

Studying central nervous system (CNS) diseases with advanced MRI

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Mission statement:

"Our research focuses on the use of advanced MRI techniques to understand the sources of disability in multiple sclerosis and on ways of adapting those techniques for use in research trials and routine patient care."

MS: a disabling disease of the central nervous system

Prevalence:

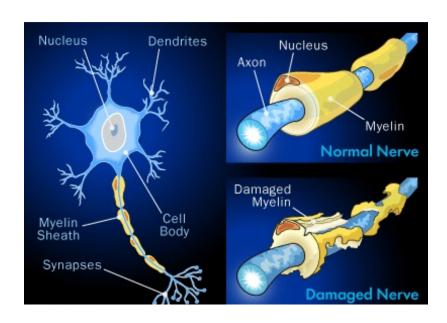
400,000 in the US, 2.5 million worldwide

Origin:

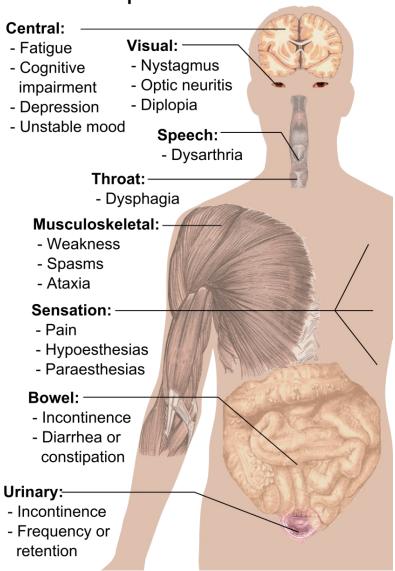
Still unknown

Pathology:

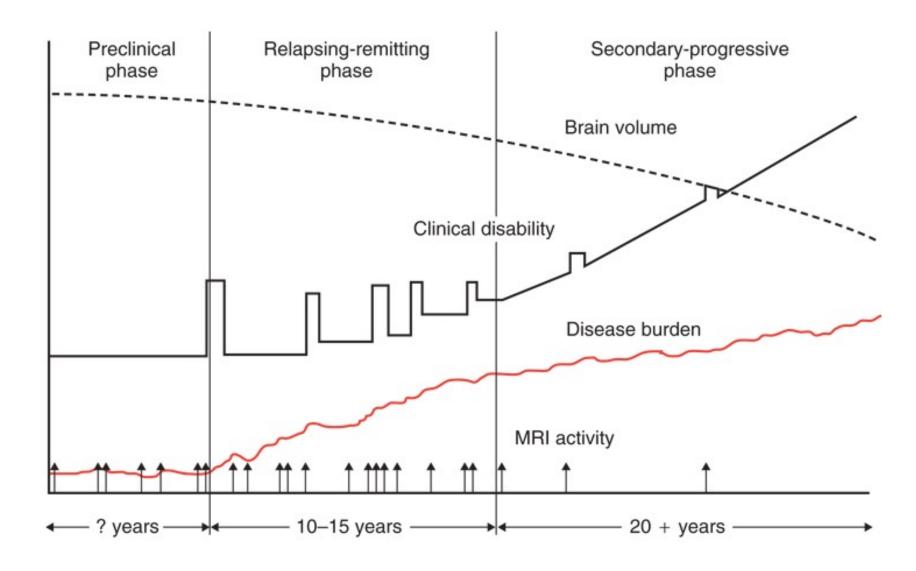
- Inflammation
- Demyelination
- Axonal loss
- Neuronal loss



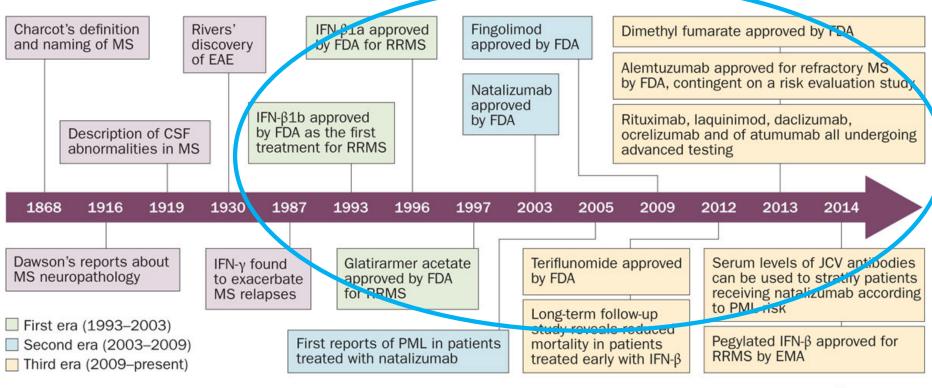
Main symptoms of Multiple sclerosis



Typical clinical and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) course of MS



Timeline for the development of disease-modifying drugs for MS



Ransohoff, R. M. et al. (2015) Nat. Rev. Neurol. doi:10.1038/nrneurol.2015.14

Nature Reviews | Neurology

- o 15 FDA-approved DMTs primarily targets the early inflammatory phase of disease (RRMS)
- o As the disease progresses, response to DMTs typically declines
- Early diagnosis and treatment are of key importance to limit the impact of MS!

