

# The importance & challenges of transition

Susannah Rowles

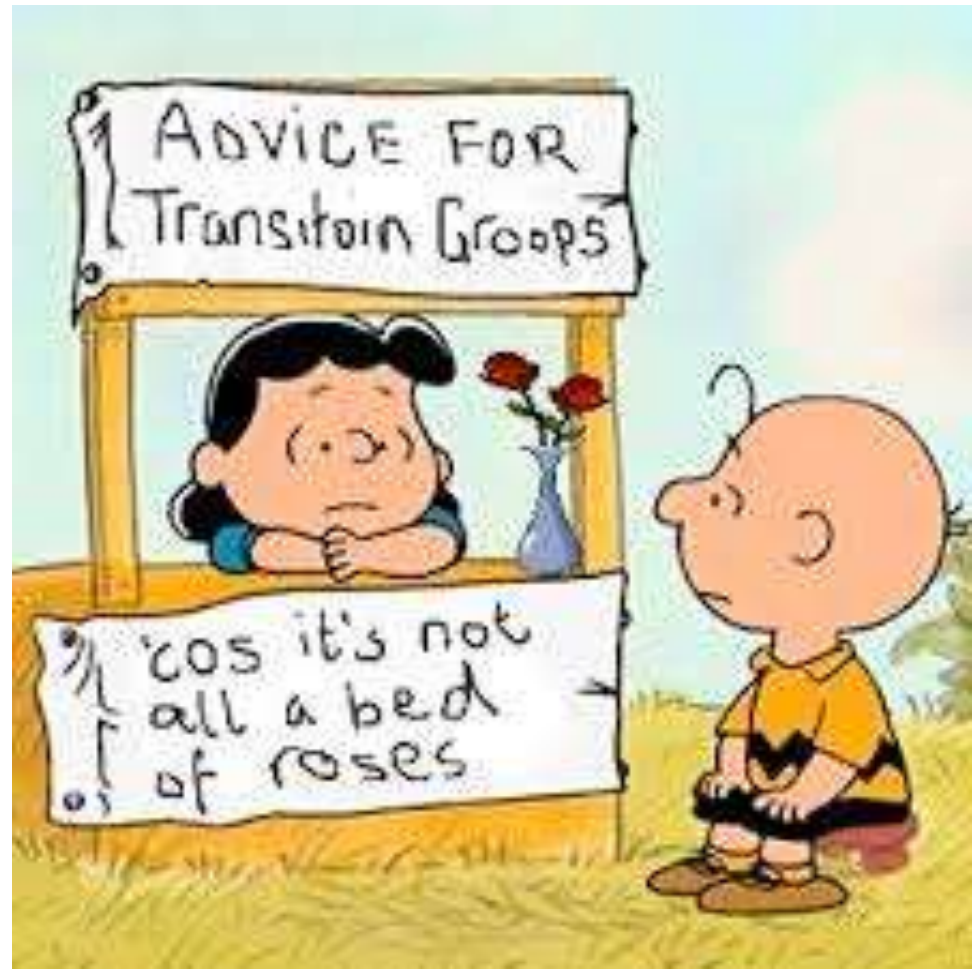
Consultant Pennine Acute NHS Hospitals Trust Manchester

*ABCD Honorary Secretary*



# Learning outcomes

- Definition of transition
- Why it matters
- Why it's so difficult
- Some practical tips



# Definition

*The period of time during which there is planned, purposeful and supported change in a young adult's diabetes management from child orientated to adult orientated services, mirroring increasing independence and responsibility in other aspects of their life."*

Adolescence.....developmental epoch which children become adults intellectually, physically, hormonally and socially





# Hazard ratios of death with diabetes versus without diabetes

	20-39 yrs	40-59y rs	60-79 yrs
male	2.54	2.17	1.91
female	3.76	2.54	2.53

*YHPHO 2008*

Age of diagnosis matters:

- If  $\Delta \leq 10$  yrs old decrease in life expectancy by 16 yrs
- If  $\Delta \geq 16$  yrs old decrease in life expectancy by 10 yrs

