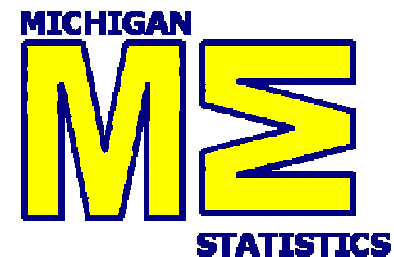


# Using Data to Inform Sequential, Individualized Clinical Decision Making

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# Outline

- Adaptive Interventions
- SMART experimental designs
- Trial Design Principles and Analysis
- Exploring Individualization using the “Adaptive Interventions for Children with ADHD” study (W. Pelham, PI).

**Adaptive Interventions** are individually tailored sequences of interventions, with treatment type and dosage changing according to patient outcomes. Operationalize clinical practice.

- Brooner et al. (2002, 2007) Treatment of Opioid Addiction
- McKay (2009) Treatment of Substance Use Disorders
- Marlowe et al. (2008) Drug Court
- Rush et al. (2003) Treatment of Depression

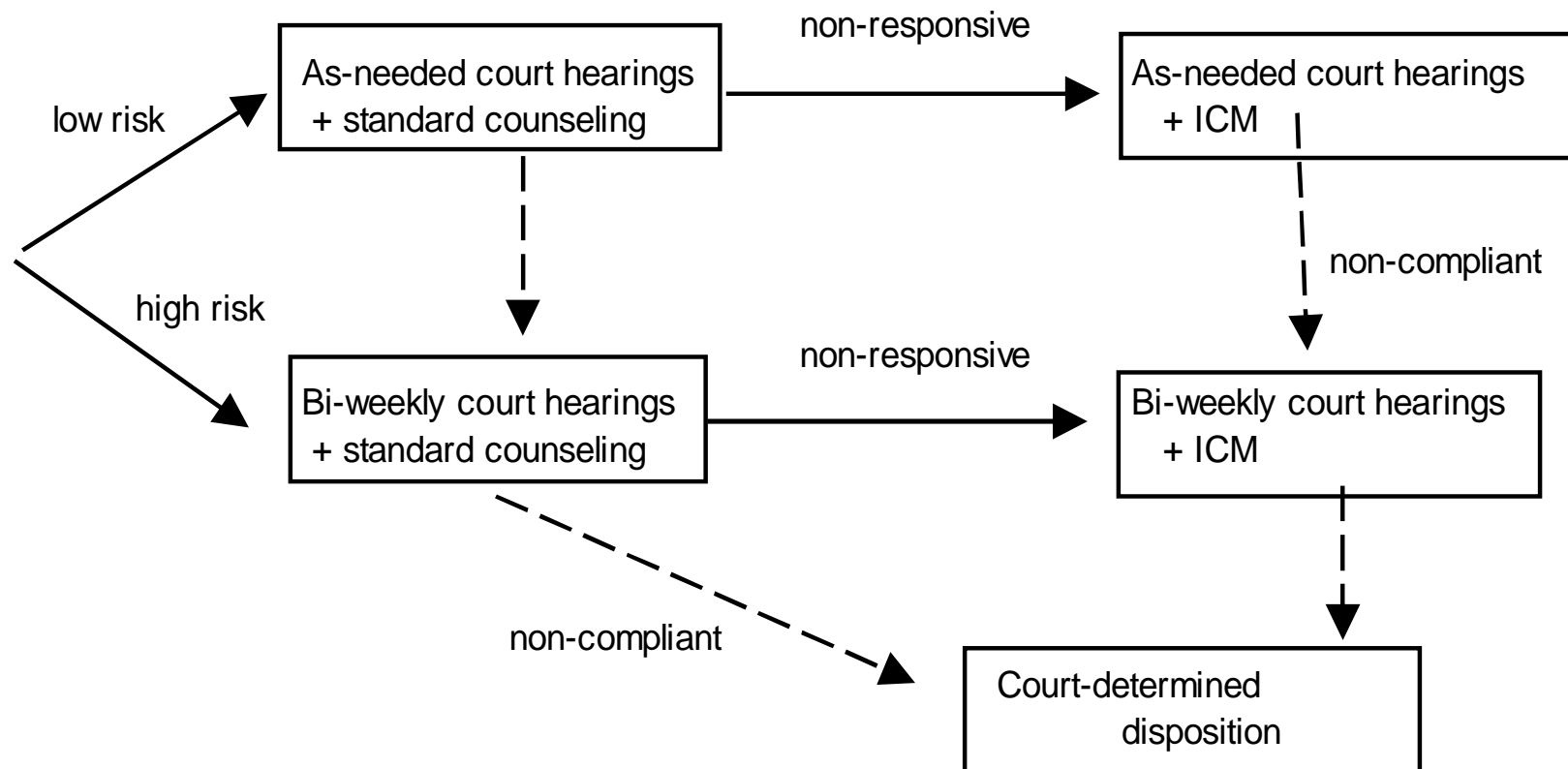
# Why Adaptive Interventions?

