fig 1A1 and 1A2 are higher magnification views of the cristae. The sensory epithelia is well-preserved and type I (I) and type II (II) hair cells, as well as supporting cells (SC), and cells in the stroma (ST) are easily identified. Hair cell stereocilia can be seen (arrowheads).
- Fig 1B shows the macula utricle which exhibits good preservation of the sensory epithelia hair cells and supporting cells, with mild swelling of calyceal terminals that surround type I hair cells (I).
- Figure 1C is a cross-section of the cochlea; there is good preservation of the organ of Corti (OC), spiral ligament (SL) and stria vascularis (Stv) as well as the spiral limbus (Slim). In this specimen, the tectorial membrane and Reissner's membrane had become detached during microdissection (thick arrowhead). Magnification bar is 100 µm for (A) and (C), 50 µm for (A1), 20 µm for (A1), 60 µm for (B).



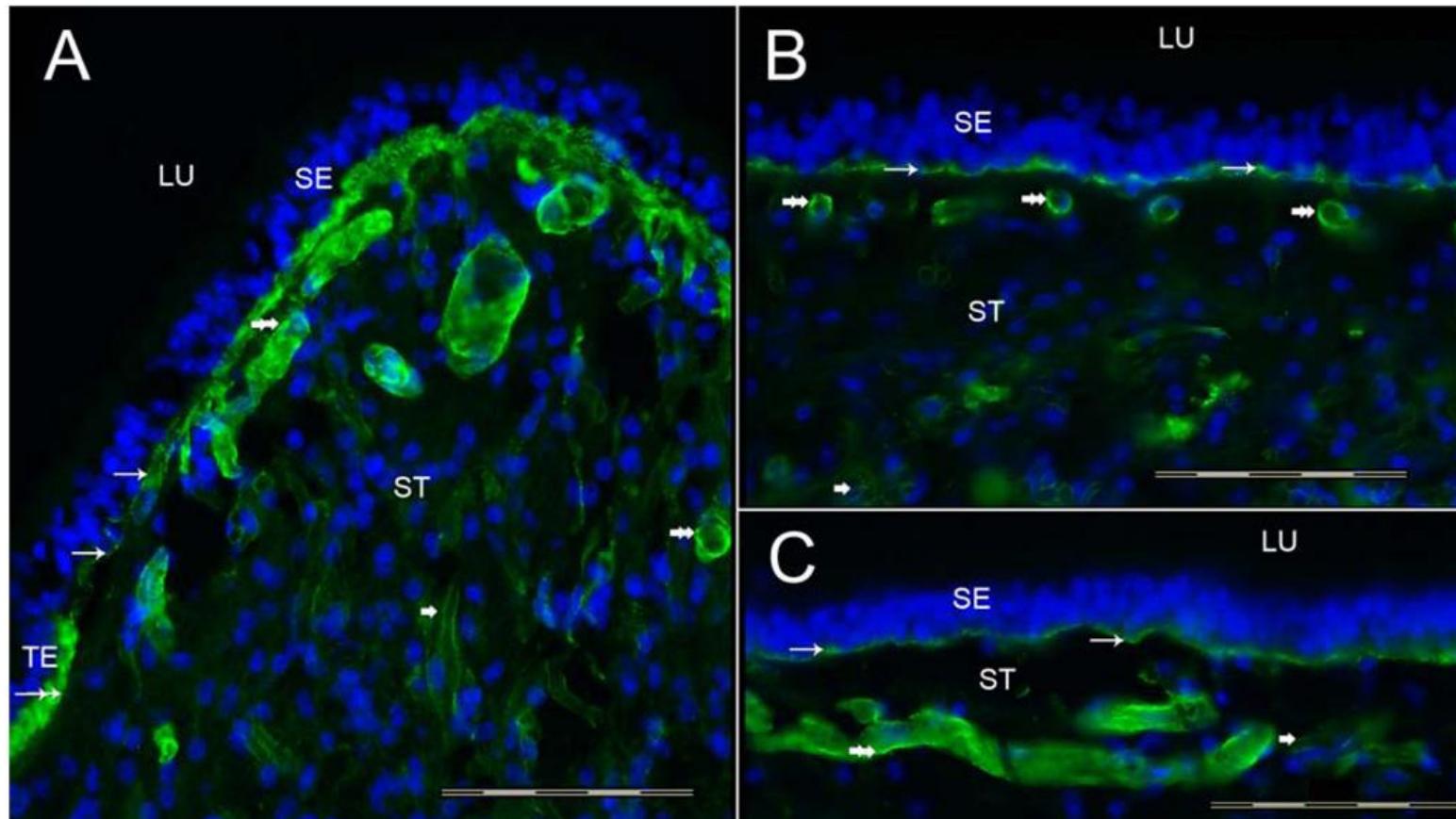
# Immunohistochemical distribution of basement membrane proteins in the human inner ear from older subjects

Collagen IV $\alpha$ 2 immunoreactivity (-IR) in the human vestibular endorgans. Fig 2A shows a cross-section of the crista ampullaris, close to the central region.

