

Quantitative Brain Amyloid PET Imaging in Patients with Alzheimer's Disease

Semi-Quantitative and Quantitative Metrics

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Basic Requirements for Tracer Kinetic Study

Trace quantities of radiotracer introduced into system (non-perturbing)

Studies conducted at high specific activity (SA), where SA is a measure *of the amount of radioactivity per mass (radioactive+non-radioactive) of sample and, for radiotracer studies, is commonly expressed in proportional units (e.g., Ci/mmole)*

Steady-state. The rate of transport or reaction of the system is not changing with time, amount of substance in any part of the system is constant during the measurement period and this is maintained after tracer introduction and despite the tracer kinetics

Tracer Linearity. The kinetics of the radiotracer can be completely represented by a response function (kinetic measurements are convolution of input function and system response function) due to valid application of tracer principle

Lassen and Perl 1979; Huang and Phelps 1986

Logan Graphical Method: Linear

$$
\frac{\int_{0}^{T} C_{ROI}(t)dt}{C_{ROI}(T)} = \text{Slope } \frac{\int_{0}^{T} C_{P}(t) dt}{C_{ROI}(T)} + \text{y-intercept}
$$
\n
$$
\text{Slope} = V_{T} \text{ (includes blood volume)}
$$

Common Analysis Methods **COMES**

Generally fully dynamic acquisition of 90 min or 60 min

- Arterial Input (ART90)
- Cerebellar Data as Input (CER90)
- Arterial Input Image-derived, population metabolites (CAR90)

Late-scan Uptake Ratio (generally static, e.g., 20 or 30 min) SUVR

- Standardized Uptake Value, scaled by inj. dose & mass (SUV)
- SUVR is Tissue:Cerebellum Ratio

Some methodological assumptions & related questions

The outcome measure

- should not be dependent of blood flow
- should not be time dependent
- should have good test-retest reproducibility over all follow-up periods

(Simplified) Reference Tissue Model

Q. Are reference tissue kinetics well-described by 1-tissue compartment model Q. Is radioligand delivery comparable for specific ROIs and reference?

Regression Method (Linear Logan; Bilinear Ichise)

Q. Are data consistent with regression assumptions ?

Q. To what extent can any noise-induced bias be minimized?

Q. Is steady-state parameter t* providing stable measures across subjects/ROIs

Late-scan Uptake Ratio

- Q. To what extent might steady-state assumptions be violated?
- Q. To what extent can any blood flow dependence be minimized?

Q. How to a compromise between accuracy, precision and study feasibility?

Compartmental Modeling

Explicit description of tracer compartments (Model Equations)

- Transport of tracer into and out of compartments Rate constants Tracer leaving compartment proportional to total amount in compartment
- All tracer injected will exist in one of multiple compartments
- Uniform radiotracer concentration within compartment No concentration gradients
- Model Equations

Mathematical equations describe the time rate of change of the compartmental concentrations (differential equations)

Example Assumptions

• Bi-directional Blood-Brain Barrier (BBB) Transport

Diffusion Facilitated Transport

PET

Includes vascular radioactivity concentration (V_{vasc}) Constant free fraction in blood or plasma (f_P) Homogeneous free fraction in brain (f_{ND}) No (radioactive) metabolites in brain

Plasma

Free radiotracer only crosses BBB (protein binding)

Kinetics

Transient, Steady-state, Equilibrium ...

Capillary Exchange

• Renkin-Crone model describes the extraction of tracer across the bloodbrain barrier (BBB) based upon a rigid cylinder model

Tracer, with arterial concentration C_A , is delivered to a site by the blood flow (F: mL/g/min) and extracted from the vasculature across the capillary walls into brain. Tracer remaining in the vasculature is cleared away with venous concentration C_{V} .

• Tracer extraction depends on tracer permeability for the capillary wall (P: cm/min) and the capillary surface area (S: $cm²/g$) as expressed in terms of the single pass extraction fraction (E) and PS product (cm³/g/min)

Renkin et al 1959; Crone et al 1964

Volume of Distribution (V_T)

The V_T is the volume of tissue that the tracer would distribute itself in, if it had the same concentration in brain as it does in blood.

This parameter is equivalent to the equilibrium (Eq) ratio of the brain and blood tracer concentrations

The V_T is mathematically equivalent to the partition coefficient

$$
V_T = \frac{C_T}{C_P}
$$
 = $\frac{(mL \text{ of radioactive in tissue water space/cm}^3 \text{ brain tissue})}{(mL \text{ of radioactive in plasma water space/mL blood or plasma})}$ (mL/cm³)

Lassen and Perl, l979; Huang et al., 1986; Gjedde et al., 1990

Example:

If the concentration of a radiopharmaceutical at equilibrium is 100 kBq/cm³ in striatum (C_T) and 5 kBq/mL in plasma (C_P), then its volume of distribution (V_T) is 20 mL/cm3 *(Innis et al. JCBFM 2007)*