Diagnosing MS

- No single test can diagnose MS
- Medical history, neurologic exam and lab tests help <u>rule out other diseases</u> and confirm the MS diagnosis.
- o 2010 McDonald Criteria to demonstrate CNS lesions disseminated in space (DIT) and time (DIS)

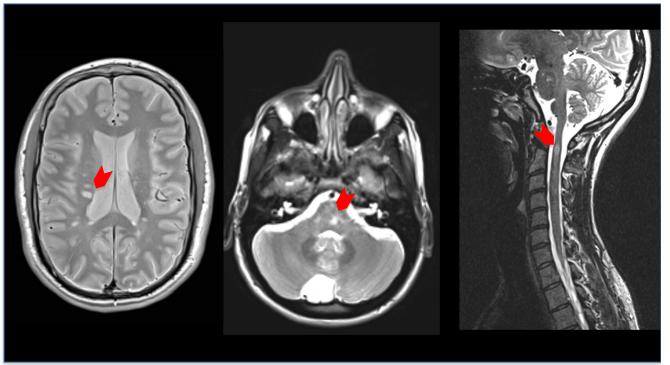
Clinical Findings at Presentation		
Episodes from History	Objective Clinical Signs	Additional Data Needed From MRI or Clinical Follow-up
2 Attacks	2 Lesions	None†
2 Attacks	1 Lesion	Evidence of DIS‡
1 Attack	2 Lesions	Evidence of DIT§
1 Attack	1 Lesion	Evidence of both DIS and DIT

Diagnosis of MS can be made in typical clinically isolated syndrome (CIS) patients based on a single MRI

2010 McDonald MRI criteria

Dissemination in space (DIS)

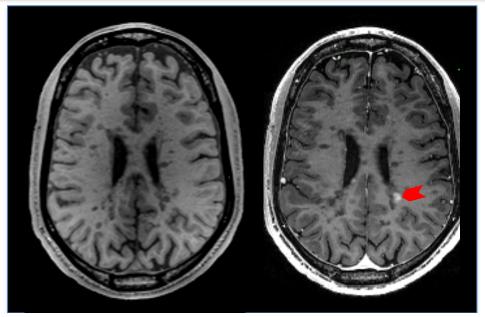
One or more T2 lesions in two or more characteristic locations (periventricular, juxtacortical, infratentorial, spinal cord)



Dissemination in time (DIT)

New T2 lesion and/or gadolinium-enhancing lesion(s) on follow-up scan

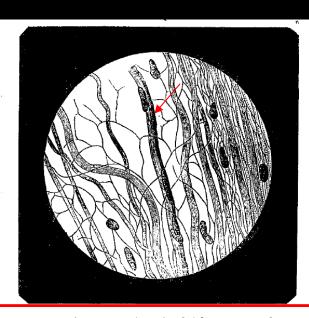
Simultaneous presence of asymptomatic gadoliniumenhancing and non-enhancing T2 lesion on any one scan



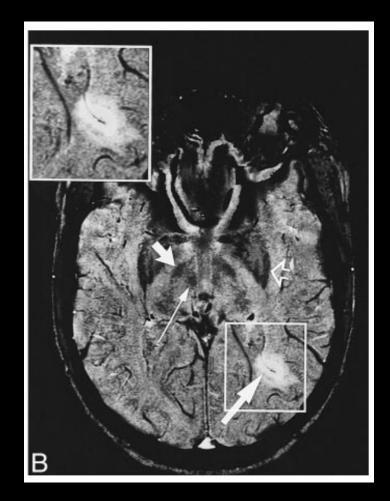
Misdiagnosis of MS is common...

- Misdiagnosis of MS is common (5%-35%)
- ☐ Misdiagnosis expose patients to unnecessary disease modifying therapies (harmful side effects).
 Important economic consequences to healthcare system (5% of 400,000 of US patients => 1 billion USD/year for DMTs)
- ☐ Sensitivity and specificity of McDonald criteria are imperfect
- ☐ MS mimics show MRI lesions in the CNS (migraine, fibromyalgia, small vessel ischemic cerebrovascular disease, neuromyelitis optica spectrum disorders,...)