Collagen IV $\alpha$ 2-IR (green color) was seen within the BM underneath the sensory epithelia (SE) (thin arrows). The BM underneath the transitional epithelia (TE) also displayed collagen IV $\alpha$ 2-IR (double arrow). The perivascular BMs within the underlying stroma (ST) were collagen IV $\alpha$ 2-IR (double arrowheads).

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The perineurial BMs beneath the epithelia and within the underlying ST also exhibited collagen IV $\alpha$ 2-IR (single arrowhead). The macula utricle (Fig 2B) and macula saccule (Fig 2C) showed a similar collagen IV $\alpha$ 2-IR pattern. BMs that surround stromal myelinated nerve fibers (arrowhead) and blood vessels (double arrowhead) of the maculae utricle and saccule were also collagen IV $\alpha$ 2-IR. DAPI (blue color) identifies cell nuclei. LU: Lumen. Magnification bar is 200  $\mu$ m for all figures.



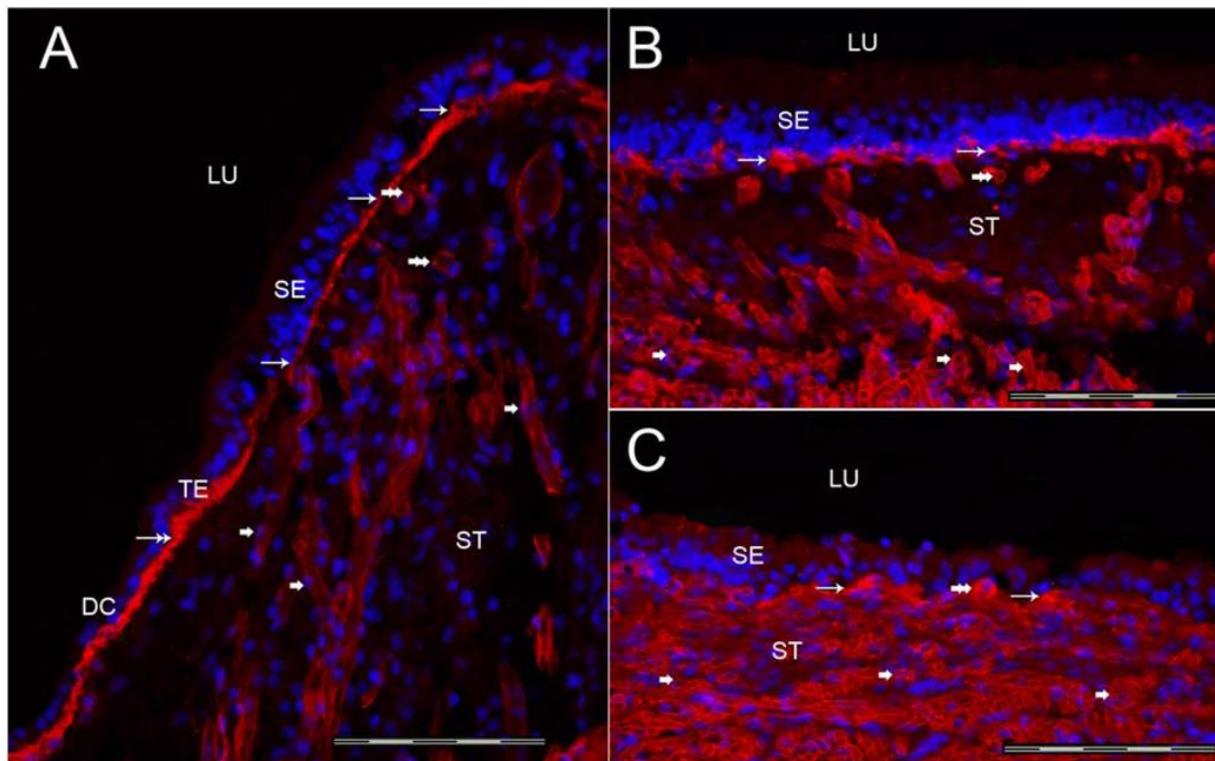


# Immunohistochemical distribution of basement membrane proteins in the human inner ear from older subjects

Nidogen-IR Fig 3A shows a cross-section of the crista ampullaris, close to the central region. Nidogen-IR (red color) was expressed within the BMs underneath the sensory epithelia (SE) (thin arrows). The BMs underlying the transitional epithelia (TE) and dark cells (DC) also exhibited nidogen-IR (double arrow). The perivascular BMs within the underlying stroma expressed nidogen-IR (double arrowhead), and the perineural BMs within the underlying stroma (ST) also demonstrated nidogen-IR (single arrowhead)

