

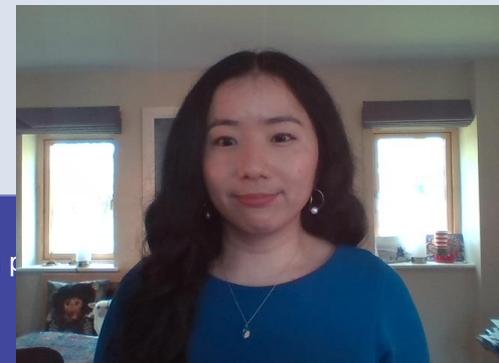
RECAP preterm

Collaborative Research on Very Preterm Birth: Concepts and Methods – Working with the RECAP preterm Data Platform

WP9 Social Functioning in Adults Born Very Preterm

Dr Yanyan Ni

University of Warwick



Learning Objectives

1

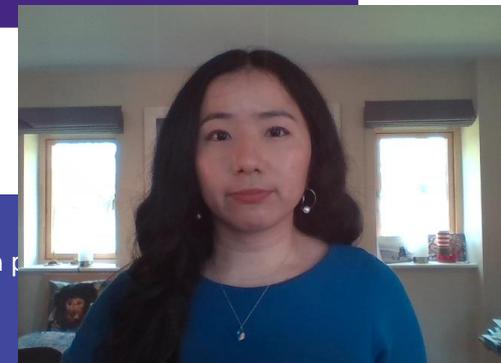
Why is it important to investigate social functioning in adulthood following very preterm birth (VP; <32 weeks of gestation)?

2

New findings from an IPD meta-analysis of self-perceived social functioning

3

Practical implications



Why is it important?

Social functioning

- Reflects an individual's interactions with human environments and the ability to fulfil their role within environments such as education, work, and social relationships with friends, partners and family (Bosc 2000).

Social relationships

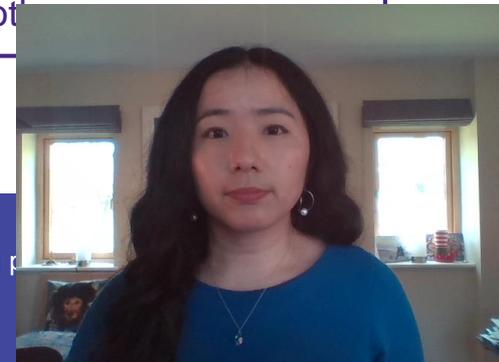
- Important determinants of well-being, health, and quality of life.

Evidence from factual information

- Adverse impacts on social functioning in adulthood following VP birth (Mendonca et al. 2019; Bilgin et al. 2018)
- Lower educational attainment, higher rates of unemployment, increased likelihood of receiving social benefits, decreased likelihood of having a partner, and fewer friends

Lack of research on individual perceptions

- How VP adults perceive their social experiences and relationships with others



An IPD meta-analysis of self-perceived social functioning



Objectives

- To investigate differences in levels of self-perceived social functioning in VP/VLBW (very low birth weight; birth weight <1500g) adults compared with term-born peers

Outcomes

- The ASEBA ASR Adaptive Functioning scales (Friends, Spouse/Partner, Family, Job, Education).