Central veins in MS plaques



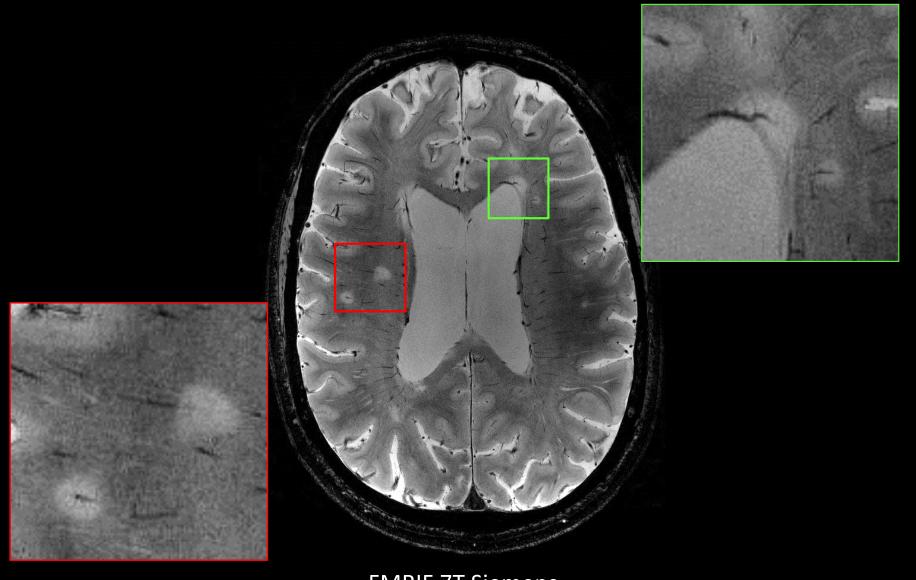
ic. 1. - Elle représente une préparation fraîche, provenant du centre d'une plaque scléreuse, coloriée par le carmin et traitée par dilacération. Au centre, vaisseau capillaire portant plusieurs noyaux. A droite et à gauche, cylindres d'axe, les uns volumineux, les autres d'un brès-petit diametre, tous dépouillés de leur myéline. Le vaisseau capillaire et les cylindres d'axe étaient fortement colorés par le carmin. Les cylindres d'axe ont des bords parfaitement lisses, ne présentant aucune ramification. Dans l'intervalle des cylindres d'axe, minces fibrilles de formation récente, à peu près parallèles les unes aux autres dans la partie droite de la préparation, formant à gauche et au centre, une sorte de réseau résultant. soit de l'enchevêtrement, soit de l'anastomose des fibrilles. Celles-ci se distinguent des cylindres d'axe, le par leur diamètre qui est beaucoup moindre; 2º par les ramifications qu'elles offrent dans leur trajet; 3º parce qu'elles ne se colorent pas par le carmin. — Çà et et là, noyaux disséminés. Quelques-uns paraissant en connexion avec les fibrilles conjonctives; d'autres ayant pris une forme irrégulière, due à l'action de la solution ammoniacale de carmin.



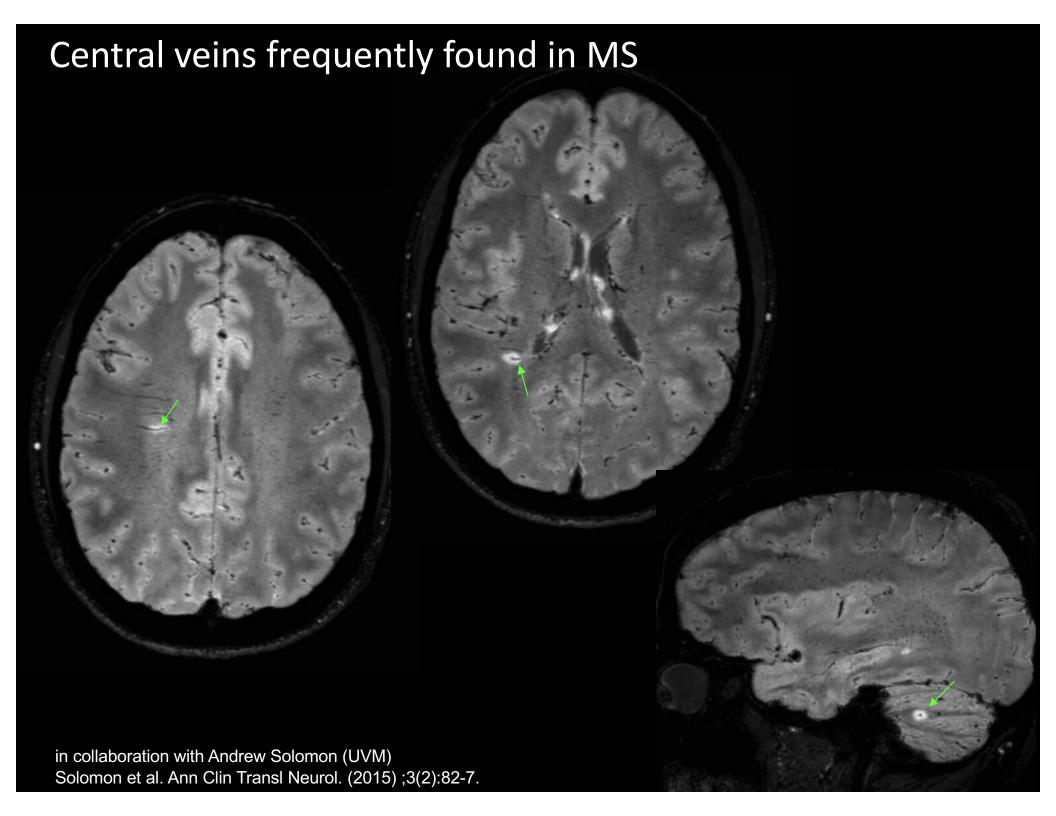
Tan el al., AJNR (2000) Susceptibility-Weighted imaging (SWI) @ 1.5T

Charcot, 1868

Central veins in MS plaques



FMRIF 7T Siemens T2*-weighted



...but not as frequent in migraine in collaboration with Andrew Solomon (UVM) Solomon et al. Ann Clin Transl Neurol. (2015);3(2):82-7.