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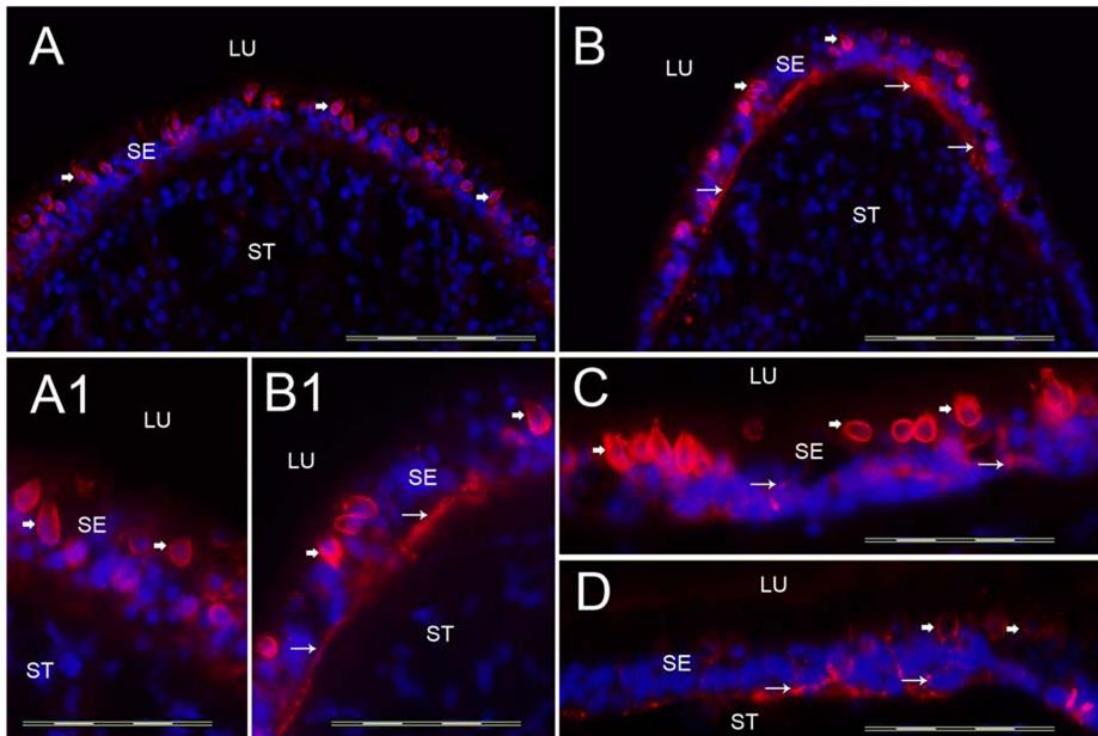
The distribution of nidogen-IR in the macula utricle (Fig 3B) and macula saccule (Fig 3C) was similar to nidogen-IR within the crista sensory epithelia. BMs that surround stromal myelinated nerve fibers and blood vessels of the macula utricle and saccule were also nidogen-IR. DAPI (blue color) identifies cell nuclei. Magnification bar is 200 µm for all figures.





