

# What is SMA?

Ayça Şahin

Molecular Biology and Genetics BSc.

MSc student in Neuroscience, KUTTAM-NDAL

Koç University

- Finkel, R., Al., E., Group\*, F., Author Affiliations From the Division of Neurology, Ploeg, A., Editors, T., . . . Group, T. (2017, November 02). Nusinersen versus Sham Control in Infantile-Onset Spinal Muscular Atrophy: NEJM. Retrieved October 21, 2020, from <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa1702752>
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- Vivo, D., Topaloglu, H., Swoboda, K., Bertini, E., Hwu, W., Crawford, T., . . . Reyna, S. (2019, April 09). Nusinersen in Infants Who Initiate Treatment in a Presymptomatic Stage of Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA): Interim Efficacy and Safety Results From the Phase 2 NURTURE Study (S25.001). Retrieved October 21, 2020, from [https://n.neurology.org/content/92/15\\_Supplement/S25.001.abstract](https://n.neurology.org/content/92/15_Supplement/S25.001.abstract)
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- Schorling, David C et al. "Advances in Treatment of Spinal Muscular Atrophy - New Phenotypes, New Challenges, New Implications for Care." Journal of neuromuscular diseases vol. 7,1 (2020): 1-13. doi:10.3233/JND-190424



Mom defines **SMA** as **S**onsuz **M**ücadelenin  
**A**dı

BUT it stands for **S**pinal **M**uscular **A**trophy

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# **Atrophy vs Dystrophy**

# Autosomal Recessive Inheritance

If 2 carriers of a mutated *SMN1* gene have a child there is a:

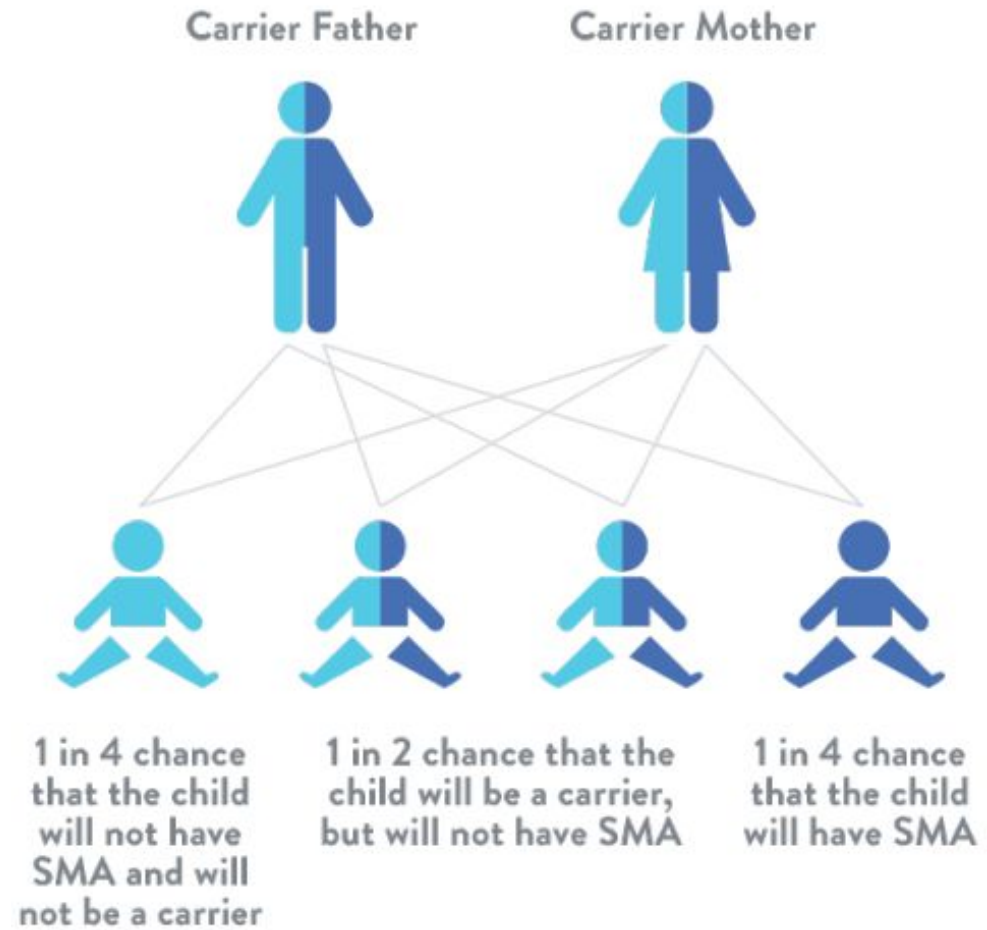


Image is from *Together in SMA* program website:

[https://www.togetherinsma.com/en\\_us/home/introduction-to-sma/smn1-gene.html](https://www.togetherinsma.com/en_us/home/introduction-to-sma/smn1-gene.html)

- Approximately 1 in 40 people is a carrier.