- High heterogeneity in response to any one treatment
  - What works for one person may not work for another
  - What works now for a person may not work later (and relapse is too common)
- Lack of adherence or excessive burden is common
- Intervals during which more intense treatment is required alternate with intervals in which less treatment is sufficient

# Example of an Adaptive Intervention

- Adaptive Drug Court Program for drug abusing offenders.
- Goal is to minimize recidivism and drug use.
- Marlowe et al. (2008)

# Adaptive Drug Court Program



# The Big Questions

- What is the best sequencing of treatments?
- What is the best timings of alterations in treatments?
- What information do we use to make these decisions?  
(how do we individualize the sequence of treatments?)

# Why SMART Studies?

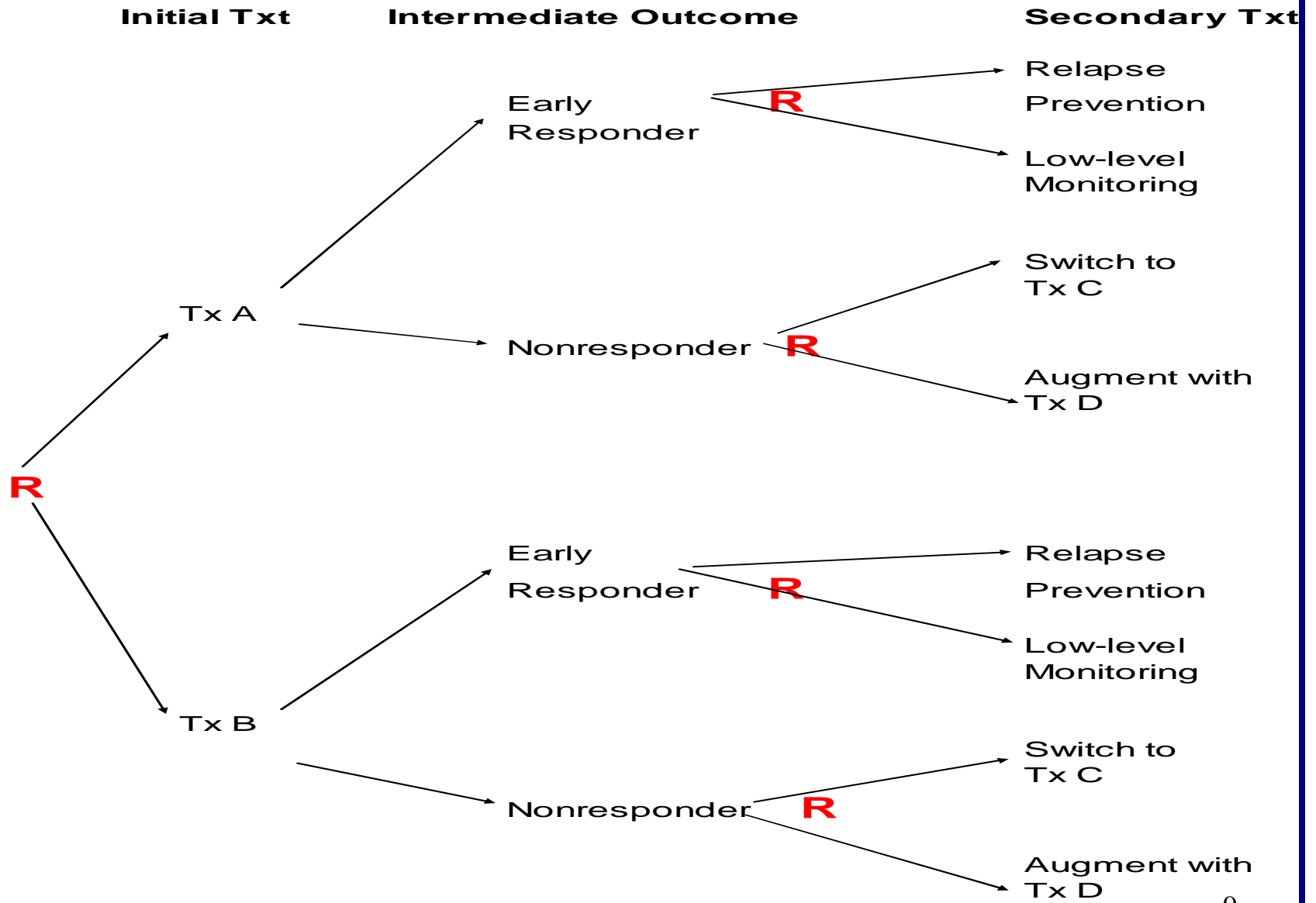
What is a sequential, multiple assignment, randomized trial (SMART)?