# Immunohistochemical distribution of basement membrane proteins in the human inner ear from older subjects

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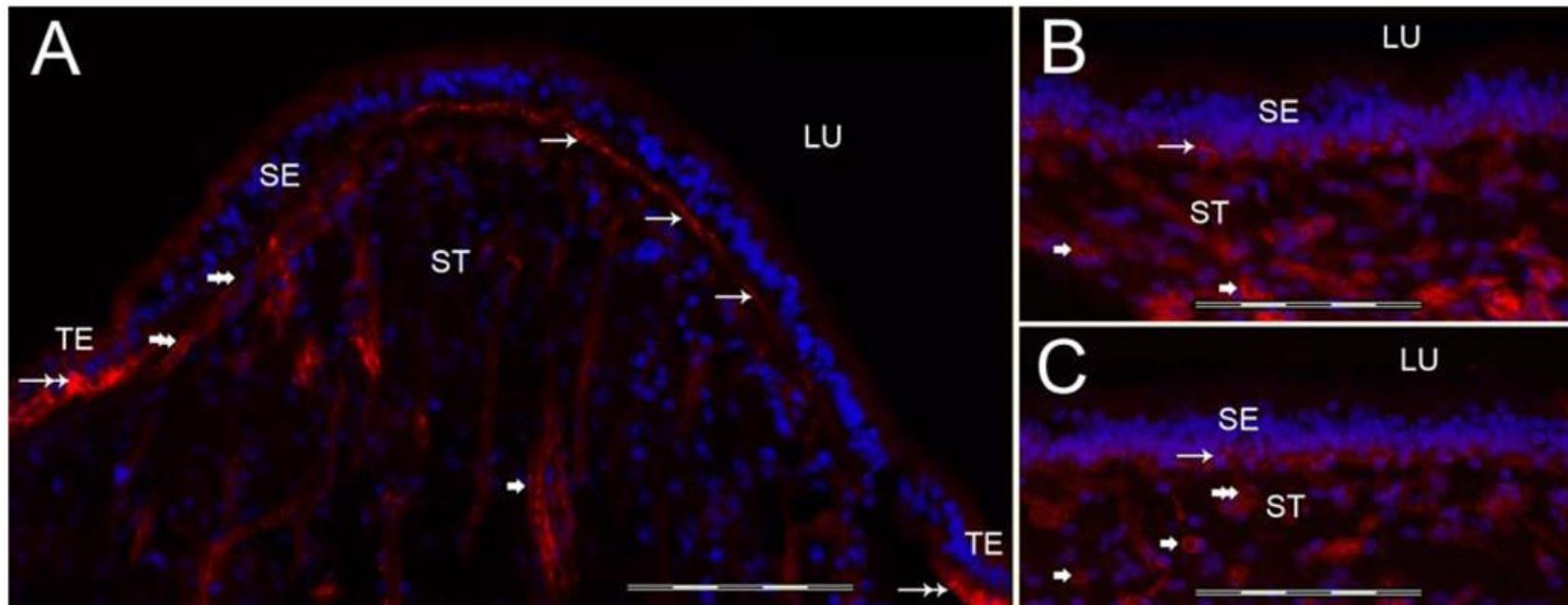
Tenascin-C-IR. [Fig 4A](#) shows a cross-section of the crista ampullaris at the planum semilunatum. [Fig 4B](#) shows tenascin-C-IR at the central region of the crista ampullaris. Tenascin-C-IR (red color) was found in calyx-like profiles (arrowheads) throughout the SE and also in BM underneath the SE (arrows). Tenascin-C-IR was more prominent in the central portion of the crista ([Fig 4B](#)) than in the BMs underneath the SE in the planum semilunatum of the crista ([Fig 4A](#)). [Figure 4A1 and 4B1](#) is a high magnification view (from [Fig 4A and 4B](#)) of these areas to demonstrate the tenascin-C-IR pattern. The macula utricle ([Fig 4C](#)) and the macula saccule ([Fig 4D](#)) exhibited similarly tenascin-C-IR in calyx-like structures (arrowheads) and within the BMs underneath the SE (arrows). DAPI (blue color) identifies cell nuclei. Magnification bar is 200µm for Fig A, B, C and D; 50 µm for fig A1, B1.

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- Laminin- $\beta$ 2-IR. [Fig 5A](#) shows Laminin- $\beta$ 2-IR in a cross-section of the crista ampullaris, close to the planum semilunatum. Laminin- $\beta$ 2-IR was seen within the BMs underneath the sensory epithelia (SE) (thin arrows). Transitional epithelia (TE) BMs also demonstrated laminin- $\beta$ 2-IR (double arrows). The maculae utricle ([Fig 5B](#)) and saccule ([Figure 5C](#)) exhibited a similar laminin- $\beta$ 2-IR expression distribution
- . Laminin- $\beta$ 2-IR was found in the BMs underneath the maculae SE. The BMs that surround stromal myelinated nerve fibers (arrowheads) and blood vessels (double arrowheads) also expressed laminin- $\beta$ 2 in the crista ampullares, utricular and saccular maculae. DAPI (blue color) identifies cell nuclei. Magnification b