**THIS IS SMA.**  
**BOY MEETS GIRL**

Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) is the #1 genetic KILLER of young children.

**THIS IS OUR STORY**  
**ARE YOU 1 IN 40?**

**SO WHAT ARE THE CHANCES OF YOU AND A PARTNER CARRYING THE SMA GENE?**

**A CHANCE MEETING IN A BAR**

1 in 40 people, or nearly 175 Million globally, UNKNOWNLY carry the SMA gene.

**THE FIRST DINNER DATE**

Most have NO family history of SMA and NO signs during pregnancy.

**THIS IS SMA.**  
 SMA is degenerative, hindering the ability to walk, stand, eat, speak, breathe, and swallow. There is NO treatment. There is NO cure.

**HAVING A CHILD WITH SMA**

**25% CHANCE**

**1 IN 40 PEOPLE UNKNOWNLY CARRY THE SMA GENE**

**2 CARRIERS**

**3 POSSIBILITIES**

**25% SMA**   **50% SMA CARRIER**   **25% UNAFFECTED**

**THIS COULD BE YOUR STORY**

**WHAT CAN YOU DO? GET TESTED.**

Ask your doctor for more information on **being tested** for SMA before you decide to have children.

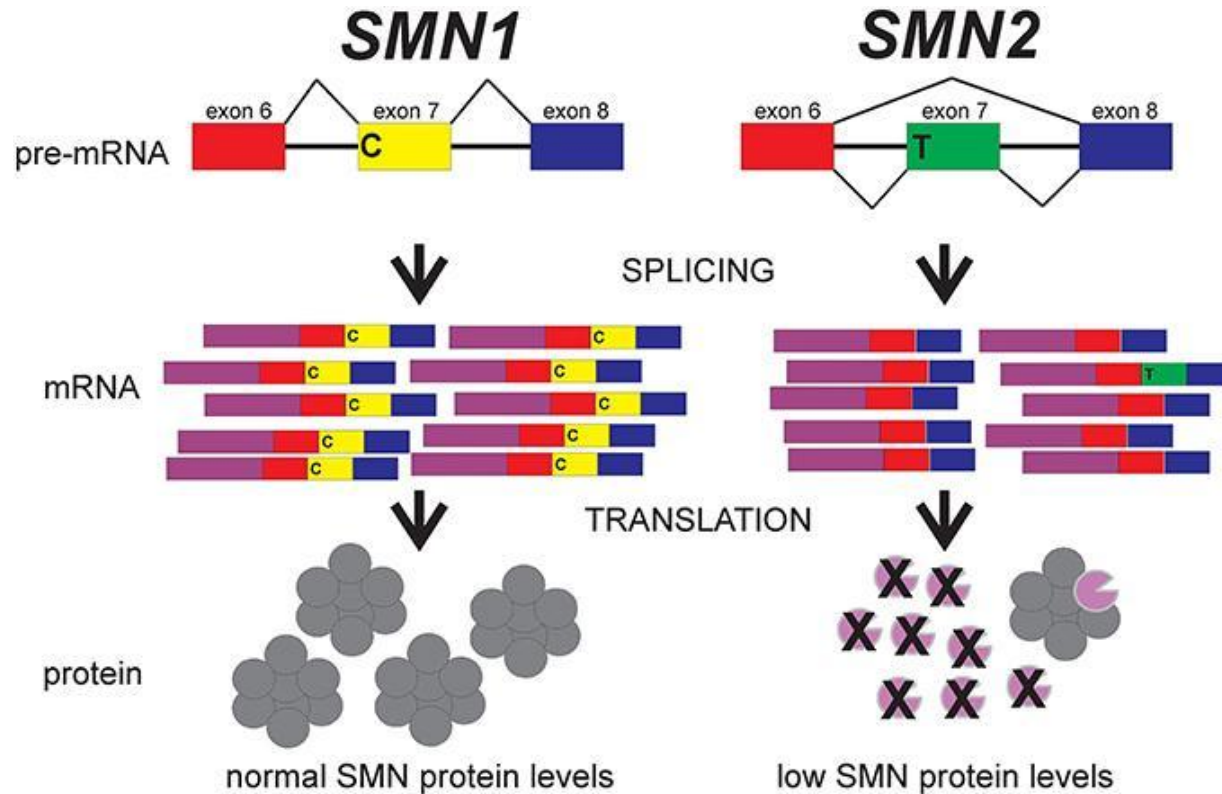
A simple **blood** or **saliva test** can determine if you carry the SMA gene.

The American College of Medical Genetics (ACMG) recommends that all adults of **reproductive age** who are planning to conceive be offered carrier testing for SMA.