Prevalence of central veins in MS and its mimics

Disorders	Percentage of CV+ lesions	References				
MS	78% (782/1,004) RR: 80% (394/490), PP:76% (277/362)	Kilsdonk et al., J Neurol (2014) Kuchling et al., Mutl Scler Journ (2014)				
NMOSD	mean: 36% [vs 90% for MS] 9% (8/92 lesions)	Sinnecker et al. Neurology (2012) Kister et al. Mult Scler Int (2013)				
Small vessel disease	mean: 22% [vs 74% for MS] median: 6.1% [vs 70% for MS]	Mistry et al., Mult Scler (2015) Samaraweera et al., J Neuroimaging (2016)				
Migraine	median: 22% [vs 84% for MS]	Solomon et al., ACTN (2015)				
Susac's	mean: 54% (vs 92% for MS)	Wuerfel et al., Mult Scler (2012)				
Behcet's, SLE, APS	13% (40/103) [vs 80% (262/325) for MS]	Vuolo et al., Eur J of Neurol (2016)				

The central vein sign for diagnosing MS?



Sati et al. Nature Review Neurology (2017)

- □ Single-center studies reported a lower proportion of CV+ lesions in other diseases: NMO, SAD, CSVD, migraine.
- Need to investigate more MS mimics (neurosarcoidosis, sjongren's, ADEM,...)
- □ Need to define a CVS criterion (% rule, select-lesion rule, combined DIT-DIS-CV+)
- □ Need to validate in large multi-center imaging studies patients with a broad spectrum of neurological diseases patients at first clinical/radiological presentation (not yet diagnosed) patients with suspicion of misdiagnosis.

Typical brain MRI protocol for MS diagnosis

Rovira et al. Nature Review Beurology (2015). Consensus statement from MAGNIMS

- 2D or 3D high-resolution (1mm) isotropic T1-weighted (opt.)
- Axial proton-density and/or T2-weighted (mand.)
- Sagittal 2D or 3D T2-FLAIR (mand.)
- Injection of gadolinium-based contrast agent (mand.)
- 5 min "dead time"
- 2D or 3D contrast-enhanced T1-weighted (mand.)

Total scan time ~30 min

Typical brain MRI protocol for MS diagnosis

Rovira et al. Nature Review Beurology (2015). Consensus statement from MAGNIMS

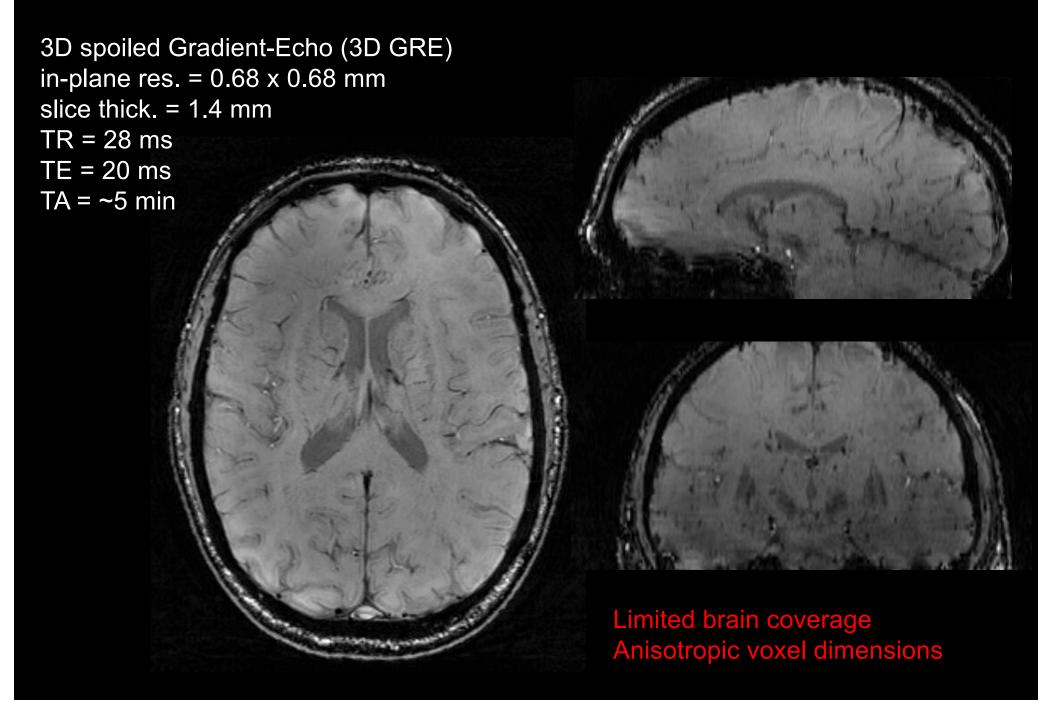
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- Axial proton-density and/or T2-weighted (mand.)
- Sagittal 2D or 3D T2-FLAIR (mand.)
- Injection of gadolinium-based contrast agent (mand.)
- 5 min "dead time"

Add T2*-weighted/SWI sequence?