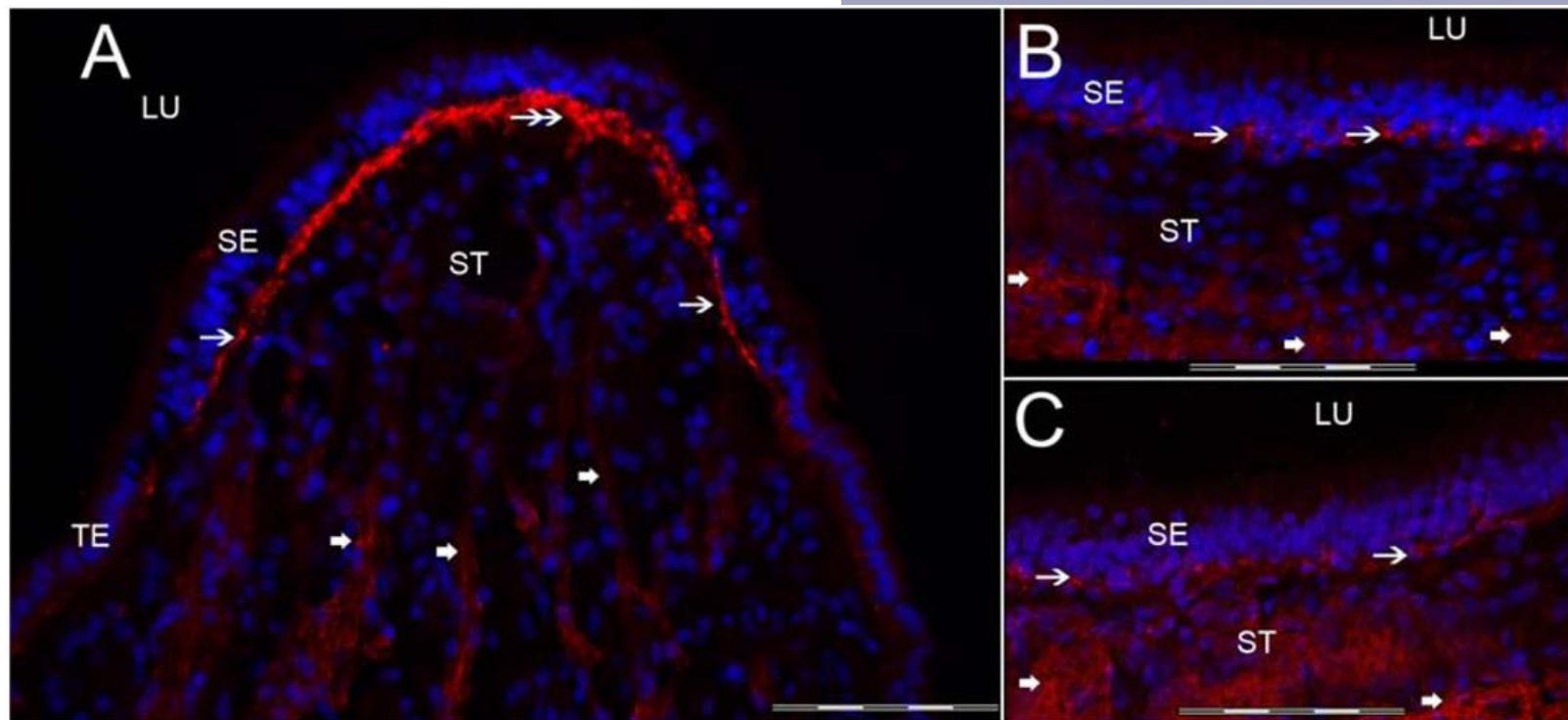


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$\alpha$ -Dystroglycan-IR. Fig 6A is a cross-section of the crista ampullaris, close to the central zone.  $\alpha$ -dystroglycan-IR (red color) was seen within the BMs underneath the sensory epithelia (SE) (double arrows). In comparison to the BM proteins, collagen IV and laminin- $\beta$ 2, the  $\alpha$ -dystroglycan-IR was relatively less intense at the lateral and basal zone of the crista ampullaris (single arrow), and significantly less prominent within the BMs beneath the TE and within the perivascular BMs.

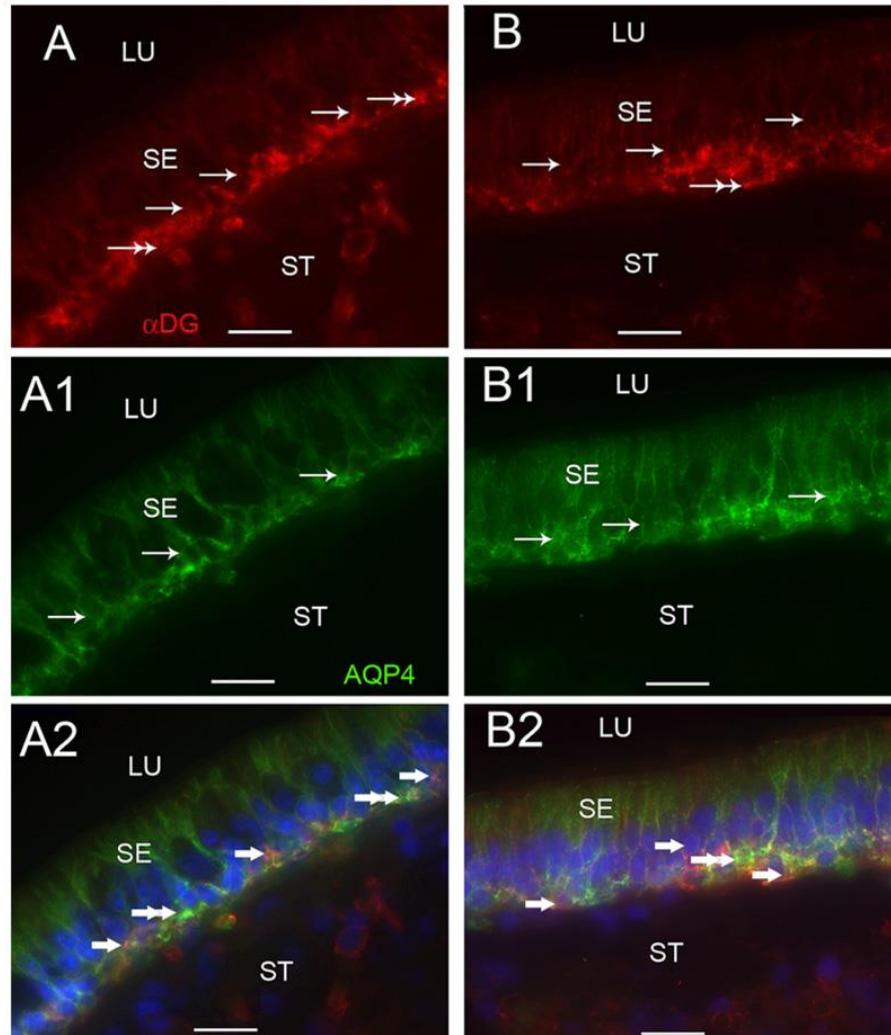
The macula utricle (Fig 6B) and macula saccule (Fig 6C) exhibited a similar  $\alpha$ -dystroglycan-IR pattern as the crista ampullaris.  $\alpha$ -dystroglycan-IR was noted in BMs underneath the maculae sensory epithelia in close apposition with the basal portion of the supporting cells (arrows). BMs that surround stromal myelinated nerve fibers of the macula utricle and saccule also exhibited  $\alpha$ -dystroglycan-IR (thick arrowheads). DAPI (blue color) identifies cell nuclei. Magnification bar is 200  $\mu$ m for all figures.