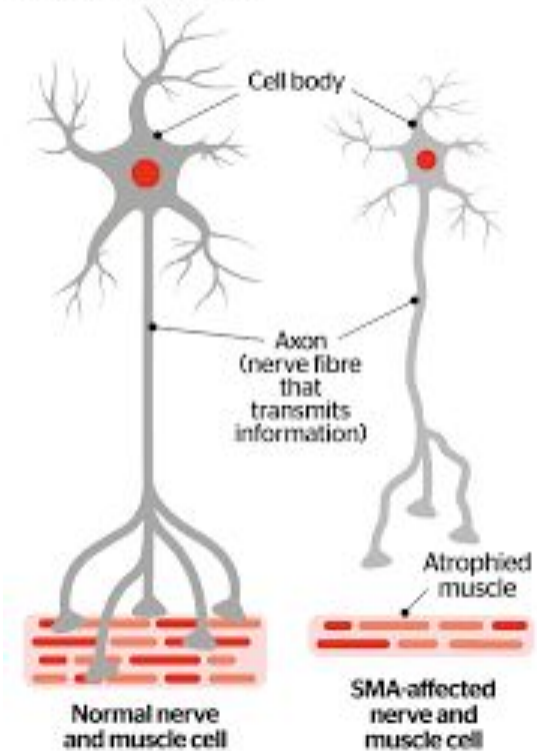
The Gwendolyn Strong Foundation (theGSF) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing awareness of Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA), supporting families.

Picture is from Gwendolyn Strong Foundation

# What is SMA?



## What is SMA?



Butchbach, M. (2016, February 25). Copy Number Variations in the Survival Motor Neuron Genes: Implications for Spinal Muscular Atrophy and Other Neurodegenerative Diseases. Retrieved October 21, 2020, from <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fmolb.2016.00007/full>

Aubusson, K. (n.d.). Baby Aviana's heartbreaking fate. Retrieved October 21, 2020, from <https://www.smh.com.au/interactive/2017/baby-aviana/>

# SMA Types

- SMA is a motor-neuron disease – degeneration of lower motor neurons.
  - ❖ Prenatal-onset SMA (Type 0)
  - ❖ Werdnig Hoffmann Disease (0-6 months) (Type 1)
  - ❖ Dubowitz Disease (6-10 months) (Type 2)
  - ❖ Kugelberg Welander Disease (>18 months) (Type 3)
  - ❖ Adult-onset (Adulthood) (Type 4)



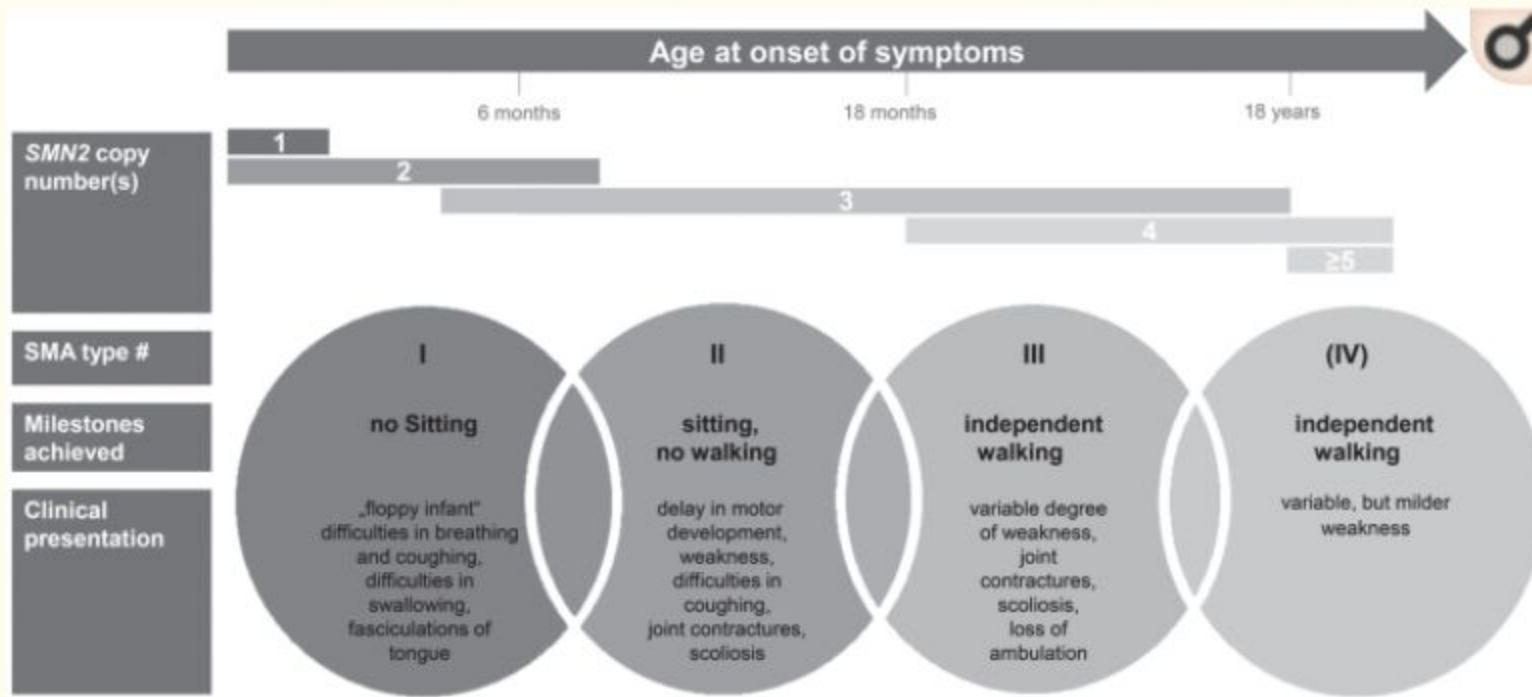


Fig.1

Clinical classification of SMA subtypes according to onset, milestones achieved, and clinical presentation. Typically associated *SMN2* copy numbers are displayed.

