

### Clinical dilemma

A neurologist is visited by Mrs. Smith, she is 74 years old and has mild cognitive complaints. She is worried that she will develop Alzheimer's disease. She asks her neurologist if she can get a so called 'Alzheimer biomarker test' that, according to the newspaper, can 'diagnose Alzheimer 20 years in advance of symptoms'. **Should the neurologist offer biomarker testing?**

### Gathering relevant arguments

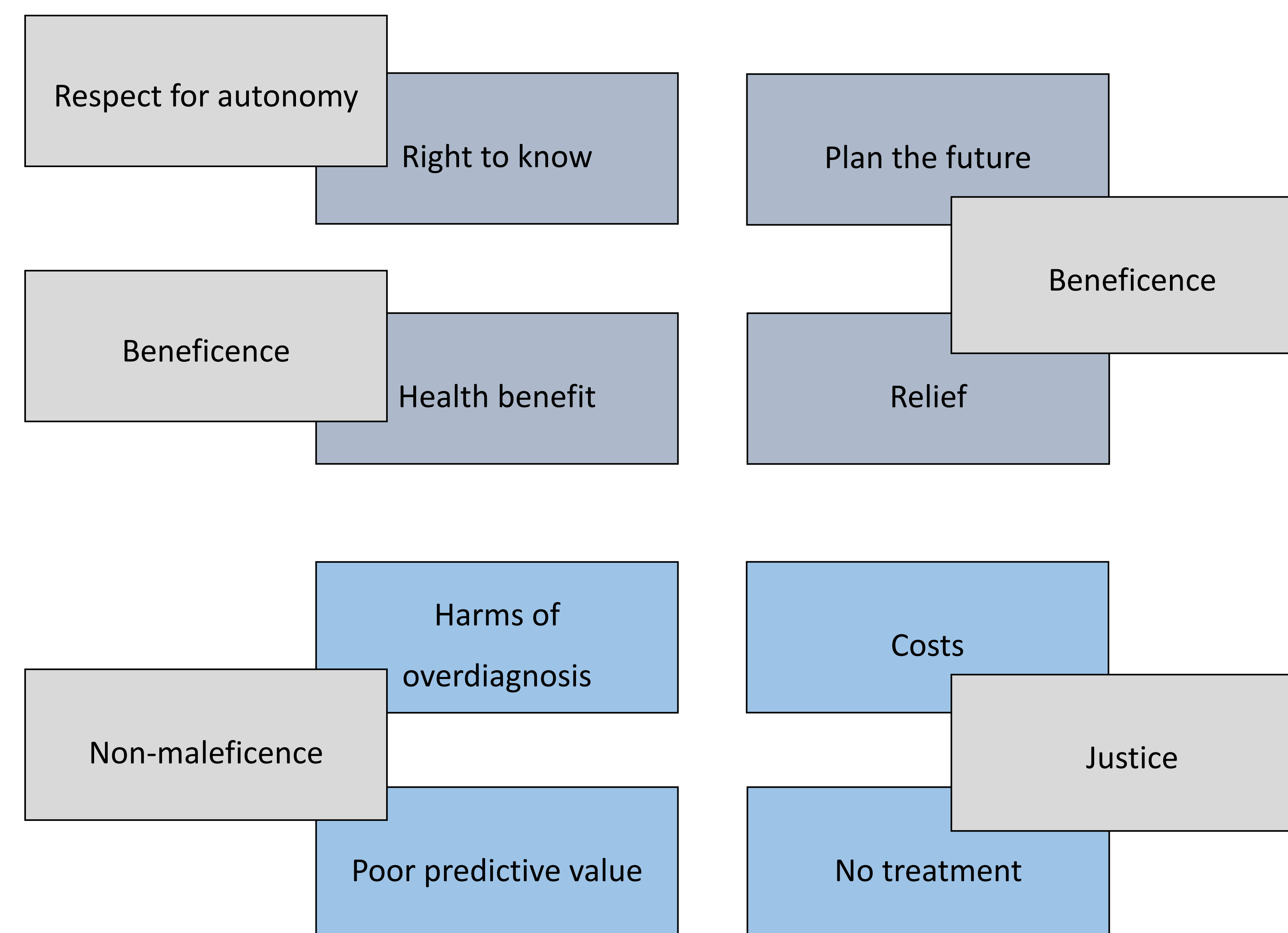
There is a debate among researchers and clinicians about the **desirability of Alzheimer biomarker testing** in clinical practice. Clinical guidelines exist both in favor *and* against its use. In clinical practice, the arguments in favor of and against biomarker testing have to be weighed in the individual context, depending on the age and health of the individual for example, in order to decide whether to offer biomarker testing. Our is to systematically weigh the relevant arguments on both sides of the debate.