Free Fractions and Volumes of Distribution

- Free fraction of drug or radioligand in plasma is fraction of ligand not bound to plasma proteins at equilibrium, i.e., that which is freely diffusible in plasma water. The plasma free fraction is referred to as f_P and the concentration of free drug in plasma C_{FP} can be calculated as $C_{FP} = f_P C_P$
- Fraction of drug that is freely dissolved in tissue water, f_{ND} is expressed relative to the *nondisplaceable* compartment, $C_{FT} = f_{ND}C_{ND}$ and is, thereby, usually assumed to be equal in receptor-rich and receptor-free regions, assuming nonspecific binding is the same in both areas

$$
V_T = C_T/C_P = V_{FT} + V_{NS} + V_S = V_{ND} + V_S
$$

where $V_{ND} = C_{ND}/C_P$ and $V_S = C_S/C_P$

Reversible Ligand Binding

Innis et al. 2007

Tissue may contain radioligand that is **specifically bound** to receptors (**S**), **Nonspecifically bound** (**NS**) or free in tissue water (F). Thus, total concentration of radioligand in the tissue (C_{τ}) can be expressed as :

$$
C_T = C_S + C_{NS} + C_{FT}
$$

Furthermore, **nondisplaceable (ND) uptake** is the sum of the nonspecific (NS) and free ligand in tissue.

$$
C_{ND} = C_{FT} + C_{NS}
$$

The volume of distribution of these **3** components equals the ratio *at equilibrium* of each concentration to that of the parent radioligand (C_p) in plasma separated from radiometabolites.

$$
V_T = C_T / C_P = V_{FT} + V_{NS} + V_S = V_{ND} + V_S
$$

$$
V_{NS} = C_{NS} / C_P
$$

\n
$$
V_{ND} = C_{ND} / C_P
$$

\n
$$
V_S = C_S / C_P
$$

Martino

Innis et al., Journal of Cerebral Blood Flow & Metabolism (2007) 27, 1533–1539

Pharmacokinetics : Compartmental Models

A range of PET compartmental models commonly used to quantify PET radiotracers. These include models for tracers that exhibit reversible and irreversible kinetics and models that use either plasma or reference region time activity data as input

Gallezot et al., IEEE Transactions on Radiation and Plasma Medical Sciences, 2020 Gunn et al., Physics in Medicine and Biology, 2015

 K_1 = Flow * E, (mL/cm³/min)

- k_{α} $=$ Rate of drug removal from tissue back to blood, (min^{-1})
- $k₂$ = Pseudo-first order specific binding association rate constant $(k_{on}f_{ND}B_{avail})$, (min⁻¹)
- k_{\perp} = First order dissociation rate constant (k_{off}) , (min⁻¹)

Pharmacokinetics : Reference Tissue Models

Gallezot et al., IEEE Transactions on Radiation and Plasma Medical Sciences, 2020 Gunn et al., Physics in Medicine and Biology, 2015

Volume of Distribution (V_T) and Binding Potential (BP)

Reversible Ligand Binding

$$
V_T = C_T/C_P = V_{FT} + V_{NS} + V_S = V_{ND} + V_S
$$

where $V_{ND} = C_{ND}/C_P$ and $V_S = C_S/C_P$

3-Tissue Compartment $V_T = K_1/k_2 (1 + k_3/k_4 + k_5/k_6)$

2-Tissue Compartment

 $V_T = K_1/k_2 (1 + k_3/k_4)$

1-Tissue Compartment

 $V_T = K_1/k_2$

$$
k_3 = k_{on} B_{\text{avail}}
$$

BP = $k_3/k_4 = B_{\text{avail}}/K_D$

$$
k_3 = k_{on} f_{ND} B_{\text{avail}}
$$

BP_{ND} = k₃/k₄ = f_{ND} B_{avail}/K_D

 k_2 includes BP_{ND}

Binding Potentials (2T-4k)

Binding potential quantifies the equilibrium concentration of specific binding as a ratio to some other reference concentration.

Table 1 Definitions of three in vivo binding potential values

Rate constants are for the two-tissue compartment model. The two rightmost columns show whether each of the three binding potential values requires measurement of the concentration of radioligand in plasma (often arterial plasma) or the measurement of its plasma free fraction f_P See Table 2 for definitions.

Innis et al 2007

Simplifies data analysis process

- Reformulate nonlinear problem to linear problem, $y = mx + b$
- Enables simple and routine data analysis e.g., linear regression rather than iterative curve fitting but performance can be degraded by data noise and correlation
- Results obtainable even if underlying model configuration unknown
- Linear outcomes can be more reproducible than those derived from nonlinear curve fitting
- Linear methods are amenable to parametric image generation

Patlak method (also known as Gjedde-Patlak plot) was derived for irreversible **irreversible itissue uptake and widely applied to FDG**

> **Logan method** derived for reversible tissue kinetics and has been widely applied to studies of ligand-binding interactions (e.g., neuroreceptor binding studies)

Generally applied to reversible kinetics ($k_4\Box$ $> \Box$ 0)

Rapid dissociation rates and rates of efflux from tissue

After steady state time (t*), a linear relationship exists:

$$
\int_0^t C_{ROI}(t) dt
$$
\n
$$
C_{ROI}(T)
$$
\n
$$
= \text{Slope} \frac{\int_0^t C_p(t) dt}{C_{ROI}(T)}
$$
\n
$$
= \text{Slope} \frac{\int_0^t C_{P}(t) dt}{C_{ROI}(T)}
$$