# 14<sup>th</sup> annual National Paediatric audit 2016/17

- Inequalities in treatment widening at both ends of the deprivation scale
- Poorer outcomes associated with: white ethnicity, adolescence, female sex, living in deprived area
- Rising rates of type 2 diabetes with greater incidence of micro & macrovascular disease than type 1 –
  - 46% hypertension
  - 20% albuminuria
  - 5% abnormal eye screening
  - 33% raised lipids

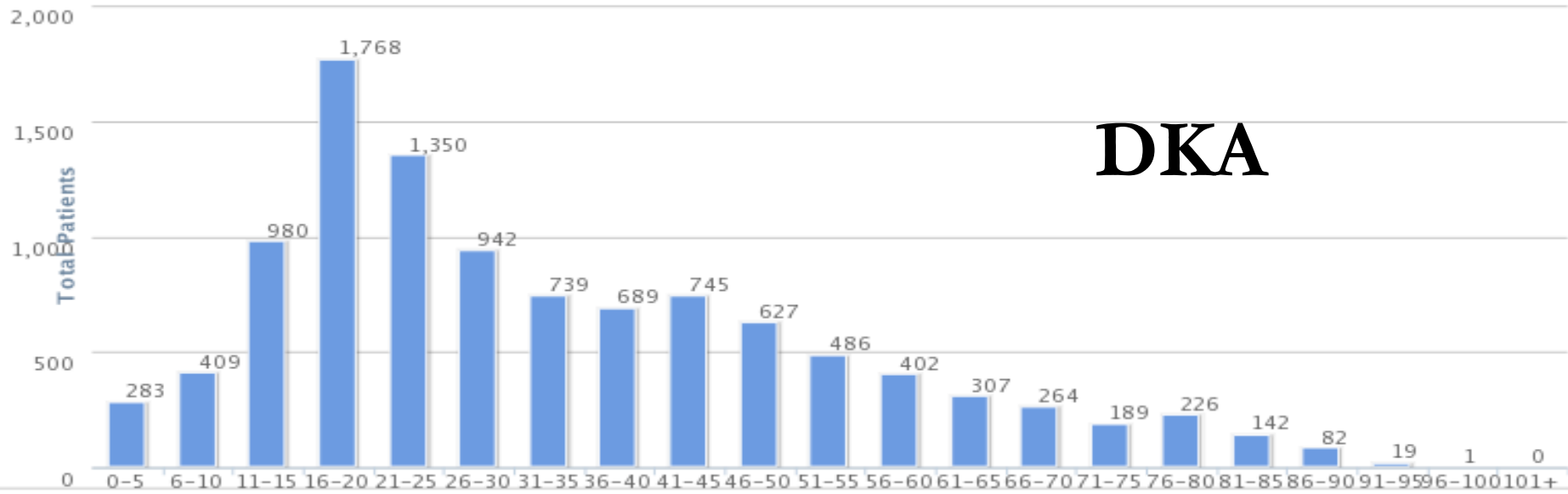
715 individuals 206/17 compared with 77 2015/16

DUK estimate 7,000 under the age of 25yrs





Population Age Splits 2012/13



Population Age Splits 2012/13





HORMONES/  
HEREDITY

PARENTS &  
CAREERS

SEARCH FOR  
"SELF" /  
INCREASING  
AUTONOMY

SOCIAL/PEER  
PRESSURE

ENVIRONMENT

DRUGS / ETOH



# TOP WORRIES

Exams

“Belonging”