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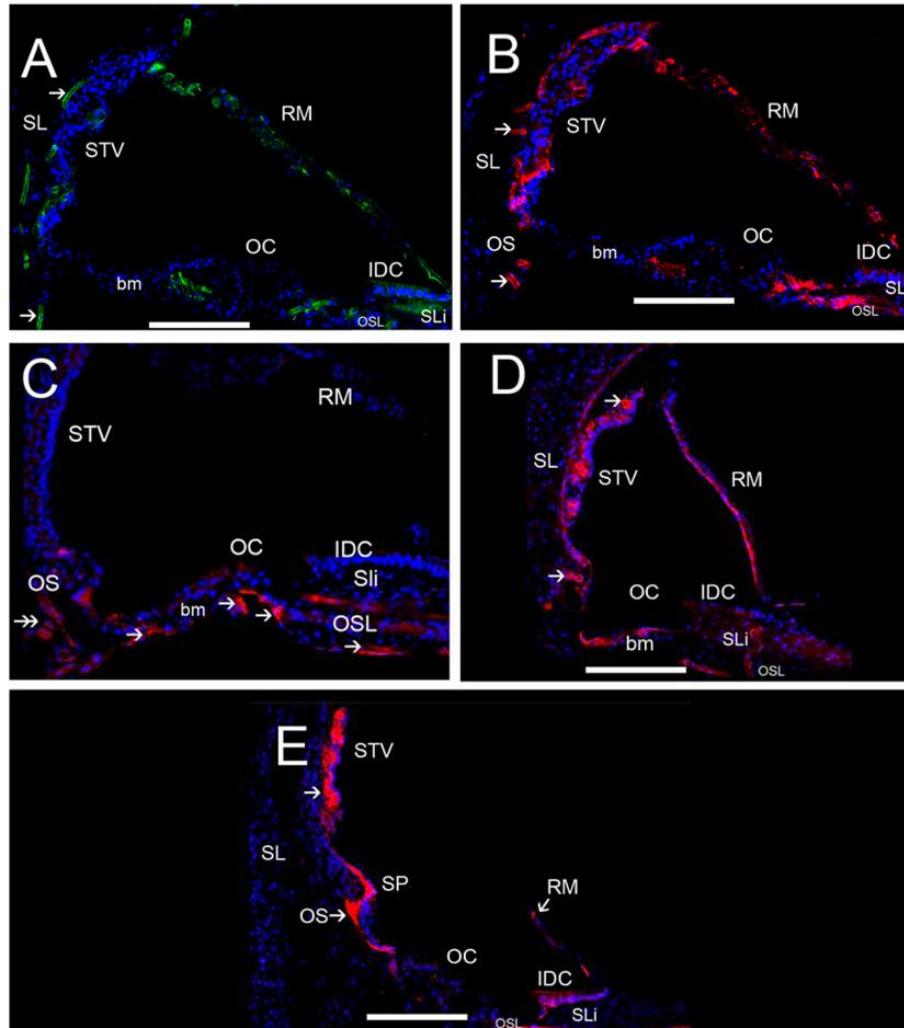