Cp : arterial plasma concentration of radiotracer

Not dependent on specific model configuration

Slope: measure of total radiotracer distribution volume, V_T $(mL/cm³)$

For ligand-binding interactions: DVR = V_T/V_{ND} , where BP_{ND} = DVR - 1 and ND, is pondisplaceable tissue uptake (determined in reference region) *2) Logan et al. Nuclear Medicine & Biology, Vol. 27, pp. 661–670, 2000 3) Kimura et al. Annals Nuclear Medicine Vol. 21, No. 1, 1–8, 2007*

Logan V_T **HIP: 16.2 RAP: 6.9 OCC: 5.6**

Extension of linear methods to voxel basis

- Image voxel corresponds to outcome measure (e.g., K_1 , K_i , DVR, BP_{ND})
- No specific model configuration (generally) required Generally can obtain result, despite noisy voxel data but bias in outcome measure can be substantial Noise-reduction by smoothing/processing methods
- Can enable direct reconstruction of parametric image *Review: Rahmim and Tang (2009), Am Assoc Phys Med*

Choice of the t* steady state time for integral evaluation

Can vary between regions with different kinetics

- If t^{*} is late, regression may include only a few data points accuracy/precision trade-off
- Possible for results to vary substantially for different t* values

Potential for measurement bias

Adherence to assumptions of linear method, e.g. linear regression Sufficient linearity between dependent and independent variables? Error: uncorrelated, constant variance, normality ? Additional data processing (e.g., smoothing, averaging) may help

Is it worth the cost(s)?

Need to evaluate outcome bias for given application

For radiotracer, across regions and for subject group Is bias minor or acceptable for what is gained by feasibility?

Use of alternate formulations – less prone to such bias

Strategies to improve neuroreceptor parameter estimation by multilinear regression analysis:

Ichise M et al. (2002). J Cereb Blood Flow Metab

$$
C(T) = -\frac{V}{b} \int_0^T C_p(t)dt + \frac{1}{b} \int_0^T C(t)dt
$$

Basis function approach for spectral analysis (V_T)

Reference graphical methods

Logan

MRTM

Coffee break protocol (Lammertsma)

SUVR (late scan tissue ratio)

- Standardized uptake value tissue ratio (SUVR) is a simple and feasible in vivo PET measure that improves study feasibility for patient populations and repeated follow-up imaging.
- Relative to quantitative outcomes, SUVR often favored because of low measurement variability (image-based ratio) increasing statistical power for detection of group differences and longitudinal change.

SUVR

- SUVR is surrogate measure of radiotracer volume of distribution (V_T) that is the tissue:blood concentration ratio, at equilibrium.
- Accuracy of SUVR, depends on whether equilibrium is established, when target:background tissue uptake ratio is constant, when $dC(t)/dt = 0$ in blood and brain. Violation of equilibrium leads to errors in SUVR, particularly notable after bolus injection of brain PET radiotracers with reversible kinetics *(Carson 2000; Slifstein 2008)*.

Basic assumptions

- steady-state between radiotracer concentration in specific-binding region and reference region exists
- radiotracer delivery is the same to both areas

Assumptions not strictly met for leading Aβ and tau imaging agents because of radiotracer clearance in both the ROI and reference tissues, although tissue ratios may be fairly constant. Plasma also clearing.

Relevant for longitudinal changes in target protein deposition

• patients with accelerated cerebral atrophy that gives rise to blood flow differences across repeated follow-ups (e.g., treatment evaluation) or between specific cortical area and reference region

Carson RE (2000) PET physiological measurements using constant infusion. Nucl Med Biol 27:657-60

Slifstein M (2008) Revisiting an old issue: the discrepancy between tissue ratio-derived binding parameters and kinetic modeling-derived parameters after a bolus of the serotonin transporter radioligand 123I-ADAM. J Nucl Med 49:176-8

Rather than higher white matter uptake, Florbetapir has relatively **lower cortical** signal and **lower noise** (important for visual reads)

Koeppe et al, Human Amyloid Imaging 2012

Florbetapir

Wong et al. JNM 2010

IS06: Advances in Tau imaging, SNMMI 2022, Price

Price NYU Workshop Nov. 2012

[11C]PiB SUVR Tissue Ratio Time Window

McNamee et al. J Nucl Med 50:348-55 (2009)

[11C]PiB Computer Simulations

SUV and DVR curves generated using average rate constants (above) and arterial blood for AD (n=11) and control (n=16) groups. Curves were generated for mid-posterior cingulate (PCM) and cerebellum

- 50-70-min time window provided good compromise between physiologic validity, stability, sensitivity, and clinical feasibility across control, MCI, and AD subjects
- 40-60-min window had many advantages and desirable for dose-limited studies

Impact of cerebral blood flow and amyloid load on SUVR bias

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$[18F]$ flutemetamol (*N* = 90) or $[18F]$ florbetaben (*N* = 31)

- The present study investigated whether bias in SUVR relative to DVR could be explained by factors such as underlying Aβ burden and relative CBF (as measured by *R*1). For both tracers, strong correlations were observed
- Scan Protocol : Early dynamic scan 0 to 30 min post-injection (p.i.) followed by a 60 min break and late dynamic scan from 90 to 110 min p.i.

ORIGINAL RESEARCH

Open Access

Results: Despite high correlations (GCA: *R*2 ≥ 0.85), large overestimation and proportional bias of SUVR relative to DVR was observed. Negative associations were observed between both SUVR or SUVRbias and *R*1, albeit non-significant.