These are multi-stage trials; each stage corresponds to a critical decision and a randomization takes place at each critical decision.

**Goal of trial is to inform the construction of adaptive interventions.**



# Sequential Multiple Assignment Randomization



## Examples of “SMART” designs:

- CATIE (2001) Treatment of Psychosis in Schizophrenia
- Pelham (primary analysis) Treatment of ADHD
- Oslin (primary analysis) Treatment of Alcohol Dependence
- Jones (in field) Treatment for Pregnant Women who are Drug Dependent
- Kasari (in field) Treatment of Children with Autism
- McKay (in field) Treatment of Alcohol and Cocaine Dependence

# SMART Design Principles

- **KEEP IT SIMPLE:** At each stage (critical decision point), restrict class of treatments only by ethical, feasibility or strong scientific considerations. Use a low dimension summary (responder status) instead of all intermediate outcomes (adherence, etc.) to restrict class of next treatments.
- Collect intermediate outcomes that might be useful in ascertaining for whom each treatment works best (adherence, etc.); information that might be used to individualize treatment.

# SMART Design Principles

- Choose primary hypotheses that are both scientifically important and aid in developing the adaptive intervention.
  - Power trial to address these hypotheses.
  
- Conduct secondary analyses that further develop the adaptive intervention and that use the randomization to eliminate confounding.

# SMART Designing Principles: Primary Hypothesis

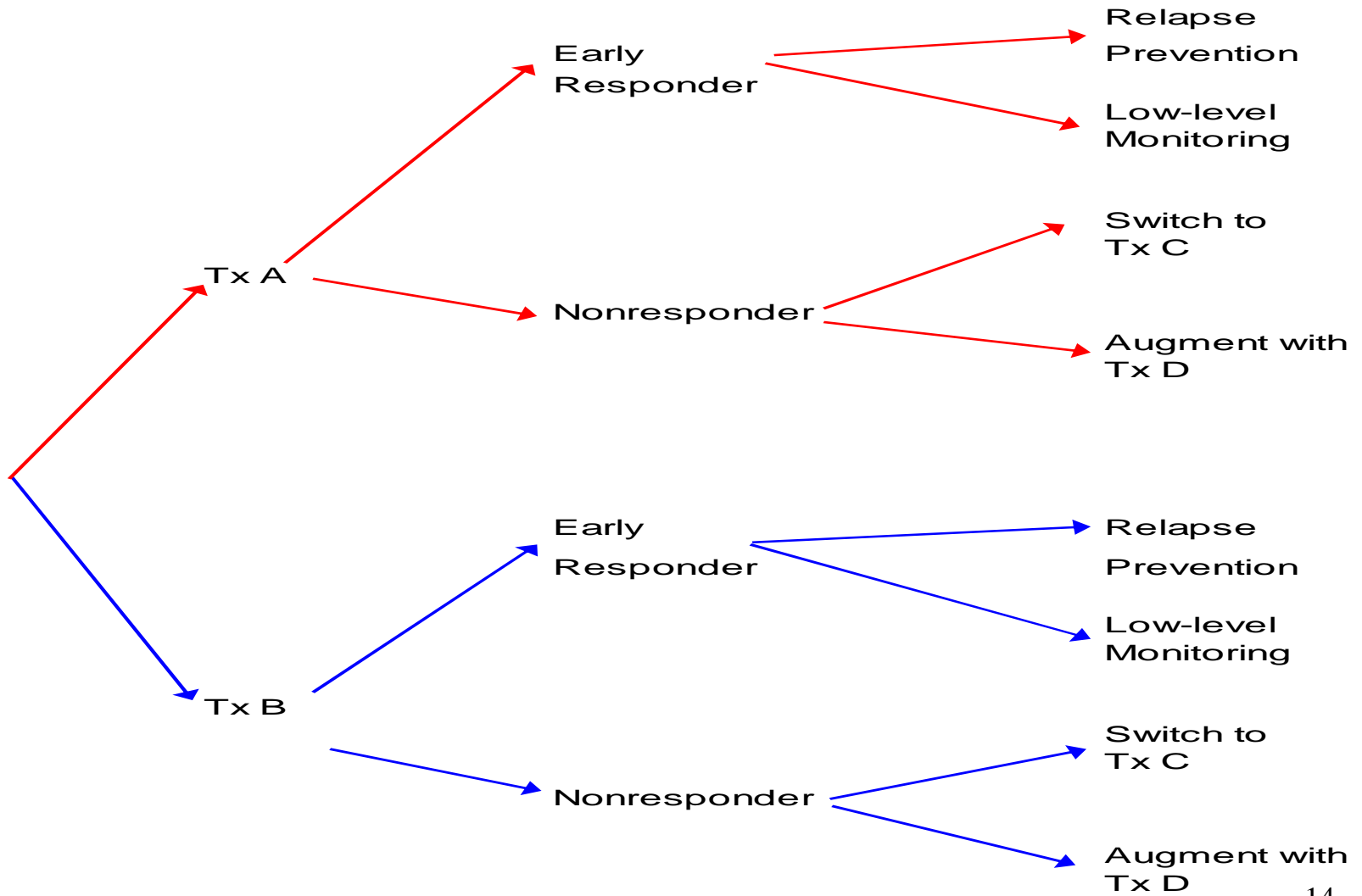
**EXAMPLE:** (*sample size is highly constrained*):  
Hypothesize that controlling for the secondary treatments, the initial treatment A results in lower symptoms over the duration of the study than the initial treatment B.