Schorling, David C et al. “Advances in Treatment of Spinal Muscular Atrophy - New Phenotypes, New Challenges, New Implications for Care.” *Journal of neuromuscular diseases* vol. 7,1 (2020): 1-13.  
doi:10.3233/JND-190424

# NAIP gene

TABLE 4

**Comparison of clinical characteristics in patients with *SMN1* deletions only and those with both *SMN1* and *NAIP* deletions**

	( <i>n</i> =24)	deletions ( <i>n</i> =6)	CI
Males ( <i>n</i> =11)	9	2	NS
Age at symptom onset, mean±SD (range), months	18.4±20.4 (0.1–96.0)	1.9±1.7 (0.1–4.0)	0.007
Clinical type ( <i>n</i> =30)			0.005
Type 1	8	6	
Types 2+3	16	0	
Initial presentation ( <i>n</i> =30)			0.003 3.33 (1.53–7.27)
Respiratory difficulty and hypotonia	6	5	
Developmental delay and gait disturbance	18	1	
Clinical outcome ( <i>n</i> =16)			0.009 4.68 (1.48–14.8)
Survivors without ventilator	10/12	0/4	
Died or on ventilator	2/12	4/4	

Ahn, E., Yum, M., Kim, E., Yoo, H., Lee, B., Kim, G., & Ko, T. (2017, January).

Genotype-Phenotype Correlation of *SMN1* and *NAIP* Deletions in Korean Patients with Spinal Muscular Atrophy. Retrieved October 21, 2020, from

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5242148/>

# SMN2 copy number and SMA Types (Not only factor, but important!)

*M. Calucho et al. / Neuromuscular Disorders 28 (2018) 208–215*

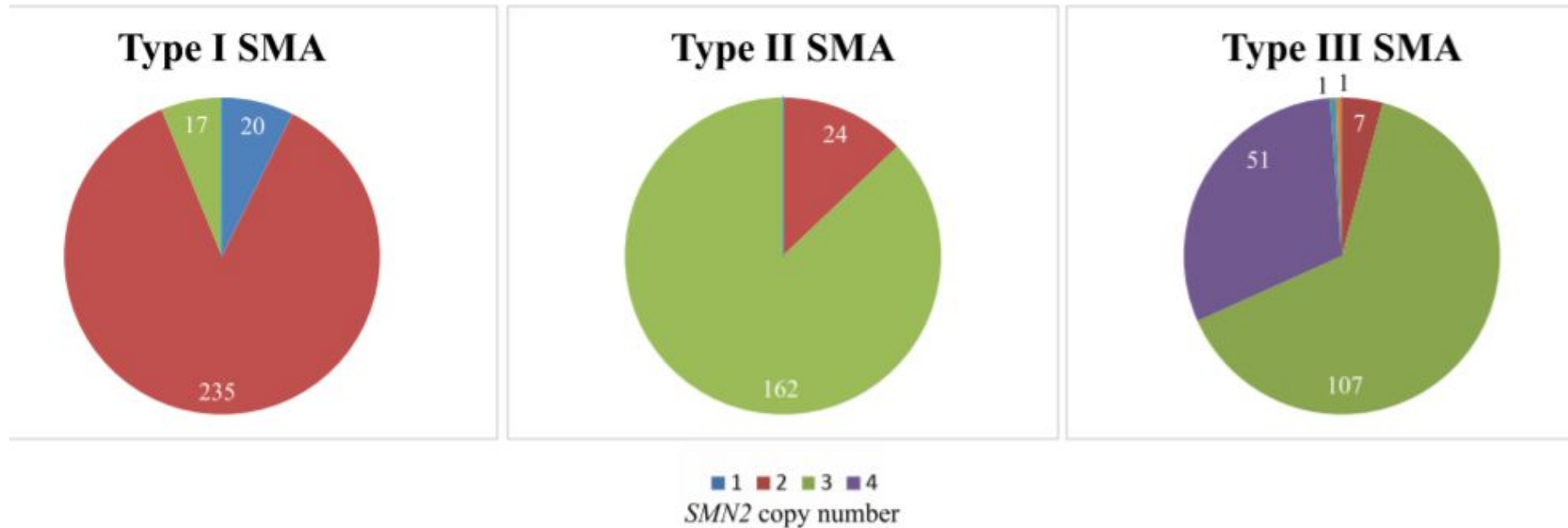


Fig. 1. Distribution of *SMN2* copy numbers according to SMA type. Number of Spanish SMA patients studied from our cohort of 625 index cases.