Conclusion: The present findings demonstrate that bias in SUVR relative to DVR is strongly related to underlying Aβ burden. Furthermore, in a cohort consisting mainly of cognitively unimpaired individuals, the effect of relative CBF on bias in SUVR appears limited.

Amyloid IQ

FIGURE 1. Logistic growth model describing Aß PET imaging signal over time as function of PET NS, K , T_{50} , and r.

$$
SUVr(t) = NS + A\beta(t)
$$

= NS + $\frac{K}{1 + e^{-r(t - T_{50})}}$, Eq. 1

Longitudinal Model of Aß Accumulation

We introduce a logistic growth model to describe the accumulation of \overrightarrow{AB} in the human brain. The model assumes that the rate of change of \overrightarrow{AB} concentration is proportional to the product of the current concentration of \overrightarrow{AB} and a term limiting growth due to the K of the local environment. The model is defined by the following differential equation:

$$
\frac{d\mathbf{A}\beta(t)}{dt} = r\mathbf{A}\beta(t)\bigg(1 - \frac{\mathbf{A}\beta(t)}{K}\bigg). \qquad \qquad \text{Eq. 2}
$$

Solving the differential equation yields a function for the concentration of $A\beta$ over time:

$$
A\beta(t) = \frac{K}{1 + e^{-r(t - T_{50})}}.
$$
 Eq. 3

In vivo PET amyloid tracers are quantified in terms of the SUVr between a target region containing amyloid and a reference region containing only background NS, and therefore:

$$
SUVr(t) = NS + A\beta(t).
$$
 Eq. 4

Substituting Equation 3 for $A\beta(t)$ into equation 4 yields the bottom line of Equation 1, which describes the temporal evolution of the in vivo PET AB signal over time (with the 4 parameters NS, r, T_{50} , and K).

Whittington, J Nucl Med 2018; 59:822–827

Definition of AB_L

Introduce the logistic growth model to provide a mathematical description of a sigmoidal increase in Ab concentration over time, where

- t is the time through the accumulation process (a t of 0 corresponds to a time point at which Ab levels are minimal) SUV $r(t)$ is the
- Ab(t) is the concentration of Ab at time t,
- NS is the tracer nonspecific binding,
- r is the exponential uninhibited growth rate

T_{so} is the time of half-maximal Ab concentrat $\left|\frac{1}{\omega}\right|_{1.0}$

• K is the carrying capacity. Eq. 1 $=$ NS + $\frac{K}{1 + e^{-r(t-T_{50})}}$,

FIGURE 1. Logistic growth model describing AB PET imaging signal over time as function of PET NS, K, T_{50} , and r.

Summary across approaches (Strengths/weaknesses)

- Atrophy
- Variability and noise
- Influence of off-target uptake (e.g., voxel erosion/partial volume correction)
- Multiple Radioligands (e.g., multi-site -- harmonization)
	- different distribution in gray and white matter?
	- differing kinetics in controls and/or control vs. patients
- Underlying Analysis Assumptions
	- What is being lost and what is gained by simplification
Quantifying the Variability of Amyloid-β PET in Centiloid Units

Juan Domingo Gispert *jdgispert@barcelonabeta.org*

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 JDG has received doses of [18F]flutemetamol for ALFA+ and AMYPAD from GE Healthcare, research support from Roche Diagnostics, Hoffmann-La Roche and Philips Nederlands, consultant fees from Roche Diagnostics and speaker's fees from Biogen and Philips Nederlands.

Quantification of Amyloid-β PET: SUVR

- **SUVR (Standard Uptake Value Ratio)**
	- The most widely used metric to quantify Aβ load from PET scans
- Convenient:
	- **Static acquisition' (like in clinical** practice)
	- **Ratio between target and reference** ROIs (insensitive to calibration errors)
- **Provides a single value summarizing** Aβ load in the whole brain
	- Can be used to generate parametric SUVR images

The Centiloid (CL) Method

Designed to render universal metrics of amyloid load

- **Interpective of**
	- Tracer
	- **Reference Region**
	- **Quantification Pipeline**

Klunk *et al.* Alz & Dement 2015;<http://gaain.org/centiloid-project>

Centiloid provides a universal metric to quantify Aβ burden

Table 2 Centiloid Values Corresponding to Alzheimer's Disease Neuropathologic Changes (ADNC)

Krishnadas *et al.* Semin Nucl Med. 2021

Pemberton *et al.* EJNMMI 2022

Prognostic Value of Centiloid Levels

- \blacksquare CL = 15-18.5 predicts cognitive decline in the PACC in clinically normal individuals
	- Median follow-up: HABS: 4.21 (SD = 2.34); AIBL: 7.48 (1.97); ADNI: 2.05 (1.60) years

Abbreviations: AB = B-amyloid; ADNI = Alzheimer's Disease Neuroimaging Initiative; AIBL = Australian Imaging, Biomarker and Lifestyle; CL = Centiloid; DVR = distribution volume ratio; HABS = Harvard Aging Brain Study; MCI mild cognitive impairment; NA = not applicable; PACC5 = Preclinical Alzheimer Cognitive Composite 5 version; PiB = Pittsburgh compound B; SUVR = standardized uptake value ratio.