# EXAMPLE 1

**Initial Txt**

**Intermediate Outcome**

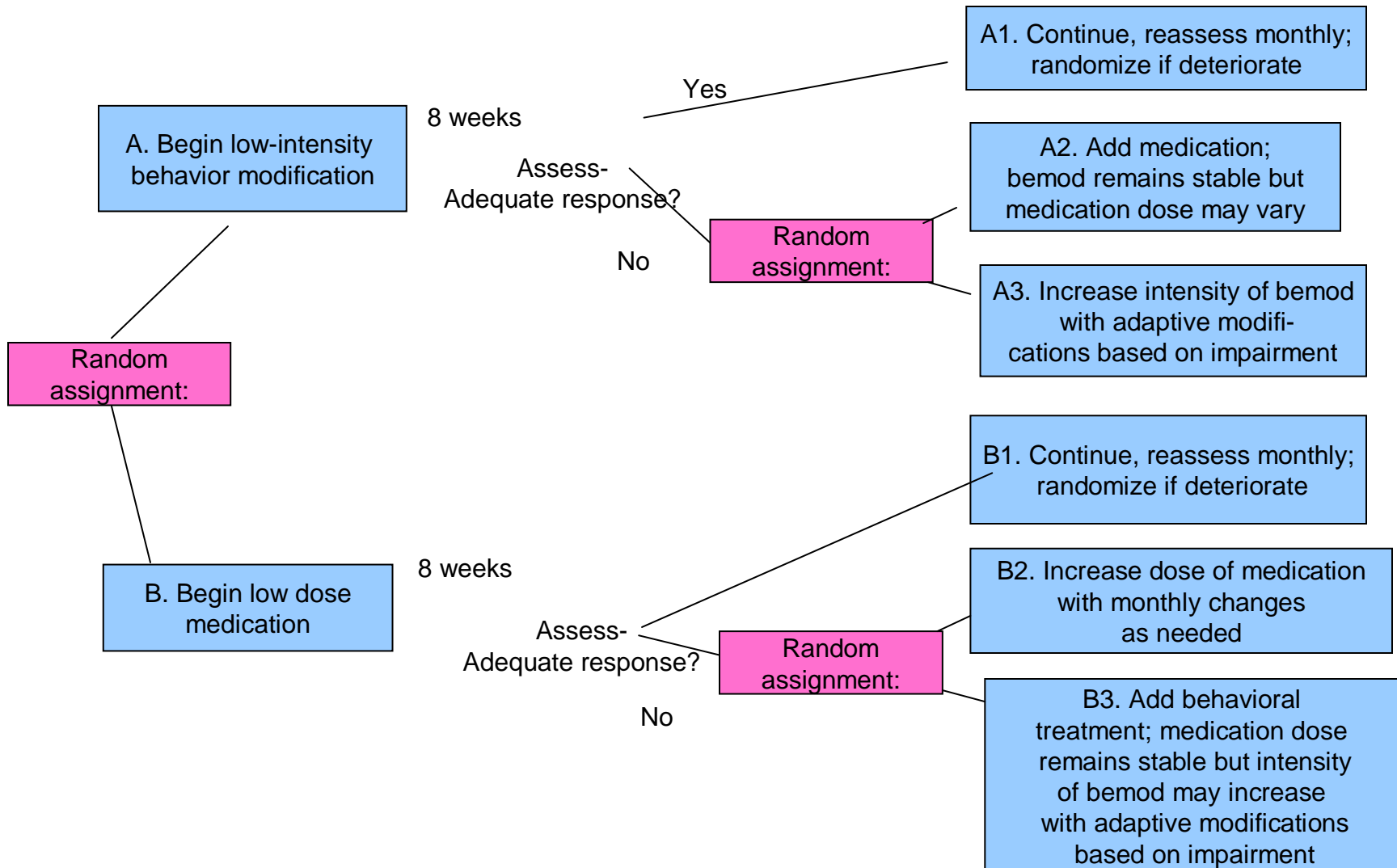
**Secondary Txt**



Exploring Greater Individualization  
using the “Adaptive Interventions for  
Children with ADHD” study  
(W. Pelham, PI)

**Q-Learning**

# Example: Pelham ADHD Study





# Exploring Greater Individualization via Q-Learning

*Q-Learning is an extension of regression to sequential treatments.*

- This regression results in a proposal for an optimal adaptive intervention.
- A subsequent trial would evaluate the proposed adaptive intervention.

# Adaptive Interventions for Children with ADHD

- Stage 1 data:  $(X_1, A_1, R_1)$ 
  - $R_1=1$  if responder;  $=0$  if non-responder
  - $A_1 = 1$  if BMOD,  $A_1=-1$  if MED
  - $X_1$  includes baseline school performance,  $(Y_0)$  and prior medication  $(S_1)$ 
    - $S_1 = 1$  if prior use of medication;  $=0$ , if not.
- Stage 1 involves all children

# Adaptive Interventions for Children with ADHD

- Stage 2 data:  $(X_2, A_2, Y)$ 
  - $Y$  = end of year school performance
  - $A_2 = 1$  if Enhance,  $A_2 = -1$  if Augment
  - $X_2$  includes the month of non-response,  $(M_2)$  and a measure of adherence in stage 1  $(S_2)$ 
    - $S_2 = 1$  if adherent in stage 1;  $= 0$ , if non-adherent
- Stage 2 involves only children who do not respond in Stage 1 ( $R_1 = 0$ ).