• 2D or 3D contrast-enhanced T1-weighted (mand.)

Total scan time ~30 min

Typical 3D GRE sequence for T2*w/SWI



Rapid high-resolution T2* imaging using 3D segmented echo-planar-imaging (3D EPI)

3T Philips Achieva, 8-ch head coil

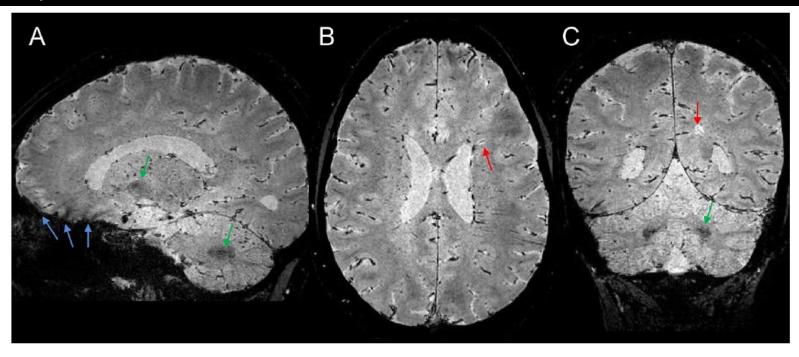
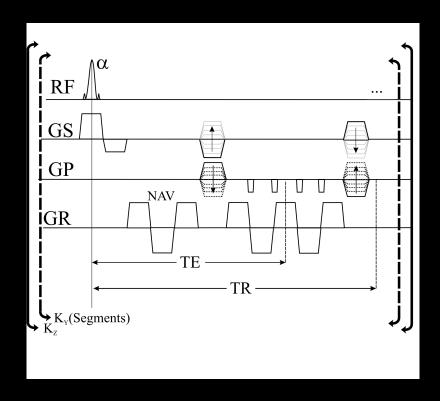
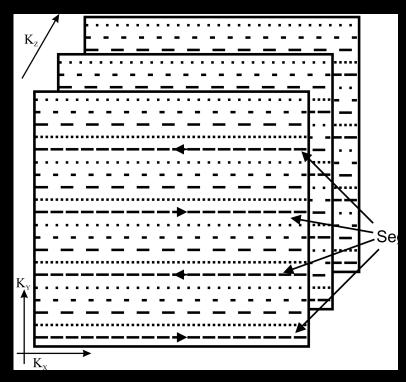


Figure 1. 3D-EPI magnitude images from one MS case acquired at 3 T using a voxel resolution of $0.55 \times 0.55 \times 0.55 \times 0.55$ mm³. 3D-EPI images are initially acquired in the sagittal plane (A) and then reformatted in the axial (B) and coronal (C) planes. Red arrows point to MS lesions in the white matter. Green arrows indicate globus pallidus and dentate nucleus. Blue arrows show areas of signal loss close to air/tissue interfaces (paranasal sinuses and mastoid air cells).