Body image

Overscheduling

Family conflict

Relationships

The future



.....and diabetes



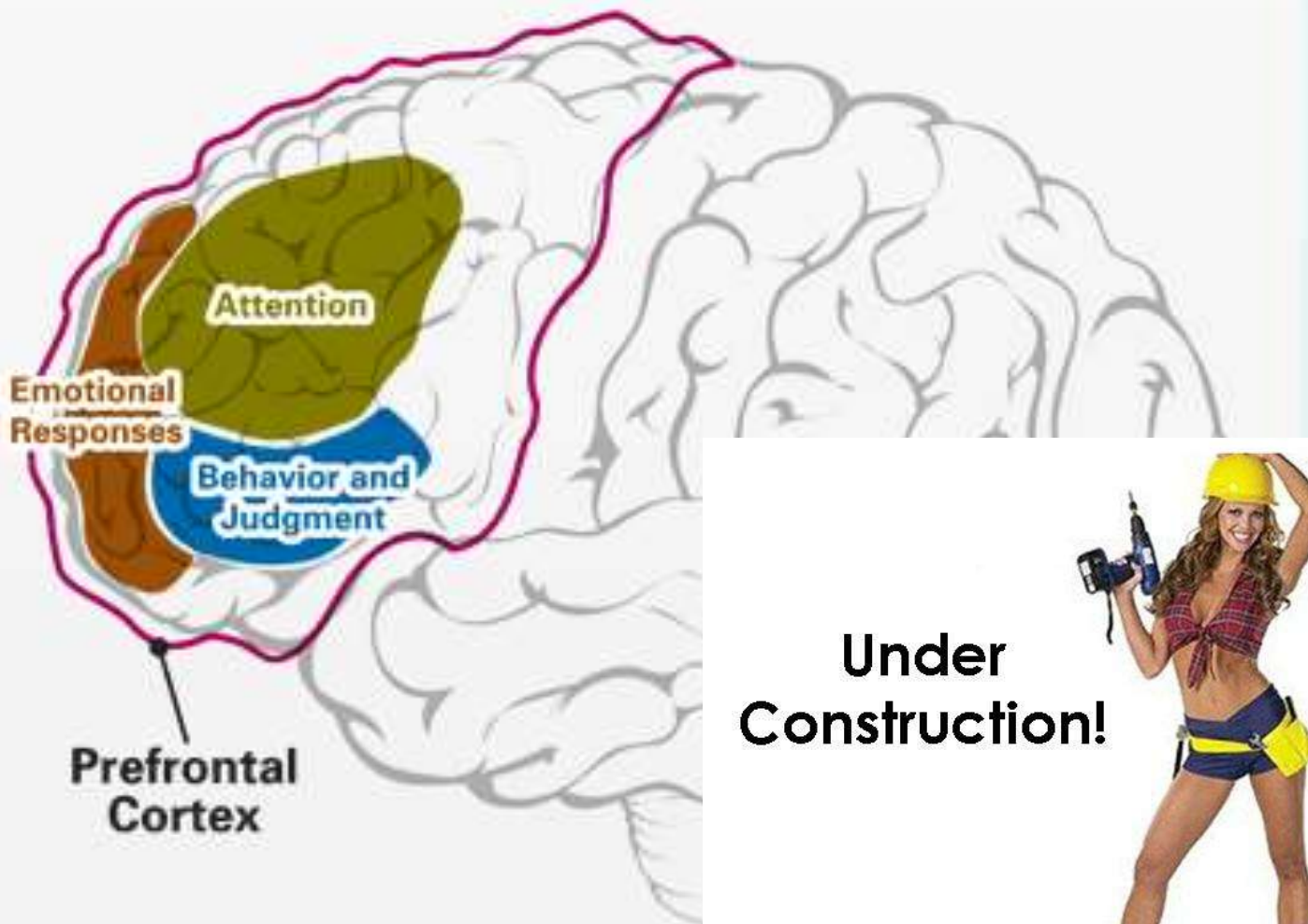


**Why it is so hard**

**Or.....**

**Good excuses for  
teenagers to give**

Neurobehavioral,  
morphological,  
neurochemical &  
pharmacological evidence  
of brain maturation



**Under  
Construction!**



# Executive prefrontal cortex functions

Ability to  
balance short  
term rewards  
with long term  
goals

Simultaneously  
considering  
multiple  
streams of info  
that's complex  
& challenging