#### References

Smedinga, M., Tromp, K., Schermer, M. H., & Richard, E. (2018). Ethical Arguments Concerning the Use of Alzheimer's Disease Biomarkers, *Journal of Alzheimer's Disease*, (Preprint), 1-14  
 Bunnik, E. M., Richard, E., Milne, R., & Schermer, M. H. (2018). On the personal utility of Alzheimer's disease-related biomarker testing in the research context. *Journal of medical ethics*, 44(12), 830-834

### Arguments in favor of and against biomarker testing

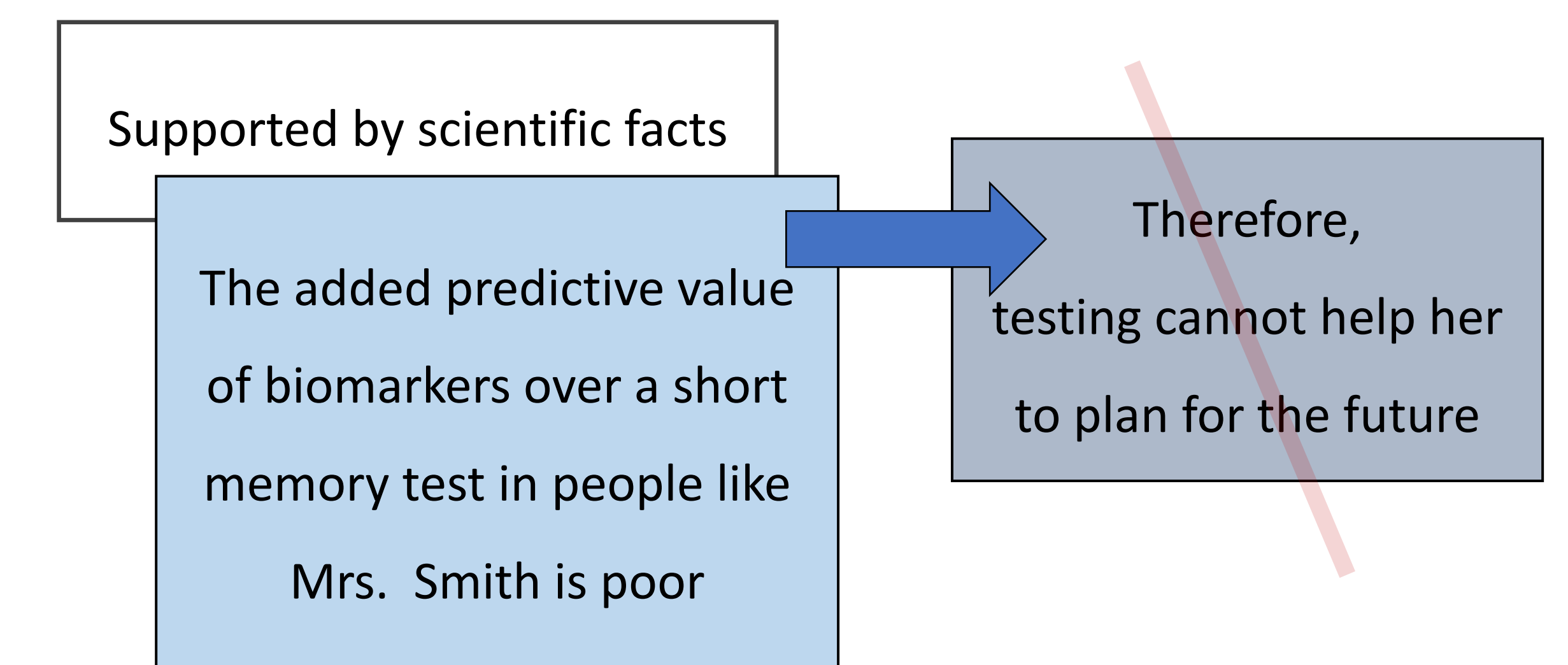
- Gathered through a systematic literature review and interviews with physicians in The Netherlands -



The moral value that drives the arguments is being made explicit by linking the arguments to the ethical principles that drive clinical practice. This helps to clarify why these arguments are morally relevant.

### Are the arguments in line with relevant facts and ethical principles?

The arguments are weight in light of their coherence with other argumentative elements, including relevant facts (e.g. on the clinical validity of the test), ethical principles and theories on societal ideals or relevant concepts, such as autonomy. Below follows an example.



This example describes how the facts on the added predictive value of biomarkers in the current clinical context is not consistent with the argument that biomarker testing may help Mrs. Smith to plan for the future. The latter argument is therefore given less weight.

Weighing the arguments in favor and against biomarker testing through consistency will provide insight into the desirability of offering biomarker testing.

#### Academic partners



#### SMEs



#### Industrial partners



#### Patient organisation



This poster represents the view of the authors, not the entire AMYPAD consortium

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