- $\alpha$ -Dystroglycan-IR and AQP4-IR co-distribution in vestibular supporting cells. [Fig 7A, 7A1 and 7A2](#) are cross-sections of the crista ampullaris, near the central region. [Fig 7A](#) demonstrates  $\alpha$ -dystroglycan-IR (red color) localized to the basal pole of supporting cells (arrows) and to the BM underlying the sensory epithelium (SE) (double arrows). [Fig 7A1](#) demonstrates AQP4 (green color) localization to the basolateral portion of the supporting cells (arrows); the BM underlying the SE and the perineural and perivascular BMs in the stroma (ST) did not exhibit AQP4-IR. [Fig 7A2](#) is a merged image from 7A and 7A1 to illustrate the co-distribution and co-localization of  $\alpha$ -dystroglycan and AQP4.  $\alpha$ -dystroglycan in red color (arrowheads) segregated to the stromal (ST) perineural BMs and appeared to segregate to portions of the BM underlying the sensory epithelium (SE). AQP4 (green color) appeared to co-localize with  $\alpha$ -dystroglycan (red color) with resulting yellow color within the basal supporting cells (double arrowheads). [Fig 7B, 7B1 and 7B2](#) are cross-sections of the macula utriculi. [Fig 7B](#) demonstrates that adystroglycan-IR (red color) localized to the basal supporting cells (arrows) and the BM underlying the SE (double arrows). [Fig 7B1](#) demonstrates that AQP4-IR (green color) localized to basolateral supporting cells (arrows). [Fig 7B2](#) is a merged micrograph demonstrating the co-localization of  $\alpha$ -dystroglycan and AQP4 (yellow color at double arrows) in the basolateral aspect of the utricular supporting cells. Magnification bar is 25  $\mu$ m for all figures.



# Immunohistochemical distribution of basement membrane proteins in the human inner ear from older subjects

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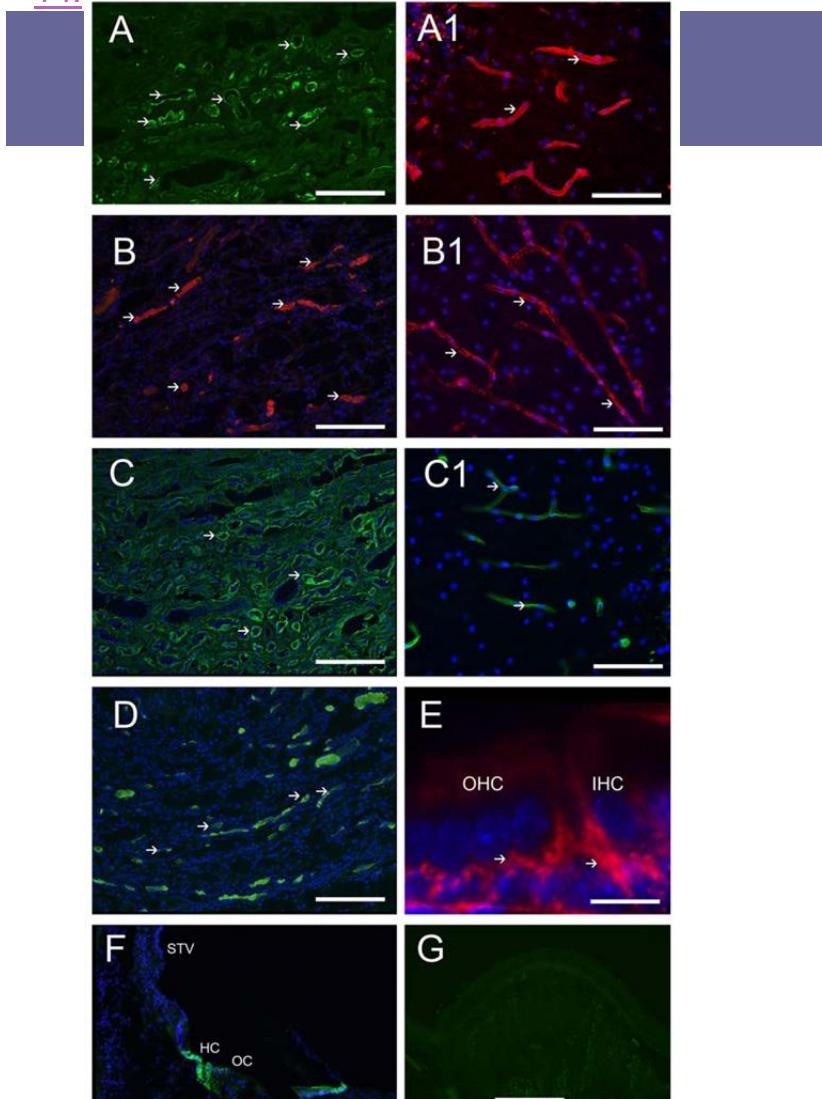


