

Less is more: leave the well alone

Overdiagnosticering og overbehandling
i sundhedsvæsenet

Aarhus

14 November 2015

JYDSK MEDICINSK SELSKAB

en smutvej til ny viden



A METRO PICTURE
in 6 PARTS



JOSEPH M. SCHENCK
PRESENTS

AGES

STARRING

BUSTER KEATON

DIRECTED BY
Buster Keaton and Eddie Cline
STORY AND TITLES BY
JEAN HAVAZ · JOE MITCHELL · CLYDE BRUCKMAN





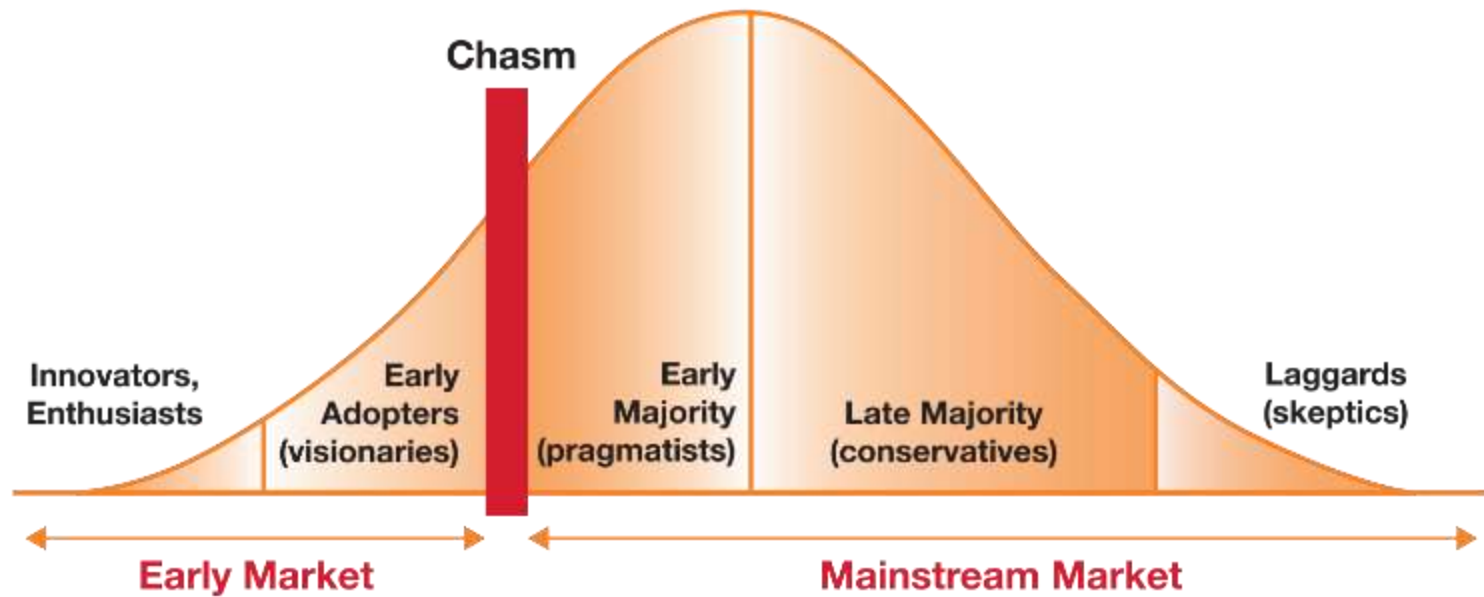
THE PRESENT AGE
Of Speed, Need, and Greed