# Treatments

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- Spinraza (Nusinersen) □ FDA approval in December 2016, EMA approval in 2017, in TITCK's list of the drugs that can be imported in 2017, SGK covered for Type 1 in 2017 summer, SGK covered for type 2 and 3 on 1st of February, 2019.



ORIGINAL ARTICLE

## Nusinersen versus Sham Control in Infantile-Onset Spinal Muscular Atrophy

R.S. Finkel, E. Mercuri, B.T. Darras, A.M. Connolly, N.L. Kuntz, J. Kirschner, C.A. Chiriboga, K. Saito, L. Servais, E. Tizzano, H. Topaloglu, M. Tulinius, J. Montes, A.M. Glanzman, K. Bishop, Z.J. Zhong, S. Gheuens, C.F. Bennett, E. Schneider, W. Farwell, and D.C. De Vivo, for the ENDEAR Study Group\*

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E. Mercuri, B.T. Darras, C.A. Chiriboga, J.W. Day, C. Campbell, A.M. Connolly, S.T. Iannaccone, J. Kirschner, N.L. Kuntz, K. Saito, P.B. Shieh, M. Tulinius, E.S. Mazzone, J. Montes, K.M. Bishop, Q. Yang, R. Foster, S. Gheuens, C.F. Bennett, W. Farwell, E. Schneider, D.C. De Vivo, and R.S. Finkel, for the CHERISH Study Group\*

### Nusinersen initiated in infants during the presymptomatic stage of spinal muscular atrophy: Interim efficacy and safety results from the Phase 2 NURTURE study

Darryl C. De Vivo<sup>a,\*</sup>, Enrico Bertini<sup>b</sup>, Kathryn J. Swoboda<sup>c</sup>, Wuh-Liang Hwu<sup>d</sup>, Thomas O. Crawford<sup>e</sup>, Richard S. Finkel<sup>f</sup>, Janbernd Kirschner<sup>g,h</sup>, Nancy L. Kuntz<sup>i</sup>, Julie A. Parsons<sup>j</sup>, Monique M. Ryan<sup>k</sup>, Russell J. Butterfield<sup>l</sup>, Haluk Topaloglu<sup>m</sup>, Tawfeg Ben-Omran<sup>n,o</sup>, Valeria A. Sansone<sup>p,q</sup>, Yuh-Jyh Jong<sup>r</sup>, Francy Shu<sup>s</sup>, John F. Staropoli<sup>t,1</sup>, Douglas Kerr<sup>t,1</sup>, Alfred W. Sandrock<sup>t</sup>, Christopher Stebbins<sup>t</sup>, Marco Petrillo<sup>t</sup>, Gabriel Braley<sup>t</sup>, Kristina Johnson<sup>t</sup>, Richard Foster<sup>u</sup>, Sarah Gheuens<sup>t</sup>, Ishir Bhan<sup>t</sup>, Sandra P. Reyna<sup>t,1</sup>, Stephanie Fradette<sup>t</sup>, Wildon Farwell<sup>t</sup>, on behalf of the NURTURE Study Group

Neuromuscular  
Original research



## Nusinersen safety and effects on motor function in adult spinal muscular atrophy type 2 and 3

Lorenzo Maggi<sup>1</sup>, Luca Bello<sup>2</sup>, Silvia Bonanno<sup>1</sup>, Alessandra Govoni<sup>3, 4</sup>, Claudia Caponnetto<sup>5</sup>, Luigia Passamano<sup>6</sup>, Marina Grandis<sup>5, 7</sup>, Francesca Trojsi<sup>8</sup>, Federica Cerri<sup>9</sup>, Manfredi Ferraro<sup>10</sup>, Virginia Bozzoni<sup>2</sup>, Luca Caumo<sup>2</sup>, Rachele Piras<sup>11</sup>, Raffaella Tanel<sup>12</sup>, Elena Saccani<sup>13</sup>, Megi Meneri<sup>3</sup>, Veria Vacchiano<sup>14</sup>, Giulia Ricci<sup>4</sup>, Gianni Soraru<sup>2</sup>, Eustachio D'Errico<sup>15</sup>, Irene Tramacere<sup>16</sup>, Sara Bortolani<sup>10</sup>, Giovanni Pavesi<sup>17</sup>, Riccardo Zanin<sup>18</sup>, Mauro Silvestrini<sup>19, 20</sup>, Luisa Politano<sup>6</sup>, Angelo Schenone<sup>5, 7</sup>, Stefano Carlo Previtali<sup>9</sup>, Angela Berardinelli<sup>21</sup>, Mara Turri<sup>22</sup>, Lorenzo Verriello<sup>23</sup>, Michela Coccia<sup>20</sup>, Renato Mantegazza<sup>1</sup>, Rocco Liguori<sup>14, 24</sup>, Massimiliano Filosto<sup>25, 26</sup>, Gianni Marrosu<sup>27</sup>, Gabriele Siciliano<sup>4</sup>, Isabella Laura Simone<sup>15</sup>, Tiziana Mongini<sup>10</sup>, Giacomo Comi<sup>3, 28</sup>, Elena Pegoraro<sup>2</sup>

Author affiliations +

### Abstract

**Objective** To retrospectively investigate safety and efficacy of nusinersen in a large cohort of adult Italian patients with spinal muscular atrophy (SMA).

