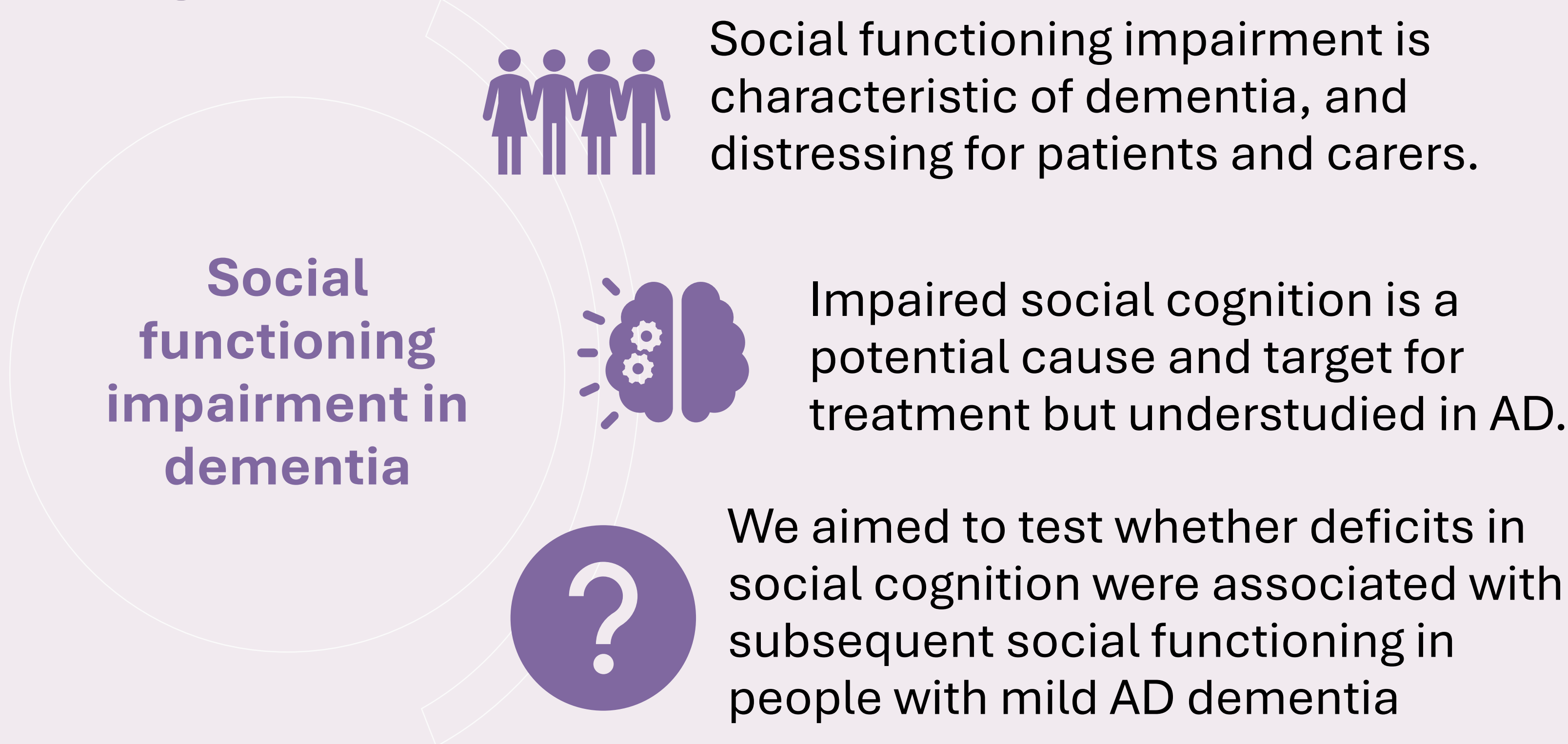


Association of social cognition with social functioning in people with Alzheimer's dementia: UK longitudinal cohort

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Background



Methods

Participants

- People aged **65+** with clinical diagnosis of probable **Alzheimer's disease** dementia of **mild** severity
- English speaking
- No history of schizophrenia, TBI or autism
- Family or friend aged 18+ available as study partner