A collaborative work between NIH (NINDS / NIMH/Clinical Center) and Siemens

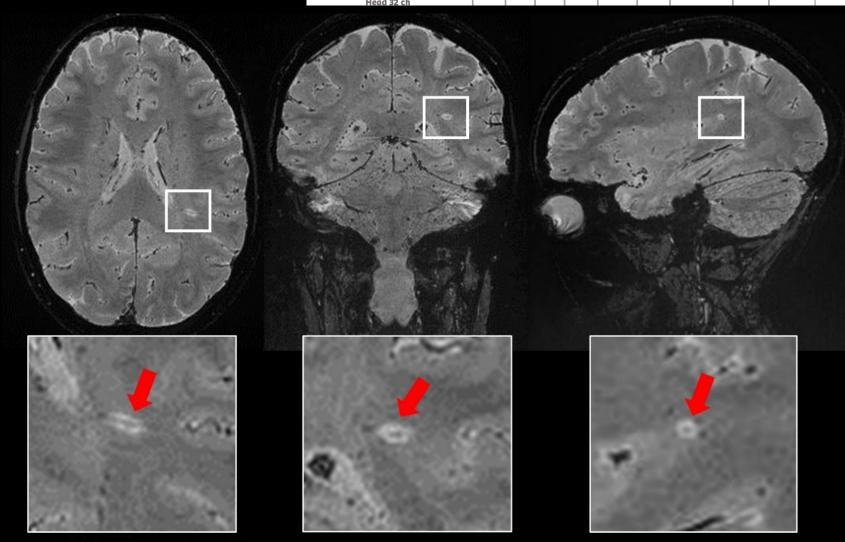




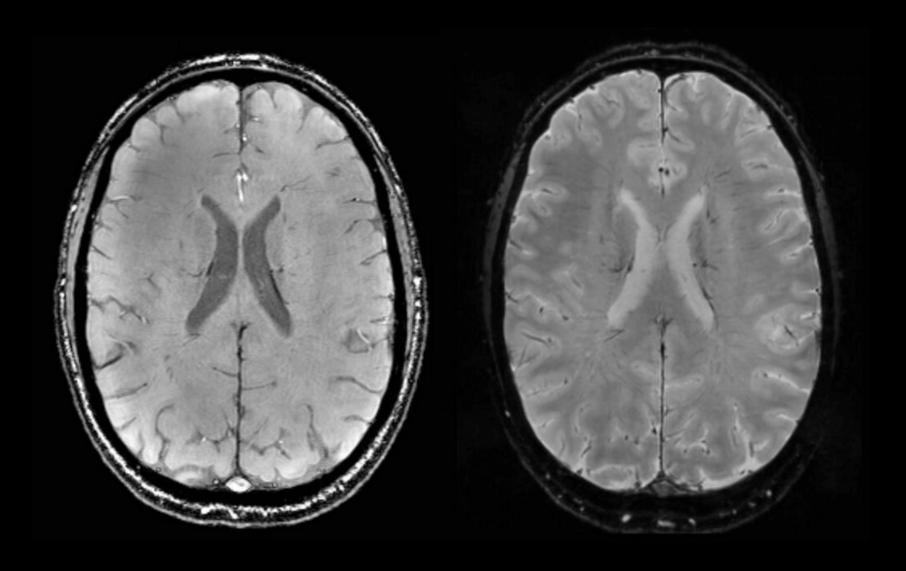
A more efficient way to sample k-space compared to conventional 3D GRE

Whole-brain @ 0.65 mm iso in ~ 5 min

	Plane	TR (ms)	TE (ms)	FOV (mm)	Phase FOV (%)	Slices	Voxel size (mm)	Matrix	Phase direction	EPI factor	TA (mins
1.5T MAGNETOM Area, Head/Neck 20 ch	Sag	64	37	228	94.1	256	0.75 iso	304	A >> P	15	5:23
3T MAGNETOM Biograph mMR, Head/Neck 16 ch	Ax	64	25	220	78.1	72	0.5 x 0.5 x 2.0	448	R >> L	15	1:30
	Sag	57	25	228	96.6	288	0.65 iso	352	A >> P	15	4:45
3T MAGNETOM Skyra, Head 32 ch & 3T MAGNETOM Prisma, Head 32 ch	Sag	64	35	250	81.3	256	0.65 iso	384	A >> P	15	5:46
7T research system, Head 32 ch	Ax	52	23	220	81.8	176	0.5 iso	440	R >> L	15	3:40



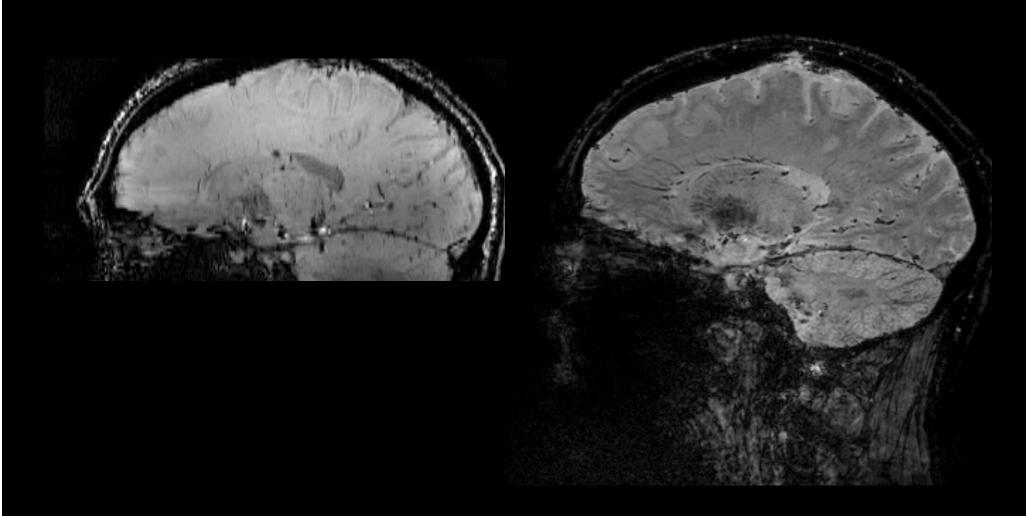
3D GRE vs 3D EPI



Same in-plane resolution (0.68 x 0.68 mm), same scan time (~ 5 min)

in collaboration with Andrew Derbyshire (NIMH)