**Methods** Inclusion criteria were: (1) clinical and molecular diagnosis of SMA2 or SMA3; (2) nusinersen treatment started in adult age (>18 years); (3) clinical data available at least at baseline (T0-beginning of treatment) and 6 months (T6).

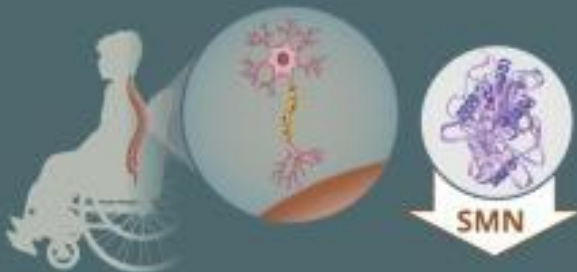
**Results** We included 116 patients (13 SMA2 and 103 SMA3) with median age at first administration of 34 years (range 18–72). The Hammersmith Functional Rating Scale Expanded (HFMSSE) in patients with SMA3 increased significantly from baseline to T6 (median change +1 point,  $p < 0.0001$ ), T10 (+2,  $p < 0.0001$ ) and T14 (+3,  $p < 0.0001$ ). HFMSSE changes were independently significant in SMA3 sitter and walker subgroups. The Revised Upper Limb Module (RULM) in SMA3 significantly improved between T0 and T14 (median +0.5,  $p = 0.012$ ), with most of the benefit observed in sitters (+2,  $p = 0.018$ ). Conversely, patients with SMA2 had no significant changes of median HFMSSE and RULM between T0 and the following time points, although a trend for improvement of RULM was observed in those with some residual baseline function. The rate of patients showing clinically meaningful improvements (as defined during clinical trials) increased from 53% to 69% from T6 to T14.

**Conclusions** Our data provide further evidence of nusinersen safety and efficacy in adult SMA2 and SMA3, with the latter appearing to be cumulative over time. In patients with extremely advanced disease, effects on residual motor function are less clear.

View Full Text

# Is long-term nusinersen effective for later-onset SMA?

Spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) is characterized by progressive muscular atrophy and weakness.



Analysis of the long-term efficacy of nusinersen on SMA is lacking.

Homozygous deletions or mutations in the **survival motor neuron 1 (SMN1)** gene cause decreased functional **SMN protein**.



**Nusinersen** has been shown to effectively increase full-length SMN protein levels.



**Study Question**  
What is the long-term effectiveness and safety of nusinersen in children with later-onset SMA?

**Integrated analysis**  
**28 children** (Aged: 2-15 years at enrollment)  
SMA Type II: n = 11; SMA Type III: n = 17

**Nusinersen (mg)**



**Mean change from baseline over ~3 years of treatment**

Motor assesment	SMA Type II	SMA Type III
Hammersmith Functional Motor Scale-Expanded score	<b>+10.8</b> points	<b>+1.8</b> points
Upper Limb Module score	<b>+4.0</b> points	<b>NR*</b>
Six-Minute Walk Test distance	<b>NR*</b>	<b>+92.0</b> points

**No children discontinued treatment due to adverse events.**

*\*Not reported*

**Long-term nusinersen treatment improved motor function and stabilized disease activity in children with later-onset SMA.**