Setting

- 10 National Health Service memory clinics



Measures

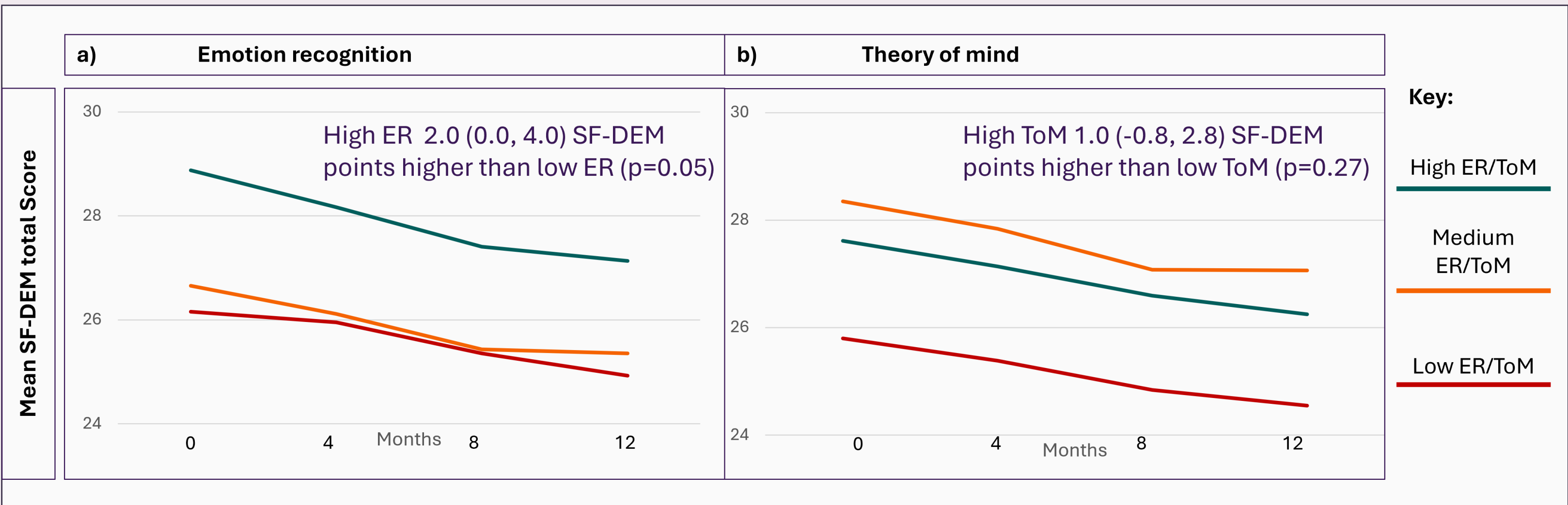
- Social cognition: TASIT-Short (pt 1 = emotion recognition, pt2 = theory of mind)
- Social functioning: SF-DEM
- General cognition: Addenbrookes Cognitive Examination
- Carer quality of life (CDEMQL) and anxiety/depression (HADS)

Analysis

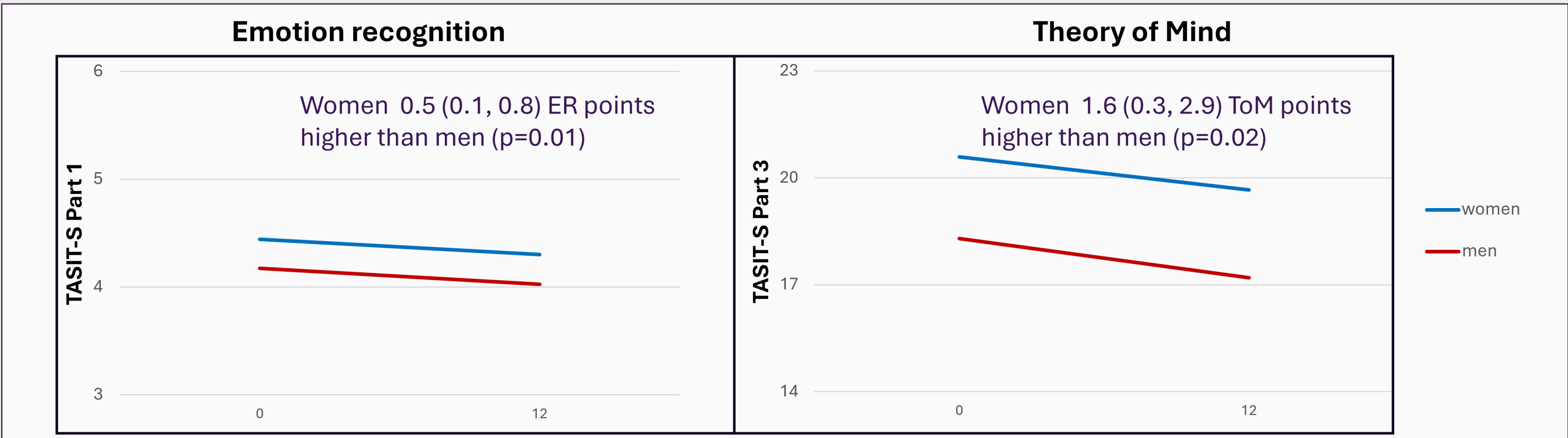
- Mixed linear models examining association of TASIT-S with SF-DEM trajectory, adj. for age, sex, education, and general cognition.
- Secondary analyses stratified by sex.

Results

- 208 people with Alzheimer's dementia
 - Mean age 79.2 years (SD 7.2); 48.6% female, 7.2% non-White
 - Mean ACE-III score 73.3 (SD 10.3)
- Impaired emotion recognition is associated with worse social functioning trajectory



- Social cognition declines for all, but women have relatively preserved social cognition compared to men (adjusted for cognition)



- The association between impaired emotion recognition and social functioning is present for women ($p = 0.04$) but not for men ($p=0.51$)

Discussion

- Objectively assessed emotion recognition impairment is associated with worse trajectory of subsequent social functioning.
- Women with Alzheimer's dementia have better social cognitive ability, independent of their general cognitive impairment.
- But when affected, the impact of social cognition impairment on social functioning is heightened for women compared to men.
- A targeted emotion recognition training intervention has potential for functional improvement, and should consider gender roles.
- ✗ Generalisability limited by largely White British population and culture-bound social cognition task.