Considering  
the future &  
making  
predictions

Shifting/adjust  
ing behaviour  
when  
situations  
change

Impulse  
control &  
delaying  
gratification

Modulation  
of intense  
**emotion**

Focusing  
attention

Inhibiting  
inappropriate  
behaviour  
/initiating  
appropriate  
behaviour

Foreseeing &  
weighing  
**possible  
consequences**  
of behaviour

Forming  
strategies &  
planning

Organizing  
thoughts &  
problem  
solving

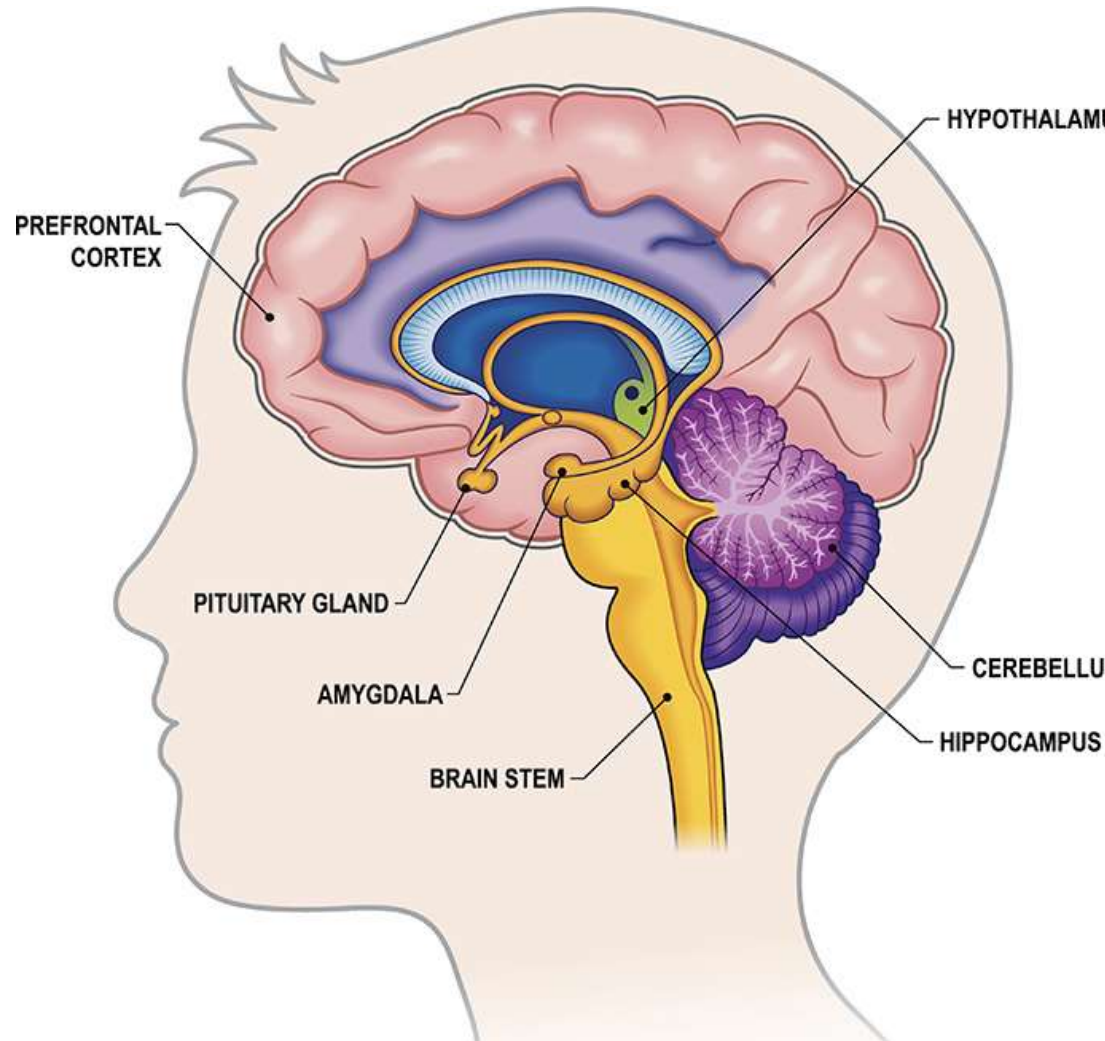


# THE LIMBIC SYSTEM

Involved in expression & motivation related to survival:

- Fear, anger, flight / flight response
- Eating, sex
- Memory retrieval of events that have provoked a strong emotional response

