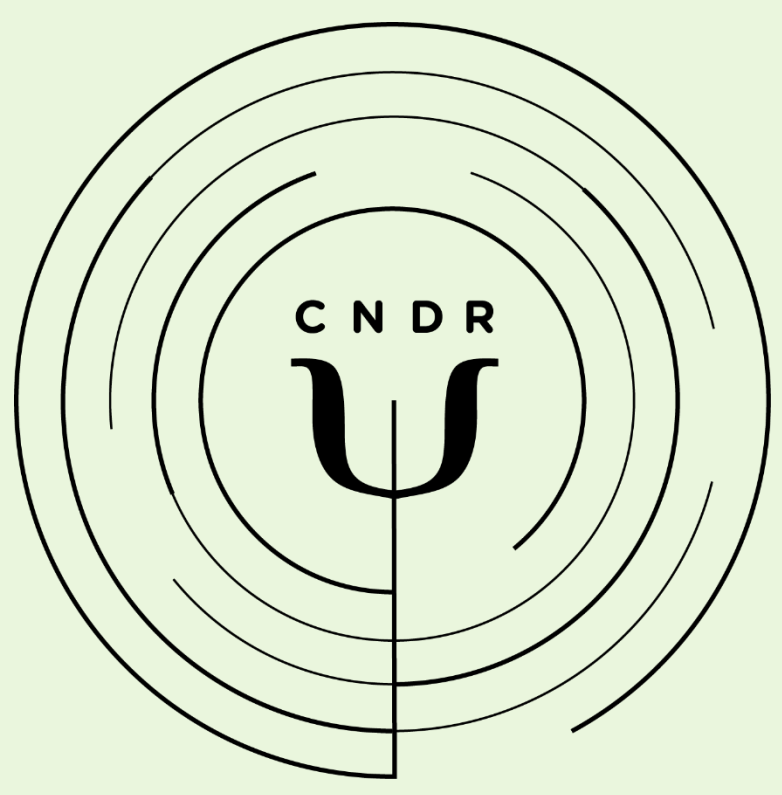




DANSECT

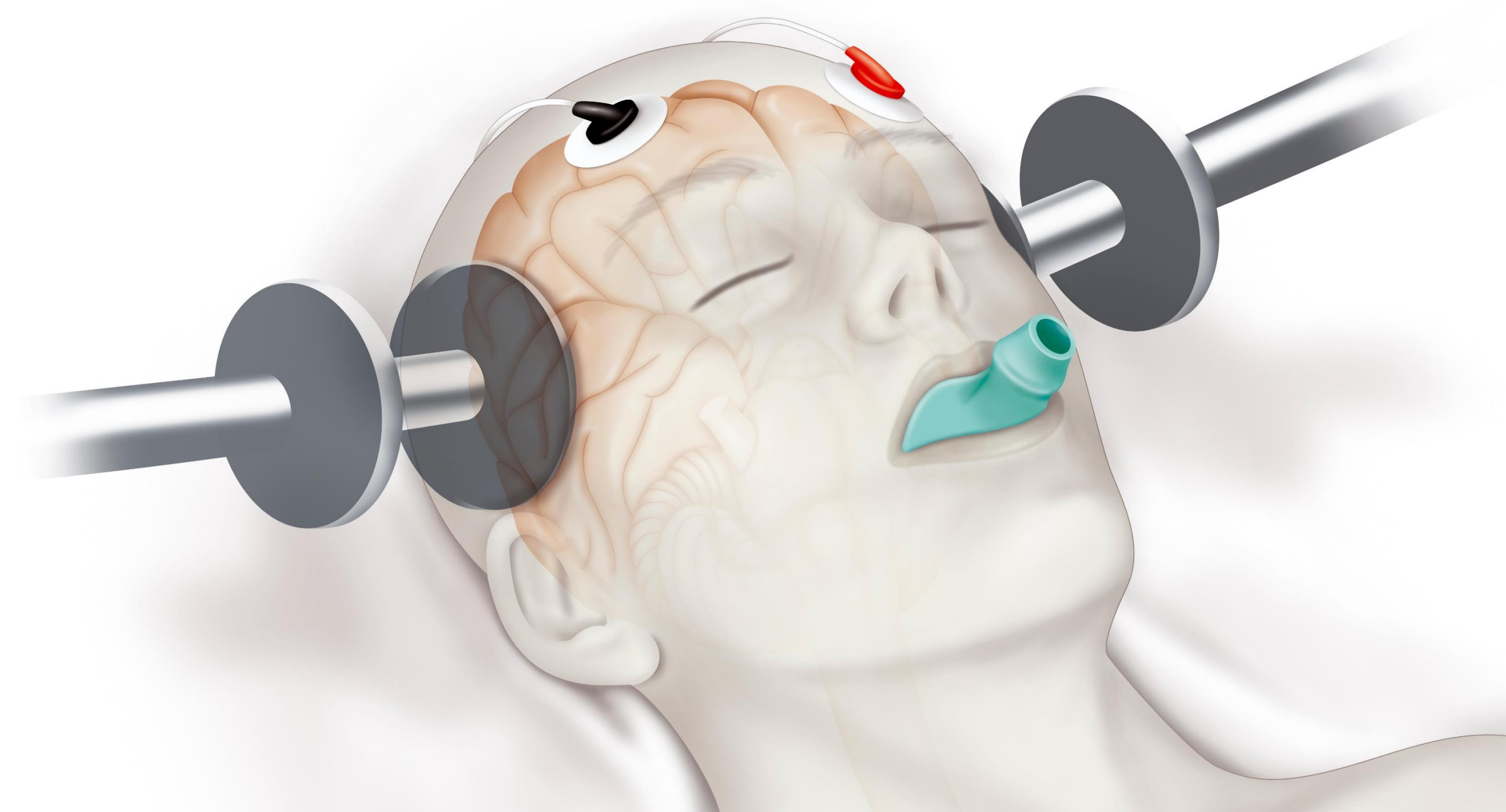
The Danish Neuropsychological Study of the Adverse Effects of Electroconvulsive Therapy



A. Mathiassen, K. Gbyl, C. Lundsgaard, Y. Sainoski & P. Videbech
Centre for Neuropsychiatric Depression Research, Mental Health Centre Glostrup

BACKGROUND

Electroconvulsive therapy (ECT) is the most efficacious treatment for severe depression¹. Transient cognitive deficits are observed across cognitive domains after ECT, generally resolving within two weeks after treatment. Some patients even exhibit improved cognitive functioning compared to pre-treatment². However, cognitive disturbances, including autobiographical memory deficits in particular, can persist for longer periods of time, and even become permanent³. The etiology, prevalence and extent are unclear. This causes worry for patients and may complicate treatment decision making.



Picture 1. Bilateral ECT.

OBJECTIVES

1. To investigate the prevalence, extent and persistence of adverse cognitive effects following ECT.
2. To predict the risk of ECT-induced adverse cognitive effects by combining clinical, neuroimaging and biochemical measures.