- ECM protein-IR in the human cochlea. [Fig 8A](#) exhibits strong collagen IV $\alpha$ 2-IR in stria and spiral ligamental perivascular BMs (arrowheads), less intense collagen IV $\alpha$ 2-IR was seen at the interdental cells (IDC) and basilar membrane (bm). Collagen IV $\alpha$ 2 was expressed in Reissner's membrane (RM). [Fig 8B](#) shows strong nidogen-IR in stria and spiral ligamental perivascular BMs (arrowheads), in the IDC, in RM and the osseous spiral lamina (OSL). [Fig 8C](#) demonstrates tenascin-C-IR within BMs of the basilar membrane underneath the supporting cells in the pars arcuata (PA) and pars pectinata (PP) and within the OSL (double arrowhead). Tenascin-C-IR was also seen in the basal portion of the Rosenthal canal (RC). [Fig 8D](#) shows laminin- $\beta$ 2-IR within most cochlear BMs including the stria and spiral ligamental perivascular BMs (arrows), in RM, and the IDC, and in the basilar membrane. [Fig 8E](#) demonstrates  $\alpha$ -dystroglycan-IR within most cochlear BMs (arrowheads) with strong IR in cells of the outer sulcus (OS), the IDC, RM, the spiral prominence and stria vascularis perineurial BMs. The inner and outer hair cells and the supporting cells in the organ of Corti (OC) were not reactive for any ECM proteins. All of the basement membrane proteins were expressed to differential degrees within Reissner's membrane, the basilar membrane, and the interdental cells. Perineurial and perivascular BMs in the STV and the spiral ligament (SL) expressed collagen  $\alpha$ IV, nidogen and laminin- $\beta$ 2. The tectorial membrane was not visualized because it had become detached during the microdissection of the cochlea. Magnification bar is 100  $\mu$ m for all figures.



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- Positive controls for BM antibodies. [Fig 9A](#) shows nidogen-IR in tubular BMs of the human kidney (arrowheads). [Fig 9A1](#) shows nidogen-IR in perivascular BMs of the human cerebral cortex (arrowheads). [Fig 9B](#) shows adystroglycan-IR in tubular BMs of the human kidney (arrowheads). [Fig 9B1](#) shows adystroglycan-IR in perivascular BMs of the human cerebral cortex (arrowheads). [Fig 9C](#) shows collagen IV $\alpha$ 2-IR in the human kidney BMs (arrowheads). [Fig 9C1](#) shows collagen IV $\alpha$ 2-IR in perivascular BMs of the human cerebellar cortex (arrowheads). [Fig 9D](#) shows laminin- $\beta$ 2-IR in BMs of the human kidney (arrowheads). [Fig 9E](#) shows tenascin-C-IR underneath the inner and outer hair cells of the one day old mouse (arrowheads). [Fig 9F](#) shows AQP4-IR in Hensen cells (HC) of the human organ of Corti (OC). STV: stria vascularis. [Fig 9G](#) demonstrates an example of human crista ampullaris immunostained with all the reagents except for the primary antibody. No specific immunoreaction was observed. Magnification bar is 200  $\mu$ m for figures A–D, and F and G, 10  $\mu$ m for E.



# Immunohistochemical distribution of basement membrane proteins in the human inner ear from older subjects

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- The immunolocalization of several basement membrane (BM) proteins was investigated in vestibular endorgans microdissected from temporal bones obtained from subjects with a documented normal auditory and vestibular function (n = 5, average age = 88 years old).
- Fluorescent immunostaining using antibodies directed at collagen IV $\alpha$ 2, nidogen-1, laminin- $\beta$ 2,  $\alpha$ -dystroglycan, and tenascin-C was applied to cryosections from human cochlea, cristae ampullares, utricular and saccular maculae.
- Collagen IV $\alpha$ 2, nidogen-1, and laminin- $\beta$ 2 localized to all subepithelial cochlear BMs, Reissner's membrane, stria and spiral ligamental perineural and perivascular BMs, and the spiral limbus.
- Tenascin-C localized to the basilar membrane and the osseous spiral lamina.  $\alpha$ -dystroglycan localized to most cochlear BMs except those in the spiral ligament, basilar membrane and spiral limbus.
- Collagen IV, nidogen-1, and laminin- $\beta$ 2 localized to the subepithelial BMs of the maculae and cristae ampullares, and the perineural and perivascular BMs within the underlying stroma.

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- The BM underlying the transitional and dark cell region of the crista ampullares also expressed collagen IV, nidogen-1, and laminin  $\beta$ 2.
- Tenascin-C localized to the subepithelial BMs of the utricular maculae and crista ampullares, and to calyx-like profiles throughout the vestibular epithelium, but not to the perineural and perivascular BMs.  $\alpha$ -dystroglycan colocalized with aquaporin-4 in the basal vestibular supporting cell, and was also expressed in the subepithelial BMs, as well as perivascular and perineural BMs.
- This study provides the first comprehensive immunolocalization of these ECM proteins in the human inner ear.
- The validity of the rodent models for inner ear disorders secondary to BM pathologies was confirmed as there is a high degree of conservation of expression of these proteins in the human inner ear.
- This information is critical to begin to unravel the role that BMs may play in human inner ear physiology and audiovestibular pathologies.

**+ Grazie per l'attenzione**



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# Grazie per l'attenzione!!!