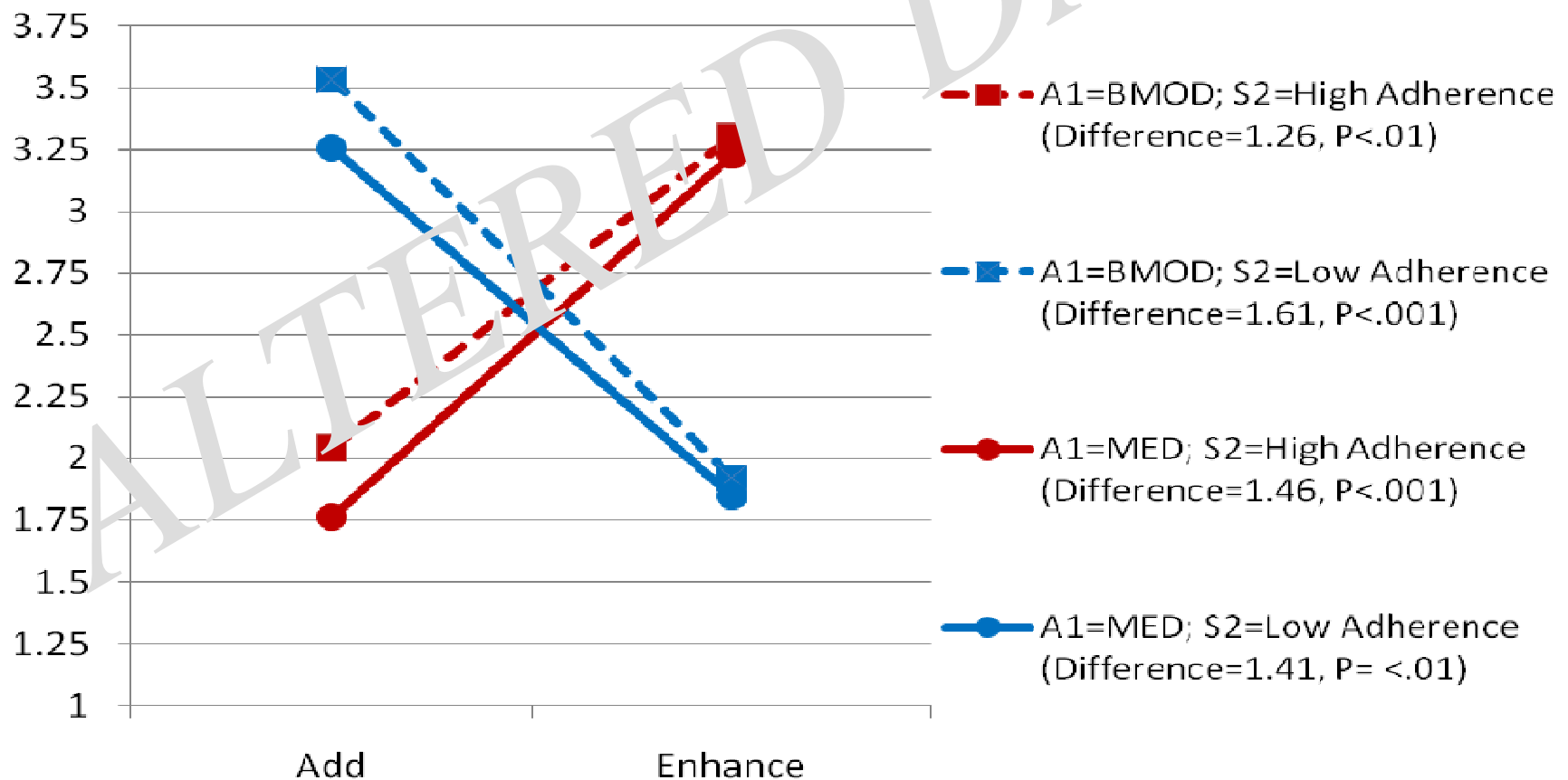
# Q-Learning for SMART Studies

- Conduct the regressions in backwards order! E.g. Stage 2 first, then Stage 1.
- Why?
  - Stage 1 dependent variable must control for Stage 2 treatment.
  - Stage 1 dependent variable is a predictor of  $Y$  under optimal treatment in stage 2.
  - Stage 2 analysis is used to construct the predictor of  $Y$ ,  $\hat{Y}$

## Stage 2 Regression for Non-responding Children

- Dependent Variable:  $Y$  (end of school year performance)
- Treatment:  $A_2=1$  if Enhance,  $A_2=-1$  if Augment
- Interactions with Treatment,  $A_2$ : stage 1 treatment ( $A_1$ ) and adherence ( $S_2$ )
- Controls: baseline school performance, ( $Y_0$ ) and baseline prior medication ( $S_1$ ), month of non-response ( $M_2$ )