**Adolescence are more likely to rely on their emotions to make decisions**

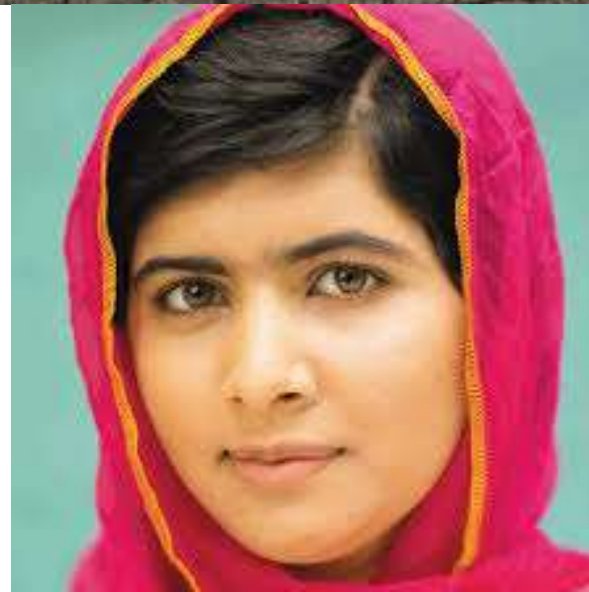


Pre frontal cortex

vs

limbic







# From here to maturity!

Adolescent brain has greater capacity to:

- Learn and create (neuroplasticity)
- More prone to risk taking / impulsive behav.
- More prone to damage from drugs
- Higher risk of addiction
- Higher risk of mental illness

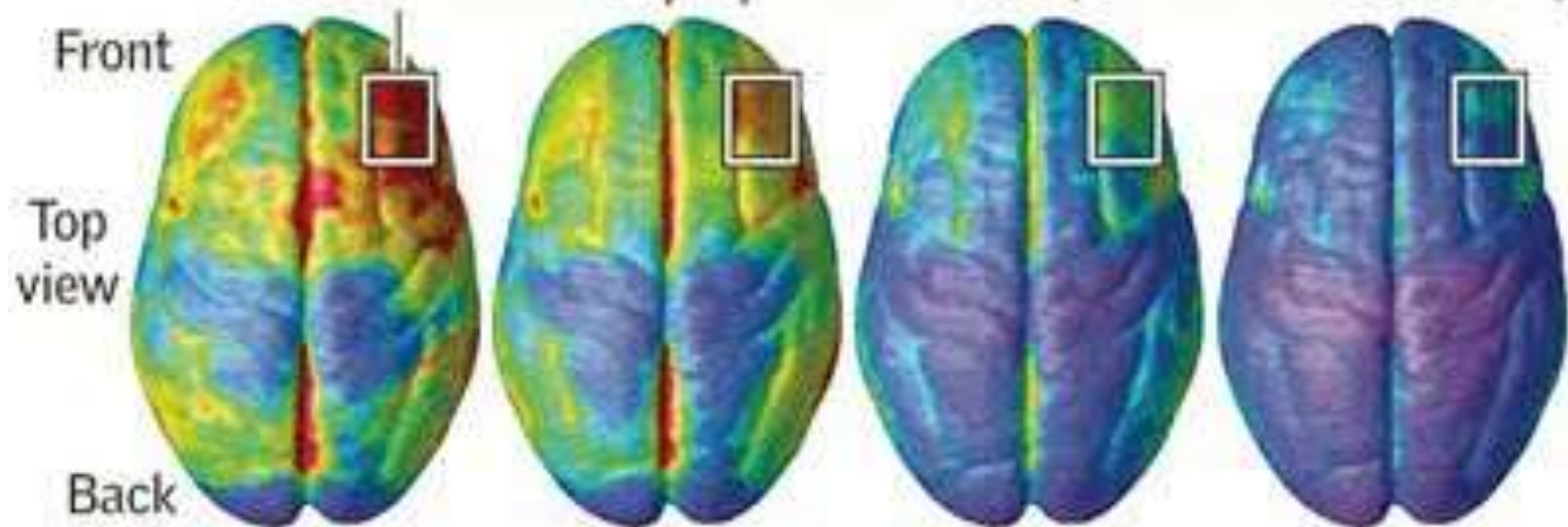


Laying down of myelin - necessary for proper nerve insulation & effective neurocybernetics