Five European cohorts

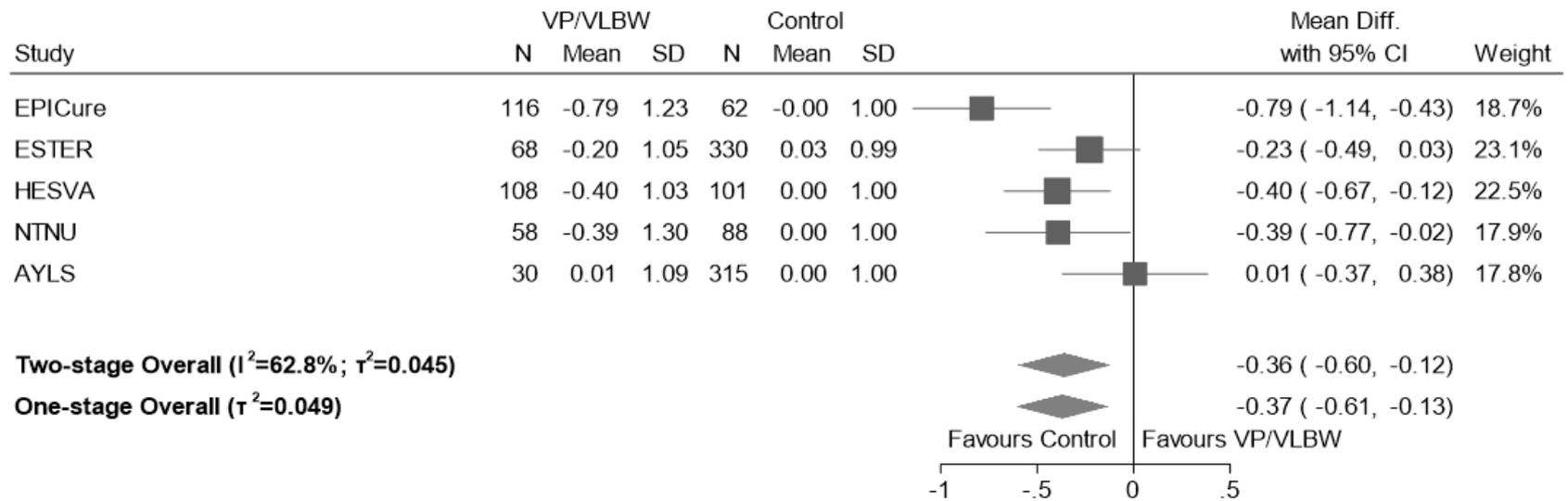
- EPICure, ESTER, HESVA, AYLS, NTNU

Participants

- 385 VP/VLBW adults and 900 controls



Key findings from 1-stage and 2-stage IPD meta-analysis: Friends



Effect size was slightly reduced after excluding participants with childhood neurosensory impairment (Δ -0.34, 95% CI -0.61, -0.07)



Key findings: the other scales

Scales	Mean Diff (95% CI)	
	Two-stage	One-stage
Family	-0.05 (-0.19, 0.08)	-0.06 (-0.20, 0.08)
Spouse/Partner	0.05 (-0.16, 0.26)	0.04 (-0.16, 0.25)
Job	-0.07 (-0.26, 0.11)	-0.10 (-0.32, 0.13)
Education	-0.02 (-0.19, 0.15)	-0.02 (-0.19, 0.15)



Key findings: what predicts friendship within VP/VLBW adults (one-stage results)

Variables	Effect (95% CI)
Age at assessment	0.01 (-0.07, 0.10) [n=380]
Sex (ref.=male)	-0.06 (-0.29, 0.18) [n=380]
SES Low	Medium vs 0.27 (-0.08, 0.62) [n=361]
Low	High vs 0.29 (-0.13, 0.70) [n=361]
Neurosensory impairment in childhood (ref.=no)	-0.48 (-1.02, 0.06) [n=348]
Gestational age (weeks)	0.06 (-0.02, 0.13) [n=380]
Birthweight z-score	0.01 (-0.14, 0.16) [n=380]
Multiple birth (ref.= singleton)	0.05 (-0.33, 0.43) [n=379]
IVH Grade 3-4 (ref.= no IVH or IVH grade 1-2)	-0.39 (-0.93, 0.14) [n=271]
IVH (ref.= no)	0.24 (-0.11, 0.59) [n=271]
BPD (ref.= no)	-0.46 (-0.77, -0.15) [n=306]

IVH, intraventricular hemorrhage; BPD, bronchopulmonary dysplasia



Practical implications

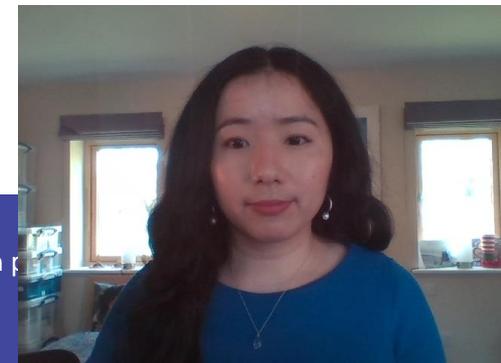
- The importance of **including individual perceptions of social functioning**
- Provide a **comprehensive** picture of adult social life
- **Reassuring findings** in the areas of family, spouse/partner, work and education
- **How to improve friendship in adulthood?**
 - Early interventions in clinical, family and school settings to enhance social skills and social inclusion in childhood



References



- Bosc M. Assessment of social functioning in depression. *Compr Psychiatry* 2000;41:63-9. doi:10.1016/s0010-440x(00)90133-0.
- Mendonca M, Bilgin A, Wolke D. Association of Preterm Birth and Low Birth Weight With Romantic Partnership, Sexual Intercourse, and Parenthood in Adulthood: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis. *JAMA network open* 2019;2:e196961. doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2019.6961.
- Bilgin A, Mendonca M, Wolke D. Preterm Birth/Low Birth Weight and Markers Reflective of Wealth in Adulthood: A Meta-analysis. *Pediatrics* 2018;142. doi:10.1542/peds.2017-3625.



Thank you

In case of questions, please feel free to contact
yanyan.ni@warwick.ac.uk



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska Curie grant agreement No 733280.