METHOD

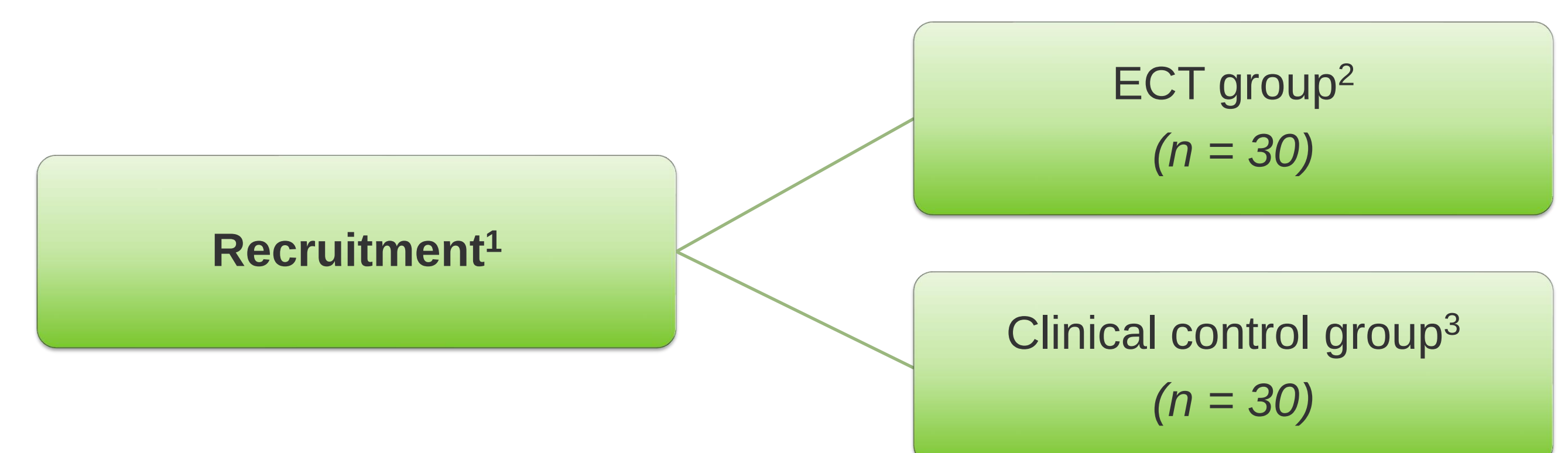


Figure 1. Overview of the recruitment process.

- ¹ Patients are recruited from mental health centers in the Capital Region of Denmark.
² Patients with depression treated with ECT.
³ Patients with depression treated with medication and/or psychotherapy.



Figure 2. Timeline of examinations.

- ¹ 5 +/- 2 days after completion of ECT.
² 6 +/- 2 months after completion of ECT.

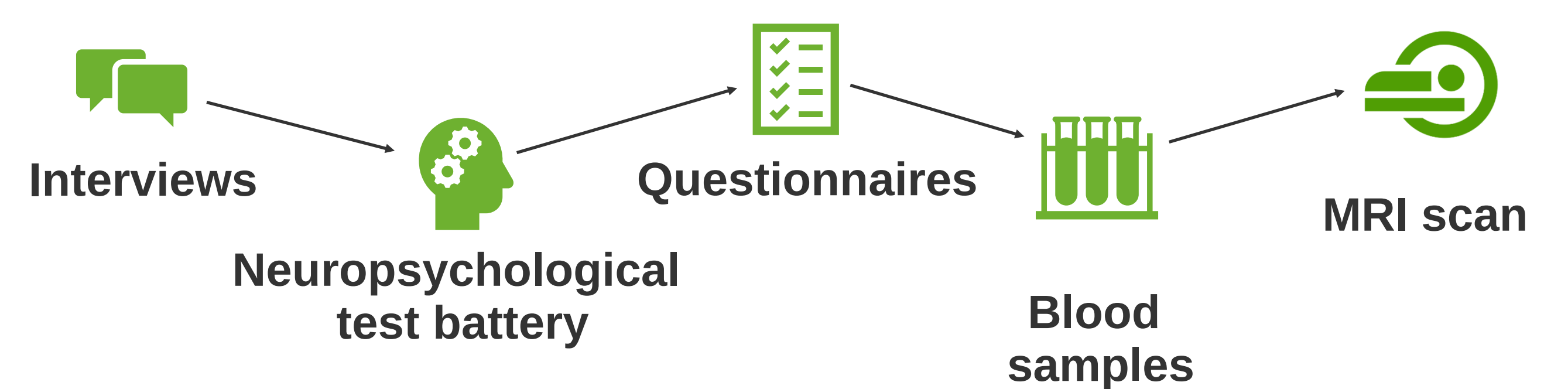


Figure 3. Overview of examination program.