Excess grey matter is “pruned out”

5-year-old brain   Preteen brain   Teen brain   20-year-old brain

*Dorsal lateral prefrontal cortex ("executive functions")*



**Red/yellow:** Parts of brain less fully mature



**Blue/purple:** Parts of brain more fully matured

*Sources: National Institute of Mental Health;  
Paul Thompson, Ph.D., UCLA Laboratory of  
Neuro Imaging*

**Thomas McKay** | The Denver Post

# Vital ingredients for myelinogenesis



# Yin & Yang of nerve dialogue

- Glutamatergic neurotransmission predominates – major excitatory neurotransmitter
- GABA (gamma aminobutyric acid) neurotransmission is still under construction – major inhibitory neurotransmitter



VS





# Other important neurotransmitter changes in adolescence

DOPAMINE ↓	SEROTONIN ↓	MELATONIN ↑
Movement control Emotional response Ability to experience pain / pleasure	Mood alteration Anxiety Impulse control Arousal	Circadian rhythms Sleep-wake cycle
Mood swings Difficulty regulating emotion	Decreased impulse control	Increased need for sleep

+ oestrogen  
progesterone  
testosterone



# What works?

- **Cultural continuity**

Minimising the differences between paed & adult culture

- **Disease management continuity**

A common purpose & plan shared between team members

- **Information continuity**

Approaches to info giving & materials consistent between paed / adult teams

- **Developmental continuity**

Proactively encouraging the young person to grow into a more independent adult

- **Flexible continuity**

Support responsive to individual needs



*"I lift, you grab. .... Was that concept  
just a little too complex, Carl?"*

# Hints for the High HbA1c Transition & Young Person Patients

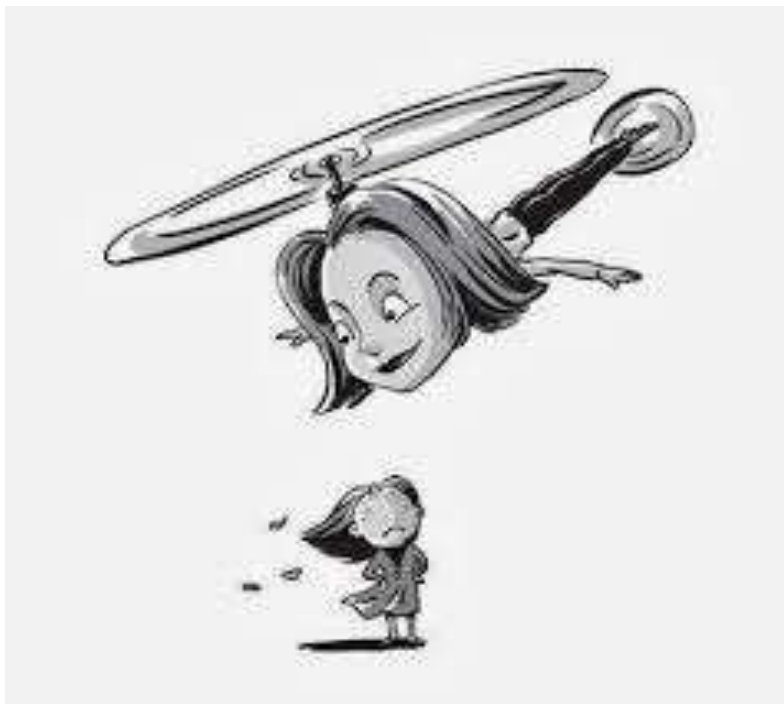
- If the pt is on once daily lantus with suboptimal control consider swop to Tresiba
- Is the pt on lantus twice a day, if so consider change to bd levimir twelve hours apart or to once daily Tresiba
- If the pt does a lot of exercise and is on lantus or Tresiba consider swop to bd levimir twelve hours apart
- Does the pt wait 10 minutes between injecting the rapid acting insulin and eating?  
If not, ask whether this habit can be changed or suggest swopping to fiasp unless pt has very high fat / protein meals
- Ensure injection sites are rotated – have a look yourself don't just ask
- Ensure fresh needle is used for every injection