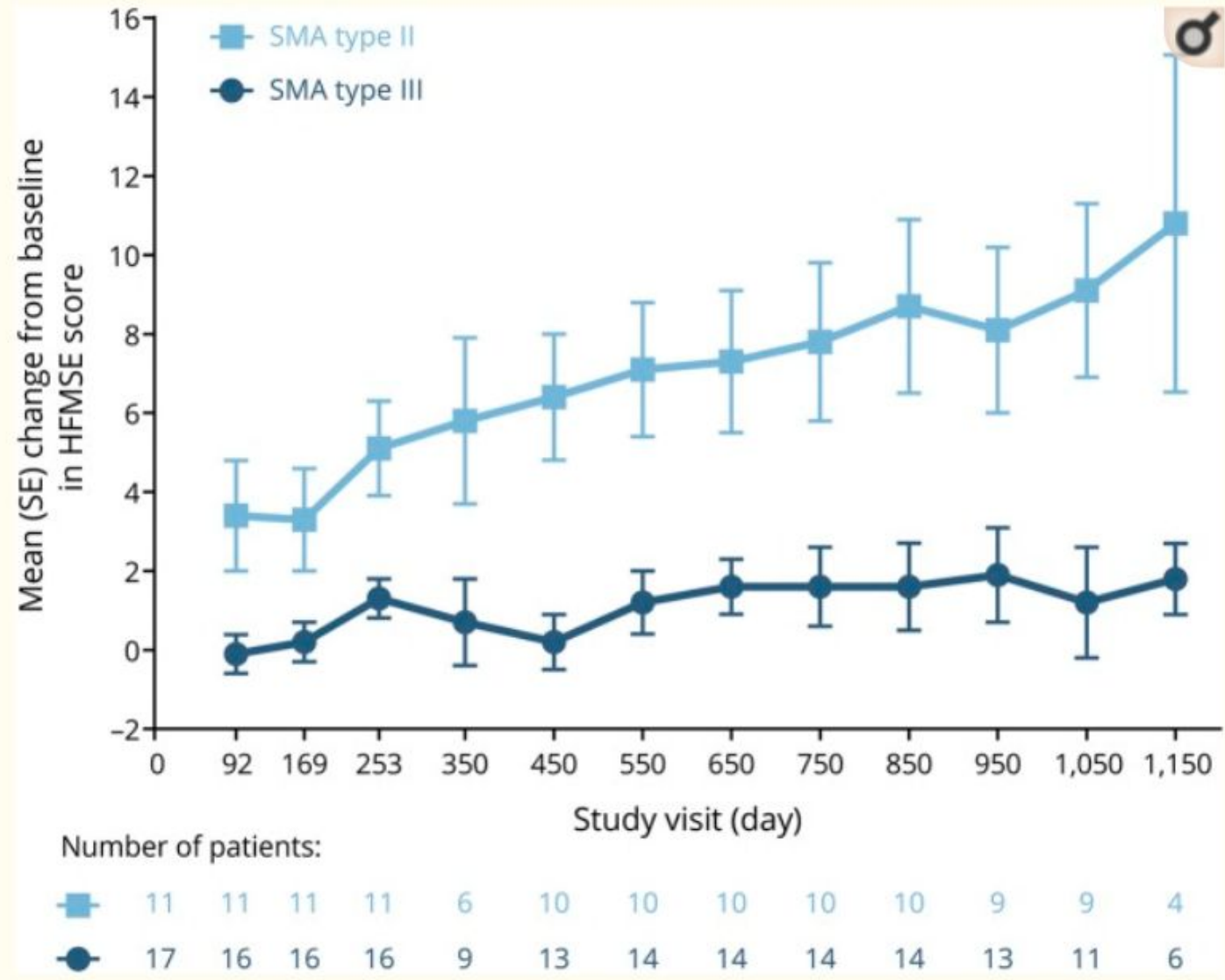


Figure 2

Mean change from baseline in Hammersmith Functional Motor Scale–Expanded (HFMSE) score





*Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory*



From Instagram page of SMA Benimle Yürü Derneđi @smabenimleyuru

Zolgensma (onsamnogene abeparvovec-xioi)

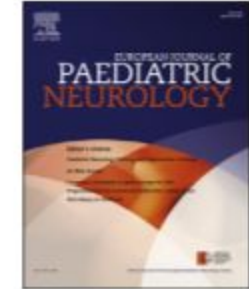
□ FDA approval in 2019, EMA approval in 2020

Evrysdi (Risdiplam) □ FDA approval in August 2020, submission to EMA is done, decision is waited. It is in TITCK's list of the drugs that can be imported since August 2020 but SGK does not cover the expenses at this moment.



Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](#)

## European Journal of Paediatric Neurology



### European ad-hoc consensus statement on gene replacement therapy for spinal muscular atrophy



Janbernd Kirschner <sup>a,\*</sup>, Nina Butoianu <sup>b</sup>, Nathalie Goemans <sup>c</sup>, Jana Haberlova <sup>d</sup>,  
Anna Kostera-Pruszczyk <sup>e</sup>, Eugenio Mercuri <sup>g,h</sup>, W. Ludo van der Pol <sup>k</sup>,  
Susana Quijano-Roy <sup>i</sup>, Thomas Sejersen <sup>j</sup>, Eduardo F. Tizzano <sup>f</sup>, Andreas Ziegler <sup>l</sup>,  
Laurent Servais <sup>m,n,1</sup>, Francesco Muntoni <sup>o,1</sup>

# Ongoing Studies

There are many preclinical and clinical studies.

*Please visit the webpage: [www.clinicaltrials.gov](http://www.clinicaltrials.gov)*

- SRK-015 - TOPAZ trial
  - AVXS-101 (FDA hold)
  - and other studies...
- 
- DEVOTE trial (Nusinersen in higher doses)
  - RESPOND trial (Nusinersen after gene therapy)
  - Trials of presymptomatic babies
  - Extension studies of approved drugs.