PRELIMINARY RESULTS

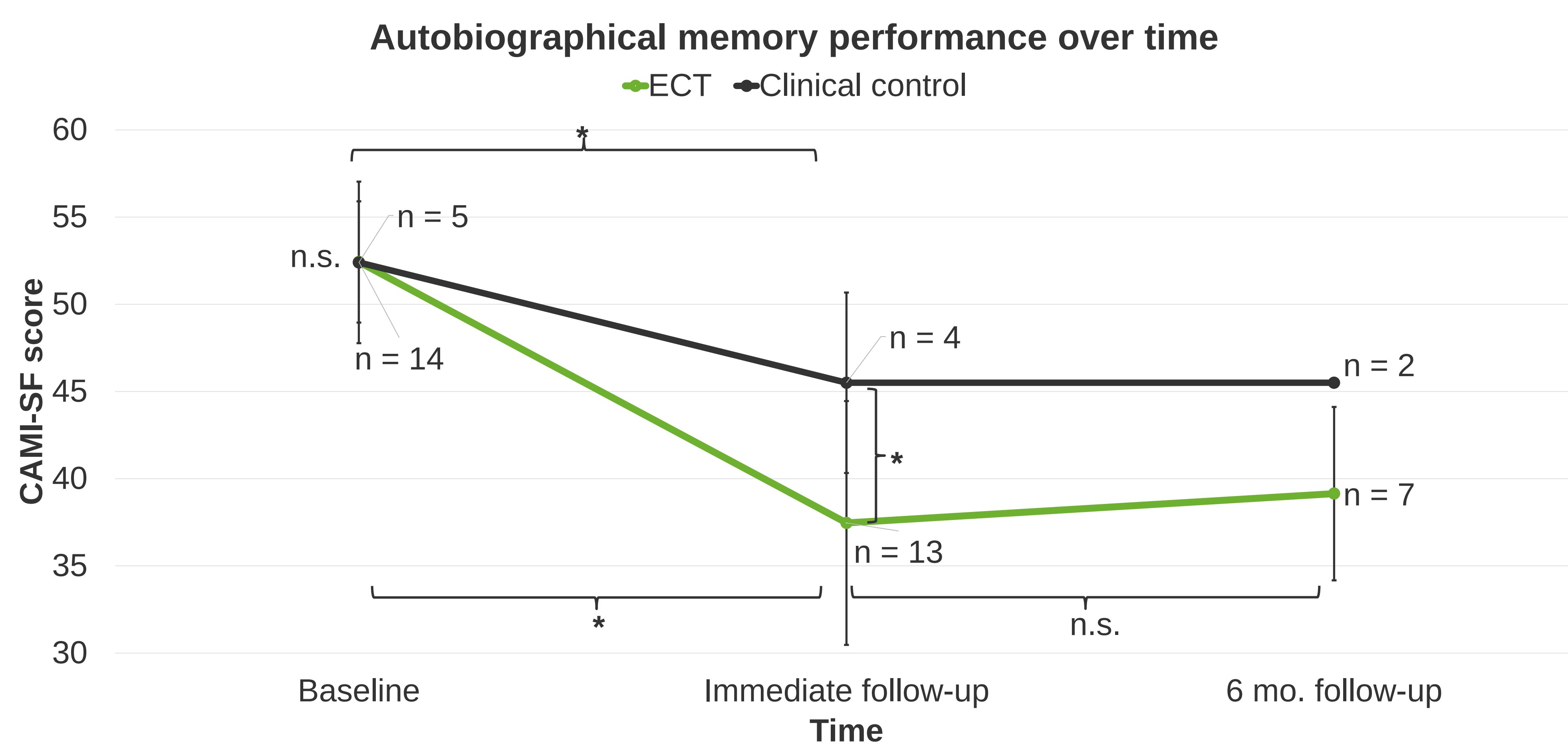


Figure 4. Line graph of the preliminary results on the Columbia Autobiographical Memory Interview-Short Form (CAMI-SF) for the ECT group and the clinical control group.