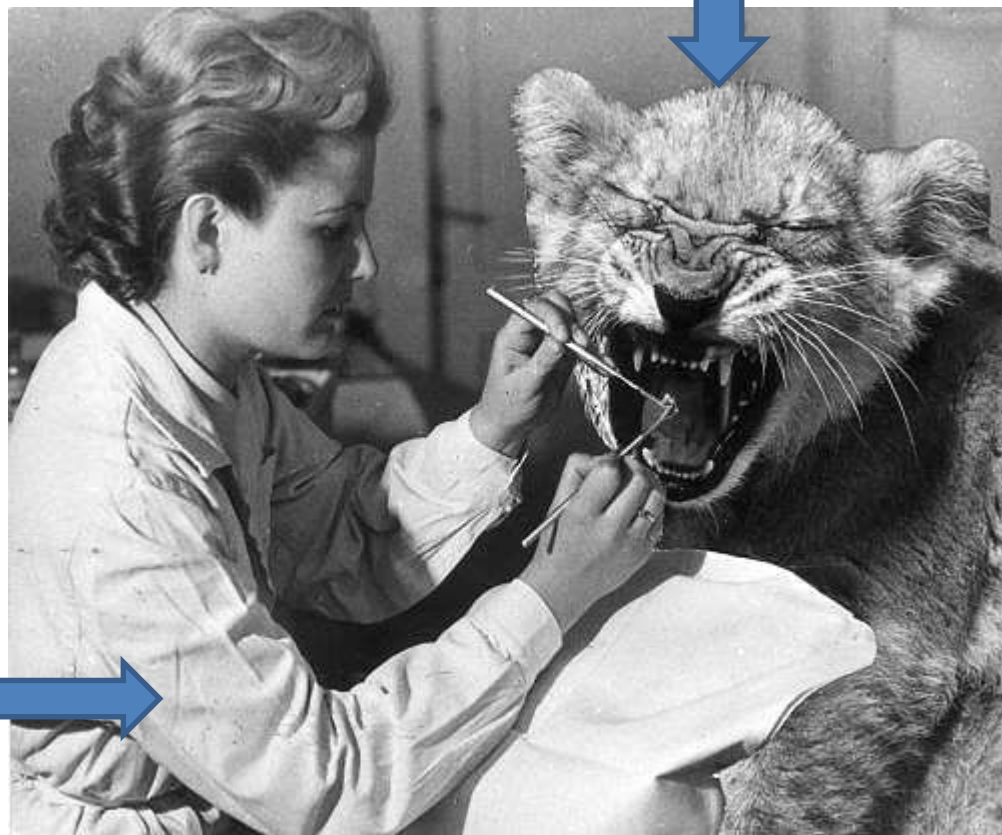
## Hints for the High HbA1c Transition & Young Person Patients:

- Never correct for hyperglycaemia after consuming alcohol & explain risk of severe hypos (often delayed) after XS ETOH
- Remind female with type 1 diabetes that they are as fertile as people without diabetes so need to use robust contraception. Mention need for high dose folic acid and “as near perfect as possible” HbA1c control at time of conception.
- Risk of passing on type 1 to your children if you are male is 1 in 17, if female and you have your child before you are 25 the risk is 1 in 25, if you're > 25 when you have the child is 1 in 100
- Explore attitudes to use of “libre” device & pump therapy
- If aged > 17 yrs explain DAFNE course and offer DAFNE dates
- Ask re plans for driving – offer DVLA info if appropriate
- Ask on a scale of 1-10 how unhappy / happy the pt is, sign post to CAMS / Low level  $\Psi$  intervention if <6. If <4 address more fully.

# “Parent-ectomy”



PARENT/PAEDIATRICIAN



DIABETOLOGIST



**Thank You for  
listening!**



Association of British Clinical Diabetologists