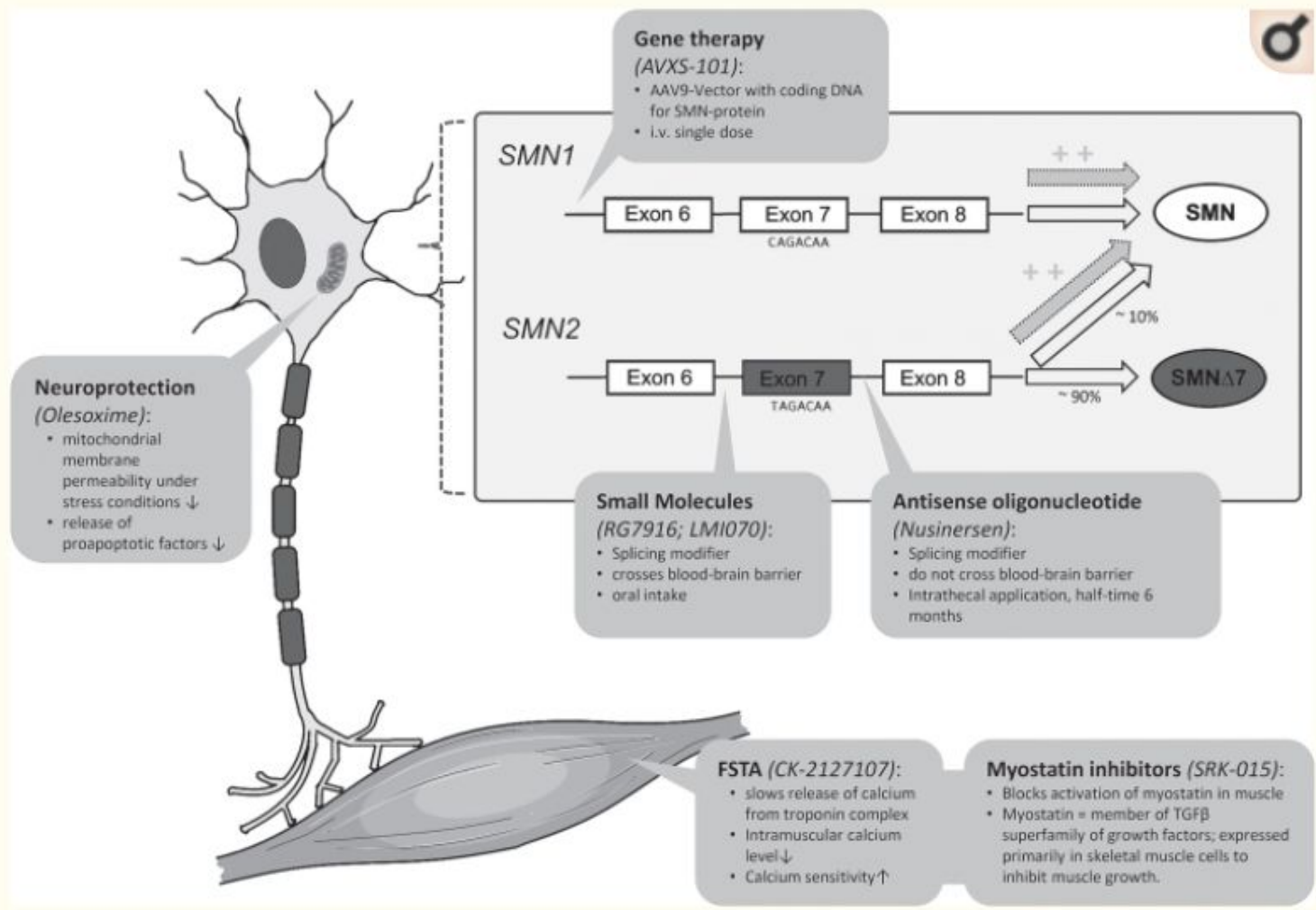



Fig.2

Illustration of therapeutic approaches in SMA involving molecular mechanisms of action (modified illustration based on Farrar et al. 2017 [101] and Pechmann et al. 2017 [102]). FSTA=Fast Troponin Activator.



# Some scoring tests to evaluate SMA patients

- Hammersmith Motor Functional Scale
- CHOP-Intend Scale
- Revised Upper Limb Module (RULM) Scale
- MFM-32 Scale
- HINE (Hammersmith Infant)
- 6-minute walking test
- 10 meter walking test

# To support us...

- In order to watch news, see improvements with Spinraza, read newspapers about me and my brother, here is the instagram page that our mom created: **@ayca\_burak\_annesi**

- SMA Benimle Yürü Derneği

Twitter and Instagram: @smabenimleyuru

Facebook Page: SMA Benimle Yürü

YouTube: SMA Benimle Yürü

Website: [www.smabenimleyuru.org.tr](http://www.smabenimleyuru.org.tr)

Hashtags frequently used in social media:

#spinalmuscularatrophy , #smatype1 , #smatype2 , #smatype3,  
#spinraza , #nusinersen , #zolgensma , #evrysdi , #risdiplam ,  
#smaawareness



Thank you!  
Any questions?