Descriptives are shown for both each full sample and dichotomized into AB+/- groups using gaussian mixture model (figure 1). Means (SDs) are displayed for continuous variables and numbers (percents) for categorical variables. To demonstrate which variables varied across sample, 1-way analysis of variance F statistics are reported in the final column for continuous variables and x statistics for categorical variables, as well as p val participants in HABS did not have APOE data available, so total with genetic data are also displayed. Education was measured differently in AIBL and is not directly comparable to education in HABS or ADNI. Baseline PET measures are provided for within-sample description and baseline CL for between-sample comparison.

 1.2

 1.4

BL ADNI FBP SUVR

 1.6

1.8

1.15 1.20 1.25

BL ADNI PIB DVR cutoff

1.30

 0.8

1.0

1.05 1.10

Prognostic Value of Centiloid Levels

■ CL = 26 optimally predicts progression to dementia 6 years after PET in a mixed sample (CN/SCD/MCI) with cognitive complaints

Table 1 Characteristics of the participants

Mean \pm SD (min-max), *p < 0.05, **p < 0.001 compared to the visually negative group. One patient was recruited but excluded from the study because of a presenilin 1 mutation

Hanseeuw *et al.* Eur J Nucl Med Mol Imaging 2021

Aim: Impact of Pipeline Choices on Centiloid Units wEnne Cono

- **CL** enables the derivation of universal reference values
- **Aim: Quantifying the impact of pipeline** design options in absolute Centiloid units
	- **Bias**
	- **Uncertainty**
- **Iolder-dependent?**

MNI space *Native space*

Tissue-based RR GAAIN RR

Aim: Impact of Practical Pipeline Choices on Centiloid Units 10.NIC*a*l FIDI

- **Typical choices for a Centiloid (CL) pipeline** s for a Centiloid (CL) pipeline ne
	- **Space**
		- **MNI, Native**
	- Definition of Target and Reference Regions
		- **GAAIN**, AAL composite + Tissue segmentation
	- **Reference Region**
		- **Whole Cerebellum**, Cerebellar Grey, Pons, Brainstem+Cerebellum, etc...

MNI space Native space

Composite target GAAIN cortical VOI

Tissue-based RR GAAIN RR

Material and Methods: Subjects, Scans and CL Pipelines

Karolinska Institutet (KI)

Stockholm (Sweden)

- Participants (N=330) from the AMYPAD Diagnostic and Patient Management Study (DPMS)¹
	- **Subjective Cognitive Decline plus (SCD+)**
	- Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI)
	- **Dementia**
- With T1w MRI and PET available
	- **18F-Flutementamol**
	- 18F-Florbetaben
- 32 Centiloid (MR-aided; SPM12) pipelines were deployed, calibrated and **validated**:
	- 4 Reference Regions (WC, CG, Pons, WCB)
	- **2** Reference Region Type (GAAIN, Atlas Composite + Tissue segmentation)
	- **2** Target Region Types (GAAIN, Atlas Composite + Tissue segmentation)
	- 2 Spaces (MNI and Native)

GAAIN CL

University of Cologne (UKK)

Cologne (Germany)

VU University Medical Center

Amsterdam (VUmc)

1Altomare *et al.* Alz & Dement 2022

Repeated-measure model estimated with Generalized Estimating Equations (GEE)

Centiloid ~ Intercept + visual read + MMSE + Tracer + Space + Target Type + Reference Region + Reference Region Type

Factor types:

- Modeling CL distribution
- **Does Tracer introduce a bias in CL quantification?**
- **Pipeline design factors of interest**

Material and Methods: Statistical Analysis

- **Neasures of interest:**
	- **Difference in marginal means (bias)**
	- **95%CI of marginal means (uncertainty)**

Results: Sample

Results: Overview

Results: Reference Region

Reference VOIs:

- Cerebellar gray (blue)
- Whole cerebellar (blue+yellow)
- Pons (green)
- Whole cerebellum plus brainstem (all colors combined)

(*) the red area represents that part of the WC+B that does not overlap either the WC or the Pons

95% Confidence Interval

(Repeated Measures) ~ **6 CL**

Klunk *et al.* Alz & Dement 2015; <http://gaain.org/centiloid-project>

What happens with the pons?

- Low correlation between 11C-PIB and 18F-tracers
- **Smallest Ref Region: Low test-retest variability**

Devous *et al.* JNM. 2018

Table 3 Regional correlation coefficients for PiB and FBB SUVRs

^aValues for the neocor-

tex comprise the aver-

frontal, parietal, cingu-

late, lateral occipital and

age SUVRs for the

lateral temporal

cortices.

flutemetamol scan data from 20 Alzheimer disease and 20 mild cognitive impairment subjects. Fourth and fifth columns: mean test-retest variability (percentage) and SD over 5 Alzheimer disease subjects for each brain region when using ¹⁸F-flutemetamol positron emission tomography. ¹¹C-PIB = ¹¹C-Pittsburgh compound B; $SD = standard$ deviation; $COM =$ composite cortical volume of interest; FRO = lateral frontal cortex; PAR = lateral parietal cortex; LTC = lateral temporal cortex; POC = posterior cingulate; $\text{ANC} = \arctan \text{cingulate}$; $\text{MTC} = \text{median}$ temporal cortex; OCC = occipital; STR = striatum; $SWM =$ subcortical white matter; $PON =$ pons.