- Speed

- Need

- Greed

Innovation Adoption Curve





PROUD
to be a
LAGGARD

Clinical Pharmacology



D. R. LAURENCE

FOURTH EDITION

Illustrations by Peter Kneebone

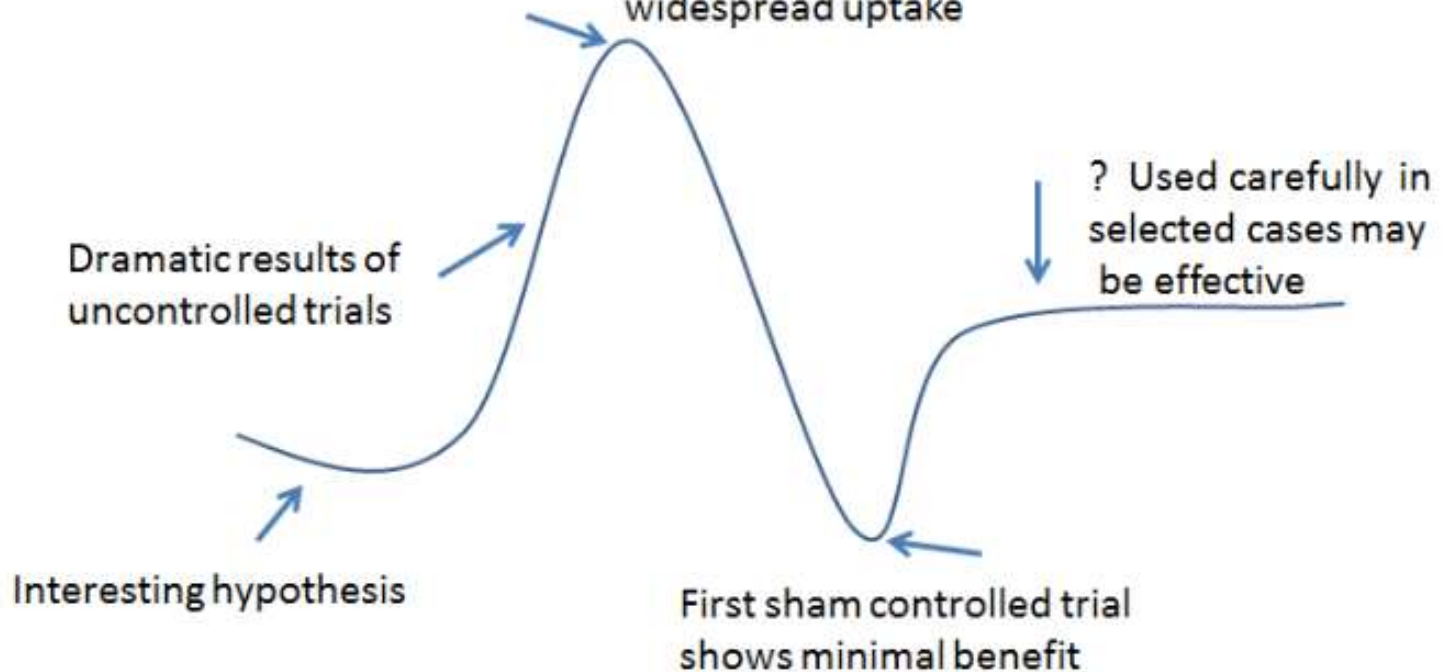
Device companies



Cardiologists

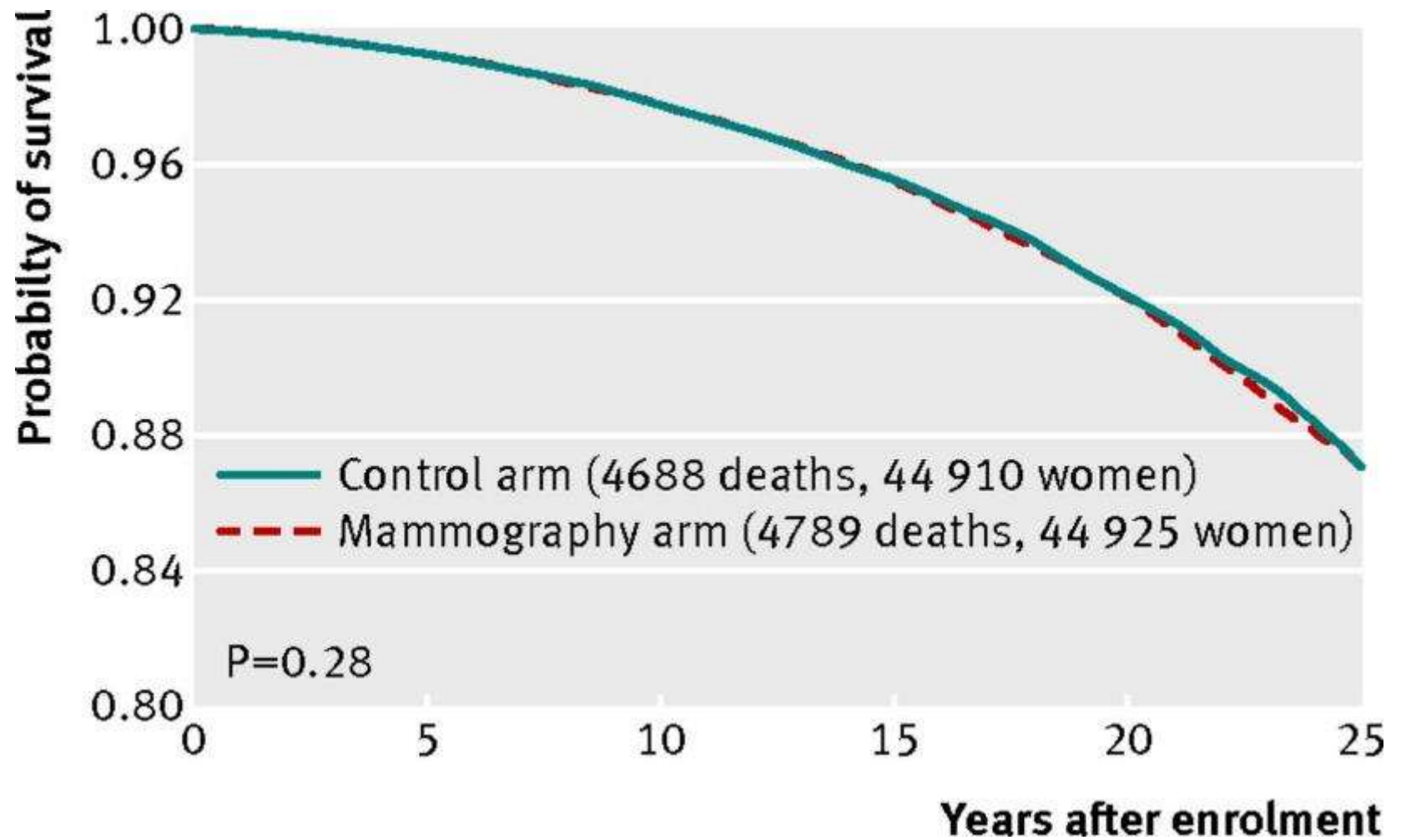


Fantastic treatment for resistant hypertension
widespread uptake



Oscillations in the development of renal denervation

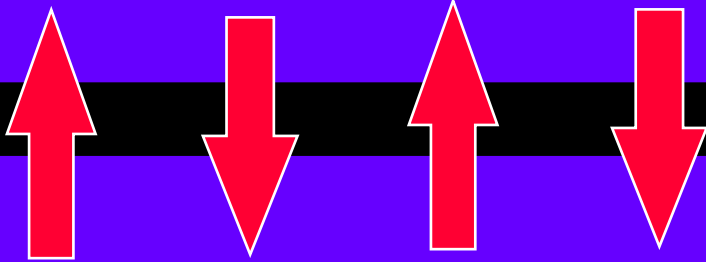
Fig 2 All cause mortality, by assignment to mammography or control arms (all participants).



Miller A B et al. BMJ 2014;348:bmj.g366



Stressful life
experience



Illness

Disease

Disease
requiring
specialist
treatment

centralisation of
specialist services

Most people most of the
time want to live for
ever. ... [but] most
people some of the time,
and some people most
of the time, do not want
to live forever.

Christopher Ricks
Beckett's Dying Words, 1990





**THE LOGIC
OF CARE**
HEALTH AND
THE PROBLEM
OF PATIENT
CHOICE

Annemarie Mol

Even if good care strives after good results, the quality of care cannot be deduced from its results. Instead, what characterises good care is a calm, persistent but forgiving effort to improve the situation of a patient, or to keep this from deteriorating.

Annemarie Mol
The Logic of Care, 2006

- early imposition of medical priorities encourages unjustified somatisation, misuse of technical resources and negative net output; but for the doctor it has the overwhelming merit of getting one patient out in time for the next, and for the patient, comforting illusions of simplicity.

Julian Tudor Hart

Feasible Socialism: the National Health Service, past, present and future,
1994



Caregiving is one of the foundational moral meanings and practices in human experience everywhere: it defines human value and resists crude reduction to counting and costing.

Arthur Kleinman
Caregiving as moral experience
The Lancet 2012; 380 (9853): 1550–1551.

- Speed
- Need
- Greed

NHS founding principle
of healthcare resources
being distributed
according to need, not
the ability to pay

Risk discourse is redolent with the ideologies of mortality, danger, and divine retribution. Risk, as it is used in modern society, therefore cannot be considered a neutral term.

Lupton D. Risk as moral danger: the social and political functions of risk discourse in public health. *International Journal of Health Services* 1993; 23(3): 425-35.



- she felt that those who prepared for all emergencies of life beforehand may equip themselves at the expense of joy.

EM Forster

Howards End, 1910



an estimated increase
from 183,000
prescriptions in 1991
to 1.58 million in 1995

Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology
Treating Problem Behaviour in Children, 1997.

They are casting their problems at society. And, you know, there's no such thing as society. There are individual men and women and there are families.

