

CAP48 MEDICAL RESEARCH PROJECT: AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS IN CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS

Houssa, M.¹, Barrea, C.², Comblain, A.³, Defresne, P.⁴, Deprez, M.⁵, Kissine, M.⁶, Massat, I.⁷, Maystadt, I.⁸, Sokolova, T.¹, Willaye, E.^{4,9}, Wintgens, A.¹⁰, Nassogne, M-C¹⁰.

UCLouvain¹, CRAL (Liège)², ULiège³, SUSA (Mons)⁴, CEAN (Namur)⁵, ULB⁶, HUDERF (Bruxelles)⁷, UNamur⁸, CRA UMons⁹, CRA Saint Luc (Bruxelles)¹⁰.

OBJECTIVES

Primary objectives

- ✓ Creation of a **common autism registry** to collect general sociodemographic, geographic and epidemiological data
- ✓ Characterize the **different profiles** and accurately track **development trajectories**

Secondary objectives

- ✓ Evaluate the **feasibility** and practical realization of the care proposed after a diagnosis
- ✓ Set up protocols to **improve** the quality of care
- ✓ Enable the **development of fundamental research protocols**: genetic, neuro-cognitive and linguistic
- ✓ Evaluate the **schooling** of children with autism

PERSPECTIVES

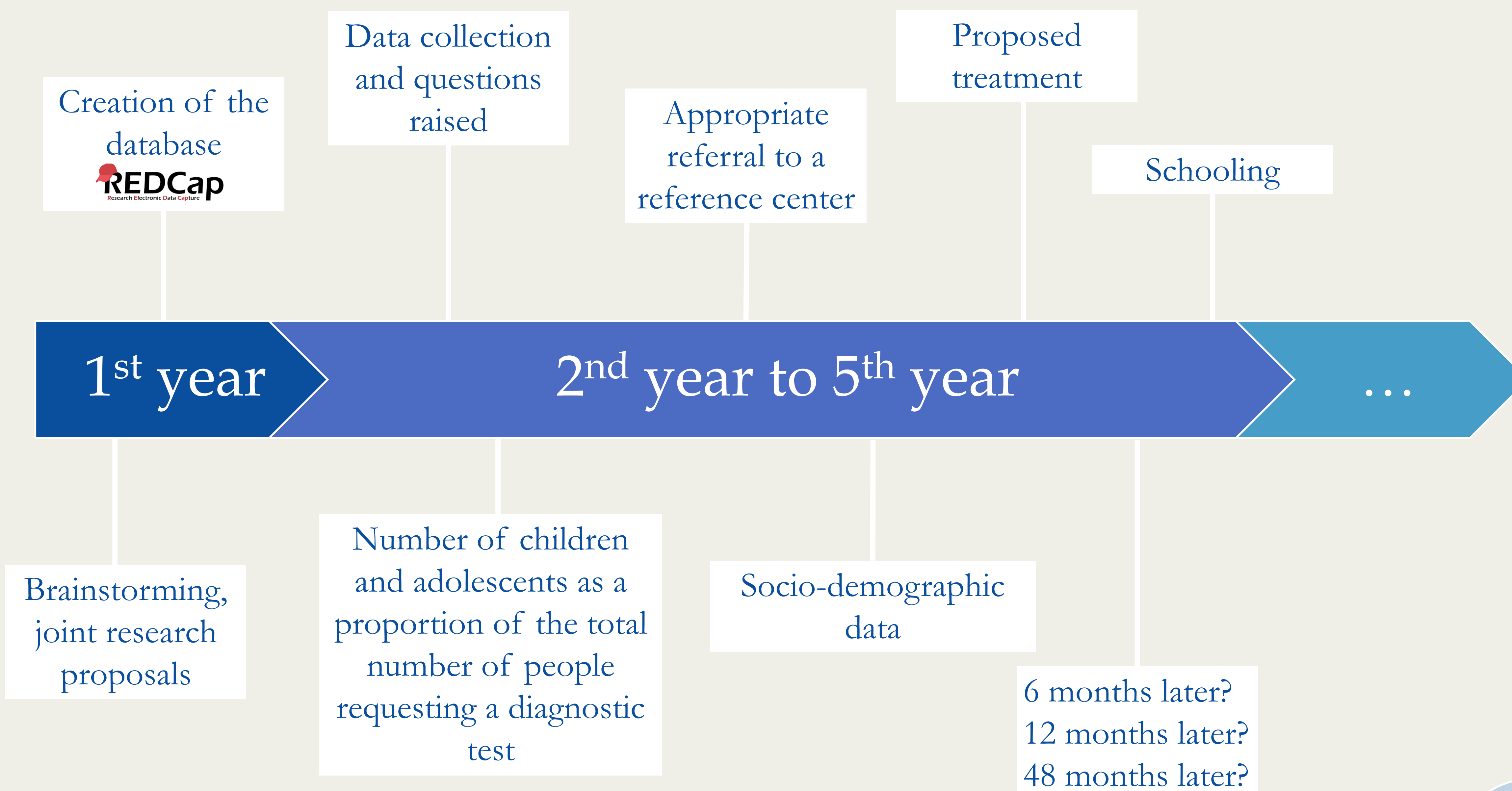
- ✓ To obtain a more **precise description** of the population of children/adolescents with autism in Belgium and their specific needs.
- ✓ Evaluating treatment implementation will help us **identify obstacles and propose solutions**
- ✓ The **earliest and most appropriate treatment** will make it possible to:
 - *avoid secondary handicaps (educational, behavioral, medical, psychiatric, etc.),*
 - *improve quality of life and the financial burden on families better include children/adolescents with autism in society.*

POPULATION

Child/adolescent (under 18 years of age) applying to an Autism reference center (prospective data) or being followed up in an Autism reference center (retrospective + prospective data).

Expected number of patients: 500/year

PROCEDURE & ISSUES



PRELIMINARY DATA (Nov 2024)

N = 144; 22.5% Girls & 77.5% Boys
M_{age} = 7.96 years (SD = 4.98; Range = 2-18 years)