Villemagne *et al.* EJNMMI. 2012

Vandenberghe *et al.* Ann. Neurol. 2010

Results: Reference Region Type

Tissue-based RR GAAIN RR

Results: Target Type

Composite target GAAIN cortical VOI

Results: Target Type

MNI space

Native space

Results: Tracer

Centiloid Sensitivity to Effective Image Resolution

- 659 scans from AMYPAD DPMS & PNHS
	- **FBB: 158, FTM: 501**
- 22 sites, 30 different PET scanners

- Image resolution harmonized⁸ to 8 mm FWHM
- CL calculated with Standard Pipeline (WC)
- **Difference in CL pre-post harmonization**
	- FTM: Mean: **1.12** CL (95%CI: -2.25, 4.48)
	- FBB: Mean: **-0.35** CL (95%CI: -3.88, 4.57)

8Shekari *et al.* EANM 22

Between-Pipeline Comparison

■ Standard Centiloid Pipeline @ BBRC (PET+MR) vs AMYPYPE (PET-Only)

Buckley *et al.* EANM 2019

 1.3

1.8

 $SUVR + DVR$

 $2.0\,$

 $+1.96$ SD $+0.05$

1.96 SD

 -0.30

Pros:

- **More accurate measure of amyloid burden**
- Lower (~30%-50%) test-retest variability
- **Insensitive to time window for PET** imaging
- **Account for variability in cerebral** blood flow

Cons:

- **Require dynamic acquisitions**
	- Longer scanner time, higher cost, more participant burden
- Not possible to convert to standard units (i.e. Centiloids)
	- **Lack of Head-to-Head dynamic acquisitions** btw 11C-PIB and 18F-Tracers

Lopes-Alves *et al.* Alz Res & Ther. 2021

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	- **Lack of Head-to-Head dynamic acquisitions** btw 11C-PIB and 18F-Tracers

Note: Parametric methods in comparison to plasma input-derived 2T4k_V_B (V_T or DVR values) using 90 min scan data. The following optimized settings were used for each parametric method (RPM= 0.01-0.1, 50 basis functions; SRTM2 = 0.01-0.1, 50 basis functions; rLogan = 30-90 min; Logan = 30-90 min; Spectral analyses = 0.000167-0.008 (start-end), 50 basis functions. Test-retest results were based upon the average variation of all regions of interest.

Pros:

- **More accurate measure of amyloid** burden
- **Lower (~30%-50%) test-retest** variability
- **Insensitive to time window for PET imaging**
- **Account for variability in cerebral** blood flow

■ Cons:

- **Require dynamic acquisitions**
	- Longer scanner time, higher cost, more participant burden
- Not possible to convert to standard units (i.e. Centiloids)
	- **Lack of Head-to-Head dynamic acquisitions** btw 11C -PIB and 18F -Tracers

Time Post Injection

The average difference between the last and first frames (115&85min) was 6 (±8) CL in the AD group

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Heeman et al. EJNMMI Res 2022

- **Suited for detecting small** differences in amyloid rates of accumulation
	- E.g. primary prevention

Table 2 Sample size requirements per trial arm, for three hypothetical trial scenarios, comparing differences between using DVR/ SUVR, a cortical/early composite ROI, and restricting the inclusion to APOE-E4 carriers or not

Secondary prevention subjects with intermediate-to-high burden $(CL > 20.1)$

10

20

30

40

50

Required sample size per arm (N)

60

70

SUVR (Cortical)

DVR (Cortical)

SUVR (Early)

Target power 80%

90

100

DVR (Early)

80

Lopes-Alves *et al.* Alz Res & Ther. 2021

Other ratio methods

Other ways to express the ratio between the target and reference regions exist:

■ Z-score:

- **SUVR** normalized to the mean and SD of a reference group
- **Since are linear mappings, they SUVR, CL and Z-scores all share the same statistical properties**

Other methods to define the target and reference regions

Jovalekic *et al.* CTAD 22

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Other ratio metrics

Other ratio metrics

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Correlation between amyloid metrics and non-displaceable binding potential BP_{ND}, evaluated with dynamic acquisition *scans from Insight46 data. The 95% confidence interval for* $r_{rm rm}$ was built using 2,000 bootstrap replicates. The dotted lines *represent the regression for the metrics averaged per subject*

Bollack *et al. in preparation*

Other ratio metrics

Samples size estimates (α = 0.05; 1- β = 80%) required to detect a 25% decrease in annualized amyloid accumulation. Two scenarios were assessed: a secondary prevention trial focusing on early accumulators (20<CL≤ 50), and a secondary prevention trial for individuals with at least moderate amyloid burden (CL20).