Margaret Thatcher
Interview in *Women's Own*, 1987

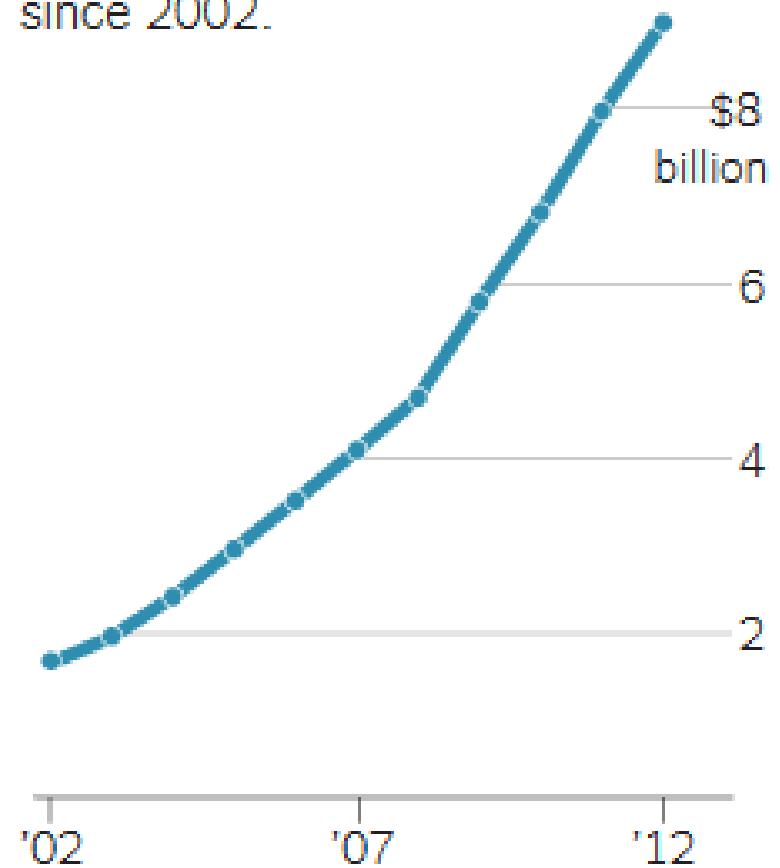
Global Data estimates that the global ADHD therapeutics market was valued at \$3855.6m in 2010, and is forecast to grow at a compound annual growth rate of 8.0% over the next eight years, to reach \$7114.5m by 2018.

Conrad P, Bergey MR. The impending globalization of ADHD: Notes on the expansion and growth of a medicalized disorder. *Social Science and Medicine*, 2014



Stimulant Sales

Sales of prescription stimulants have more than quintupled since 2002.



"GIFTEDNESS."

"DYSLEXIA."

"AD/HD."



Even the most liberal system of psychiatric nomenclature does violence to the being of another. If we relate to people believing that we can categorize them, we will neither identify or nurture the parts, the vital parts, of the other that transcends category. The enabling relationship always assumes that the other is never fully knowable.

Yalom I.

Love's Executioner and other tales of psychotherapy,
1991.

- Speed
- Need
- Greed



And when they cannot
swallow any more someone
rams a tube down their
gullet, or up their rectum,
and fills them full of
vitaminized pap, so as not to
be accused of murder.

Samuel Beckett
Malone Dies, 1951



Johnson & Johnson

Lilly



Medtronic



sanofi aventis

Because health matters

technical solutions

existential problems

It is not knowledge that we lack. What is missing is the courage to understand what we know and draw conclusions.

Sven Lindqvist
'Exterminate all the Brutes', 1992



WHO Global Health Expenditure Atlas

September 2014



World Health
Organization



Dr. Herbert Marcuse

‘Totalitarian’ is not only a terroristic political coordination of society, but also a non-terroristic economic-technical coordination which operates through the manipulation of needs by vested interests.

H. Marcuse
One Dimensional Man
1964



He is saying, indeed, something no less comprehensive than this: that Russia, with its idealistic social revolution now developed into a police state, is but the image of the impending future and that the ultimate threat to human freedom may well come from a similar and even more massive development of the social idealism of our democratic culture.

Trilling, L. Orwell on the Future. (1949)
In: Ed. Hynes S. *Twentieth Century Interpretations of 1984*.
Englewood Cliffs: Prentice-Hall, 1971.

1984



IGNORANCE IS STRENGTH

FREEDOM IS SLAVERY

WAR IS PEACE
WAR IS PEACE
WAR IS PEACE

The essential point of *Nineteen Eighty-Four* is just this, the danger of the ultimate and absolute power which the mind can develop when it frees itself from conditions, from the bondage of things and history.

Trilling, L. Orwell on the Future. (1949)
In: Ed. Hynes S. *Twentieth Century Interpretations of 1984*.
Englewood Cliffs: Prentice-Hall, 1971.

- Individual harm;
- Undertreatment;
- Threat to universal healthcare;
- Marginalisation of socioeconomic causes of ill-health.



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Of Speed, Need, and Greed



Health promotion ... falls far short of meeting the ethical imperatives for screening procedures, and moreover diminishes health and wastes resource. General practitioners would do better to encourage people to lead lives of modified hedonism, so that they may enjoy, in the full, the only life they are likely to have.

McCormick J. Health promotion: the ethical dimension.
Lancet 1994; 344: 390-1.