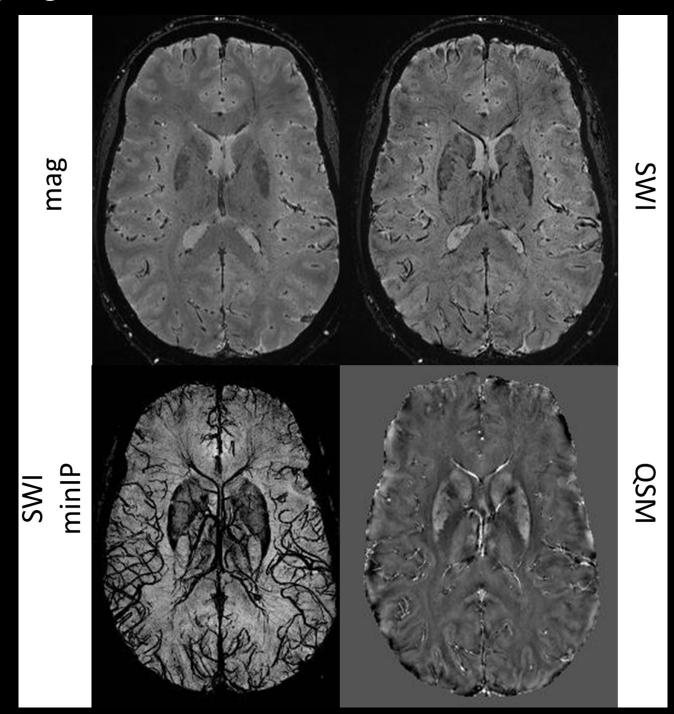
3D GRE vs 3D EPI



Same scan time (~ 5 min) but different slice thickness (1.4 mm vs 0.68 mm) and coverage (cerebrum vs whole brain)

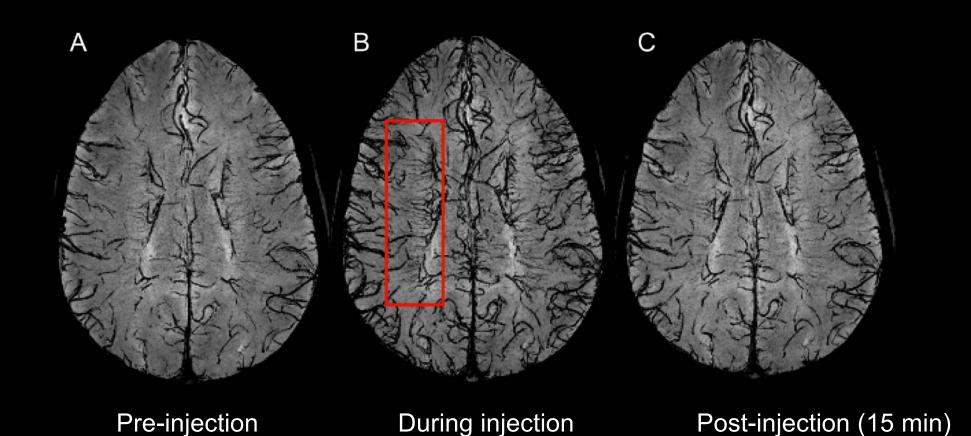
in collaboration with Andrew Derbyshire (NIMH)

Multi-contrast imaging with 3D EPI



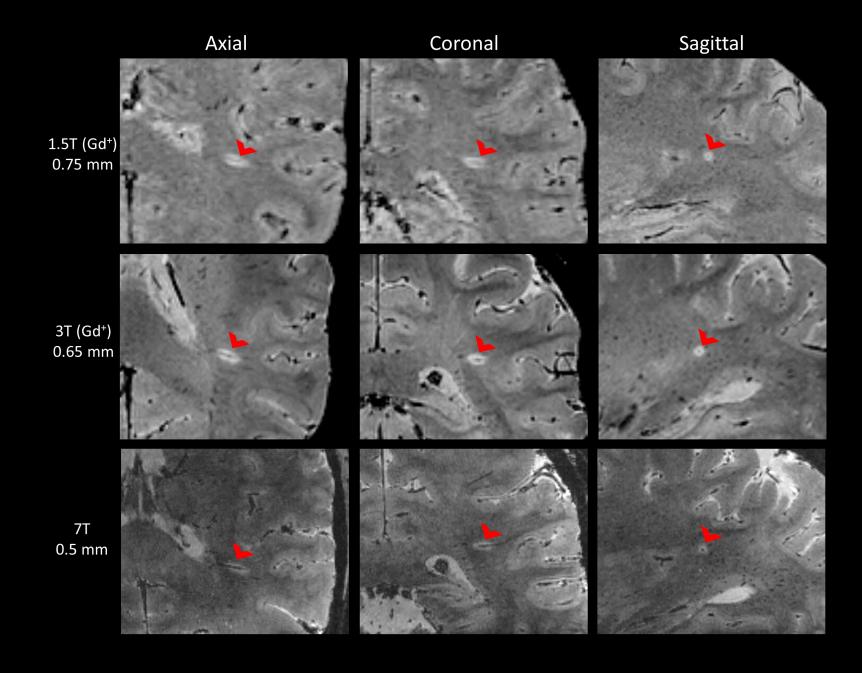
Sati et al., Magnetom FLASH (2017)