Bollack *et al. in preparation*

Regional Staging Methods

Visual detection of amyloid in the striatum associated with cognitive decline

Hanseeuw *et al.* Alzheimers Dement. 2018

Global vs Regional Amyloid

- **Little topographical variability of** Amyloid deposition in AD
	- **Exception: Occipital uptake in cognitively** unimpaired individuals
- **Regional positivity can be used to stage** amyloid accumulation and disease progression

Collij *et al.* EJNMMI 2021

Global vs Regional Amyloid: Regional Staging Methods

- **Little topographical variability of** Amyloid deposition in AD
	- **Exception: Occipital uptake in cognitively** unimpaired individuals
- **Regional positivity can be used to stage** amyloid accumulation and disease progression

Α

Michalowska *et al.* Mol Psyatr. 2022 Collij *et al.* Neurology 2021

Global vs Regional Amyloid: Spatial Patterns of Variability

- **Little topographical variability of** Amyloid deposition in AD
	- **Exception: Occipital uptake in cognitively** unimpaired individuals
- **Regional positivity can be used to stage** amyloid accumulation and disease progression

Michalowska *et al.* Mol Psyatr. 2022

Collij *et al.* Neurology 2022

- **Contexts of Use** of quantitative amyloid-β PET are expanding
- The Centiloid concept provides a **universal metric** of amyloid-β load that is **comparable** across quantification methods
- It is therefore important to **identify and quantify sources of error** in Centiloids
- A statistical framework has been developed to quantify the impact of **pipeline design options** in absolute Centiloid units
Conclusions: Centiloid Sources of Variability

- The Centiloid method is **robust to pipeline** design alternatives, as well as **across pipelines**
	- Within-pipeline:
		- **Bias below test-retest variability (3.5 CL)**
			- Sole exception: Pons as reference region ($\Delta CL = 12 CL$)
		- Within-pipeline (95% CI) **uncertainty around 6 CL**
		- Impact of effective **image resolution <5 CL**
	- **Between-pipeline:**
		- **Mean absolute error: 5-8 CL**
		- Between-pipeline 95% CI (individual error bound): 13 CL, at the level of thresholds for abnormality
- **Tracer had no impact** on Centiloid values, no matter the pipeline

Conclusions: Other Metrics of Aβ burden

Kinetic modeling (BP_{ND}/DVR) brings **moderate improvements** (wrt SUVR/CL) in:

- Accuracy (bias ~30% cross-sectional; ~15% longitudinal)
- **Precision (test retest ~50%)**
- Robustness to:
	- Technical confounders (10 min delay in imaging window -> ΔCL <3 CL)
	- Physiological confounders (±25% change in global CBF-> 5% change in SUVR/CL)
- **Require dynamic acquisitions**
	- **Infrequently used in clinical practice and trials**
- Conversion to Centiloids is not possible due to the lack of full dynamic H2H data
- \blacksquare Other 'ratio' metrics (Aβ load, Aβ index, CL_{NME}, etc...)
	- Moderately improved precision with respect to standard Centiloid pipeline
		- **Derived of the optimal definition of target and reference regions**
	- **Can be scaled to the Centiloid**

Conclusions: Limitations of Centiloid Method

- **Limitations** of Centiloid:
	- **Inherent limitations of 'ratio' methods**
	- Need for H2H reference datasets vs 11C-PIB
	- **Assumption of linear association with 11C-PIB**
		- Non-linear alternatives: NoDim (Properzi et al 2019)
	- **Global metric**
		- However, there is little regional variability in AD
		- **Global CL tracks well regional cerebral spread**

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- **Taken together, limitations have a small impact on accuracy, precision, robustness and** utility
- **The Centiloid is a well-established, robust and useful method to render absolute units of Aβ burden**

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THANK

Quantifying the Variability of Amyloid-β PET in Centiloid Units

Backup Slides

Quantitative Amyloid Imaging: Context of Use in Clinical Trials (I)

- Assessment of treatment response (phamacodynamic endpoint)
- **Surrogate endpoint of efficacy**

Global Cortical Average versus Whole Cerebellum Reference

*P<0.05, **P<0.01, ***P<0.001, ****P<0.0001. †Adjusted mean change from baseline by Mixed Model Repeated Measures (MMRM). The Mixed Model Repeated Measures (MMRM) uses treatment group, visit, clinical subgroup (MCI due to AD, Mild AD), the presence or absence of ongoing AD treatment at baseline, APOE4 status (positive, negative), region, treatment group-by-visit interaction as factors, and baseline value as covariate For PET analysis N=306 at 12 months and N=277 at 18 months

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Quantitative Amyloid Imaging: Context of Use in Clinical Trials (I)

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Quantitative Amyloid Imaging: Context of Use in Clinical Trials (II)

Inclusion Criterion

- Trials in Symptomatic Populations: Positive Visual Read (VR)
- **Prevention Trials (e.g. AHEAD 3-45)**

<https://www.bioarctic.se/en/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2020/11/ctad-2020-sperling-oc2-final.pdf>

Quantitative Amyloid Imaging: Context of Use in Clinical Trials (III)

- **Support Clinical Dose selection / Cessation of Treatment**
	- **Donanemab Phase II trial**
		- If 11<CL<25: Dose reduced to 700 mg (from 1400 mg)
		- If CL<11 or 2 consecutive scans with CL<25: Participant switched to placebo
			- **27.4% (w28) and 54.7% (w56) of participants**

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Potential Use of Quantitative Amyloid PET in Clinical Practice?

- Contexts of Use of quantitative amyloid-β PET (in CL) are expanding
	- 1. Pharmacodynamic / Target Engagement
	- 2. Surrogate Endpoint of Efficacy
	- 3. Dose selection / Treatment Cessation
	- 4. Patient selection (prevention trials)

Potential clinical utility when anti-amyloid drugs are approved

Potential Use of Quantitative Amyloid PET in Clinical Practice?