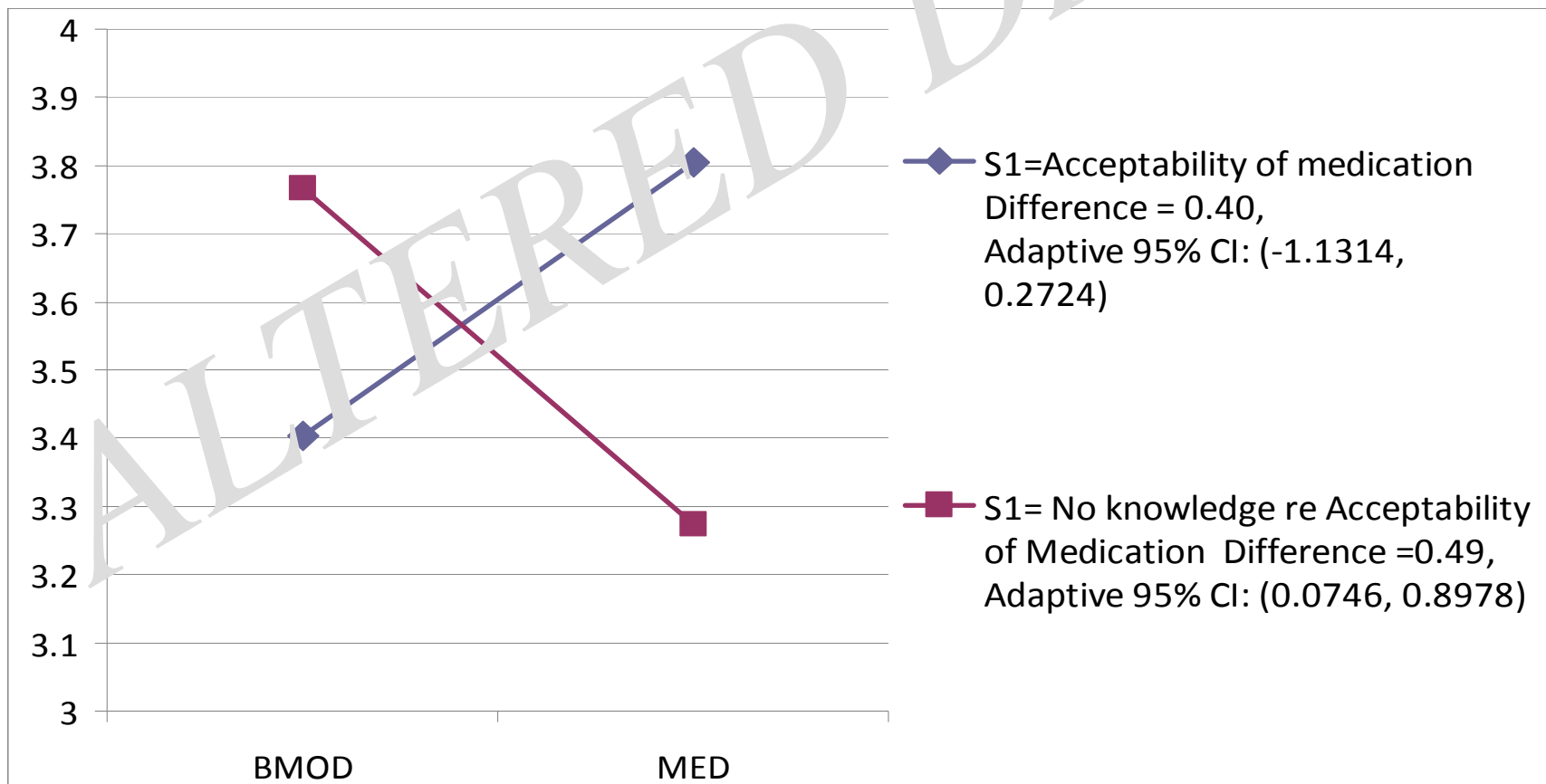
# Stage 2 Regression for Non-responding Children



## Stage 1 Regression for All Children

- Dependent Variable:  $\hat{Y}$  (predicted end of school year performance under optimal stage 2 treatment)
- Treatment:  $A_1=1$  if BEMOD,  $A_1=-1$  if MED
- Interactions with Treatment,  $A_1$ : prior medication ( $S_1$ )
- Control: baseline school performance, ( $Y_0$ )

# Stage 1 Regression for All Children





# Adaptive Intervention Proposal

**IF** medication has not been used in the prior year  
**THEN** begin with BMOD;  
**ELSE** select either BMOD or MED.

**IF** the child is nonresponsive and was non-adherent, **THEN** augment present treatment;  
**ELSE IF** the child is nonresponse and was adherent, **THEN** select intensification of current treatment.

## Discussion

- Software in R for Q-Learning out and, in SAS, is coming out soon!

<https://methodology.psu.edu/ra/adap-treat-strat/qlearning>

- Aside: Non-adherence is an outcome (like side effects) that indicates need to tailor treatment.

This seminar can be found at:

**<http://www.stat.lsa.umich.edu/~samurphy/seminars/SBM.04.29.11.pdf>**

This seminar is based on work with many collaborators some of which are: L. Collins, K. Lynch, J. McKay, D. Oslin, T. Ten Have, I. Nahum-Shani & B. Pelham. Email me with questions or if you would like a copy:

**[samurphy@umich.edu](mailto:samurphy@umich.edu)**

## Adaptive Treatments for Children with ADHD

- Stage 2 regression for  $Y$ :

$$(1, Y_0, S_1, A_1, M_2, S_2)\alpha_2 + A_2(\beta_{21} + A_1\beta_{22} + S_2\beta_{23})$$

- Stage 1 outcome:  $R_1Y + (1 - R_1)\hat{Y}$

$$\hat{Y} = (1, Y_0, S_1, A_1, M_2, S_2)\hat{\alpha}_2 + | \hat{\beta}_{21} + A_1\hat{\beta}_{22} + S_2\hat{\beta}_{23} |$$

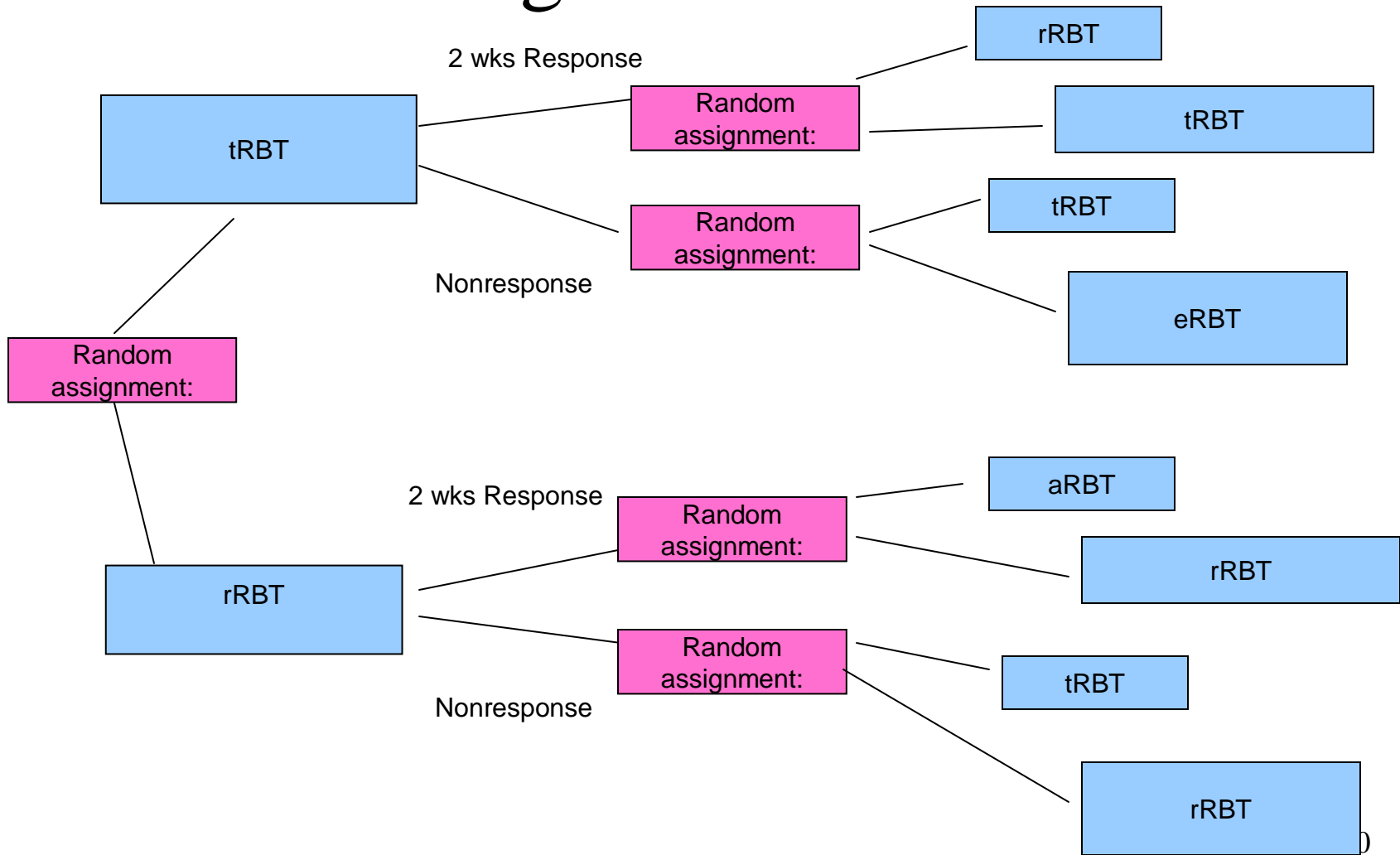
## Adaptive Treatments for Children with ADHD

- Stage 1 regression for  $\hat{Y}$ :

$$(1, Y_0, S_1)\alpha_1 + A_1(\beta_{11} + S_1\beta_{12})$$

- Interesting stage 1 contrast: should the knowledge that medication is highly acceptable, determine the best initial treatment in the sequence?

# Jones' Study for Drug-Addicted Pregnant Women



# Oslin ExTENd