- Contexts of Use of quantitative amyloid-β PET are expanding
- **Potential clinical utility when anti-amyloid drugs are approved**
- **E** Likely, in combination with blood-based biomarkers

Aß, Amyloid-beta; AD, Alzheimer's Disease; APOE, Apolipoprotein E; NfL, Neurofilament Light chain; P-tau, phosphorylated tau.

Potential Use of Quantitative Amyloid PET in Clinical Practice?

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Aß, Amyloid-beta; AD, Alzheimer Disease; CSF, Cerebrospinal Fluid; LP, Lumbar Puncture; PCP; Primary Care Physician; NfL, Neurofilament light Chain; P-tau, phosphorylated tau.

Angioni et *et al.* JPAD 2022

Other ratio metrics

Bland-Altman plots indicating bias between test and retest measurements. Dashed lines indicate the mean, lower and upper limit of agreement (+/- 1.96 standard deviation from the mean)

Bollack *et al. in preparation*

Other ratio metrics

Annualised rates of change in amyloid deposition and coefficients of variation in AIBL and Insight46 datasets. Values are described as mean \pm standard deviation. Confidence intervals for the coefficients of variation were built via bootstrap resampling using 2,000 replicates

Other metrics: BPnd / DVR

Pros:

- **More accurate measure of amyloid** burden
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- Lower (~50%) test-retest variability
- **Account for variability in cerebral blood flow**
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Quantitative Brain Amyloid PET Imaging Methodology, Metrics, Analytical Validity Amyloid^{IQ}

Roger Gunn, Ph.D.

Invicro & Imperial College London

Acknowledgements: Alex Whittington (Invicro)

NeuraceqTM Data (LMI: Santiago Bullich & Andrew Stephens) Amyvid[™] Data (ADNI)

Spatiotemporal Distribution of β-Amyloid in Alzheimer Disease Is the Result of Heterogeneous Regional **Carrying Capacities**

Alex Whittington¹, David J. Sharp¹, and Roger N. Gunn¹⁻³ for the Alzheimer's Disease Neuroimaging Initiative 2018, JNM

Amyloid Load: A More Sensitive Biomarker for Amyloid **Imaging**

Alex Whittington^{1,2} and Roger N. Gunn¹⁻³; for the Alzheimer's Disease Neuroimaging Initiative

B AMYLOID^{IQ} - NeuraceqTM

*Sources of Variability in Cross-sectional and Longitudinal Quantitative A*β *PET*

Victor L Villemagne, MD

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- *3. Department of Medicine, University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Australia*
- *4. School of Medical and Health Sciences, Edith Cowan University, Perth, Australia*

Effect of change of tracer/scanner on longitudinal studies

NeuroImage

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Non-negative matrix factorisation improves Centiloid robustness in longitudinal studies

Pierrick Bourgeat^{a,*}, Vincent Doré^{a,b}, James Doecke^a, David Ames^c, Colin L. Masters^d, Christopher C. Rowe $b.e.$ Jurgen Fripp^a, Victor L. Villemagne $b.e.$ the AIBL research group

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^b Department of Molecular Imaging & Therapy, Austin Health, Melbourne, Australia

^e University of Melbourne, Academic Unit for Psychiatry of Old Age, St George's Hospital, Kew, Australia

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^e Department of Medicine, University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Australia

Aβ PET images can be modeled as a sum of a specific and non-specific binding components. Non-negative matrix factorization is a machine learning technique which is trained to estimate these components. The resulting specific binding component, which represents Aβ burden, can be then transformed into Centiloids.

Effect of change of tracer/scanner on longitudinal studies

JeuroImage

NeuroImage

Pierrick Bourgeat^{a,*}, Vincent Doré^{a,b}, James Doecke^a, David Ames^c, Colin L. Masters^d, Christopher C. Rowe $b.e.$ Jurgen Fripp^a, Victor L. Villemagne $b.e.$ the AIBL research group

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Effect of digital PET scanners

Head-to-Head comparison between Philips Gemini TF64 and Siemens Biograph Vision 600 for brain amyloid Centiloid quantitation

S Li, P Bourgeat, S Bozinovski, K Huang, R Guzman, R Williams, J Fripp, VL Villemagne, CC Rowe, V Dore

Digital PET scanner

- *~15% higher values*
- *Higher resolution*
- *Half the injected dose*

Session III: Quantitative Brain Amyloid PET Imaging Methodology, Metrics, Analytical Validity

FDA-CDER-CDRH, SNMMI, and MITA Workshop: Quantitative PET Brain Amyloid November 17, 2022

Disclaimer

Any mention or discussion of specific approaches, methods, commercial products, trade names, organizations, their sources, or their use in connection with material reported in this workshop is not to be construed as either an actual or implied endorsement of such products, methods, or approaches by FDA, the Department of Health and Human Services, or United States Government.

Session III: Topics for Discussion

- Do you envision AI/ML analysis techniques playing a significant role in amyloid quantitation in the future?
- What factors contribute to the variability with different quantitative metrics? Which factor do you think contributes the most variability?
- How to address variability with longitudinal metrics and best practices for controlling variability?
- Is there enough added value with amyloid quantitation considering the variability introduced?
- Centiloid composite measures vs regional (and what is the usefulness of regional values?)
- Value of z-score when looking at regional data and composite Centiloid thresholds.