Increased vein detection on 3DEPI with injection of GBCA

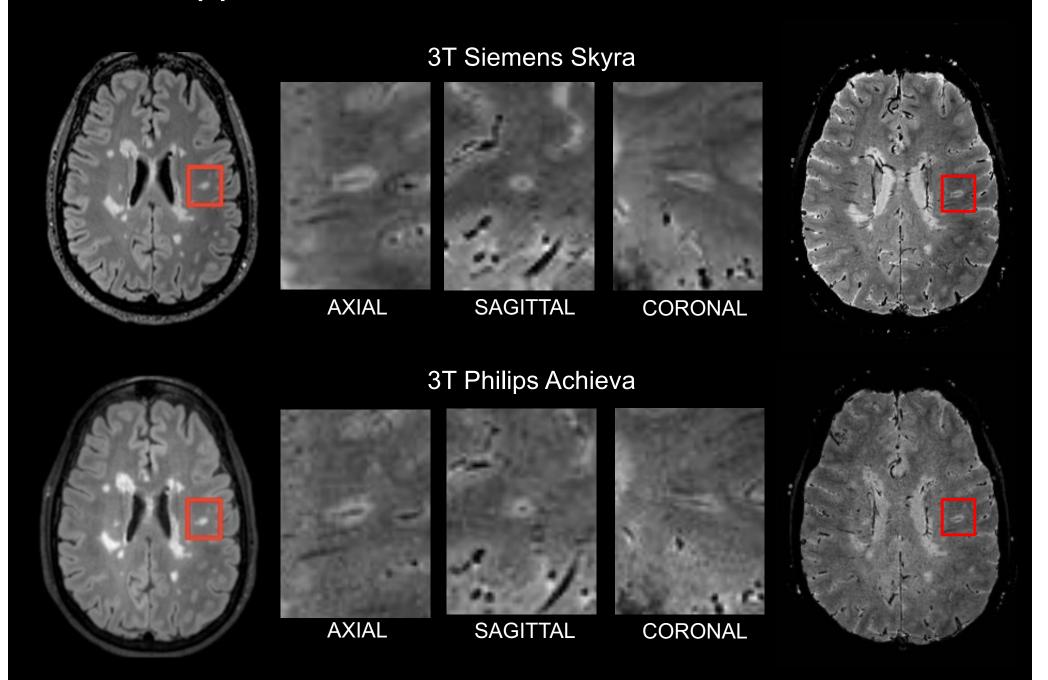


Injection of a single dose gadobutrol (0.1 mmol/kg) over a minute

Central vein detection at all field strengths with 3D EPI

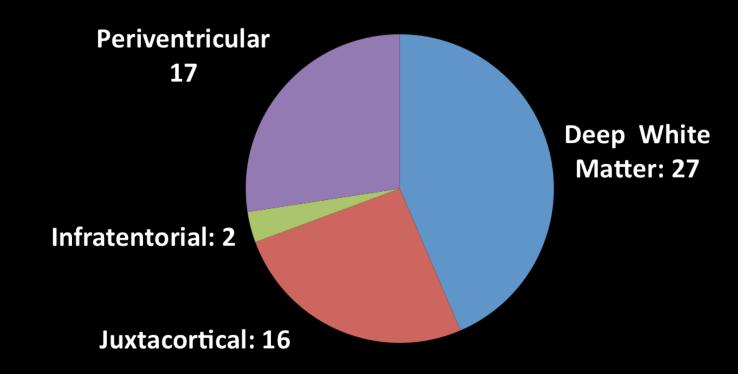


3D EPI applicable across MRI manufacturers



Fechner et al., ASNR conference (2017)

61 lesions analyzed on 3D EPI Siemens and Philips



- Excellent agreement between raters (59/61, 96.7%)
- Excellent agreement between scanners (56/59, 94.9%)

Dissemination of 3D EPI across MRI centers specialized in MS

1. San Raffaele Ospedale¹ (Italy)

¹ 3T Philips ² 3T Siemens

- 2. VU University Medical Center¹ (Netherlands)
- 3. Leiden University Medical Center¹ (Netherlands)
- 4. University of Nottingham¹ (UK)
- 5. Barts Health NHS Trust¹, Royal London Hospital (UK)
- 6. University of Florence¹ (Italy)
- 7. Universite Libre de Bruxelles¹ (Belgium)
- 8. Medical University of Graz² (Austria)
- 9. Fondation Rothschild¹, (France)
- 10. Johns Hopkins University¹ (Maryland, USA)
- 11. University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston¹ (Texas, USA)
- 12. Oregon Health & Science University² (Oregon, USA)
- 13. University of Vermont College of Medicine¹ (Vermont, USA)
- 14. St. Michael's Hospital, University of Toronto² (Ontario, Canada)
- 15. University of California San Francisco² (California, USA)
- 16. Cleveland Clinic Foundation², Cleveland (Ohio, USA)
- 17. University of South California² (California, USA)

Proposed brain MRI protocol for MS diagnosis

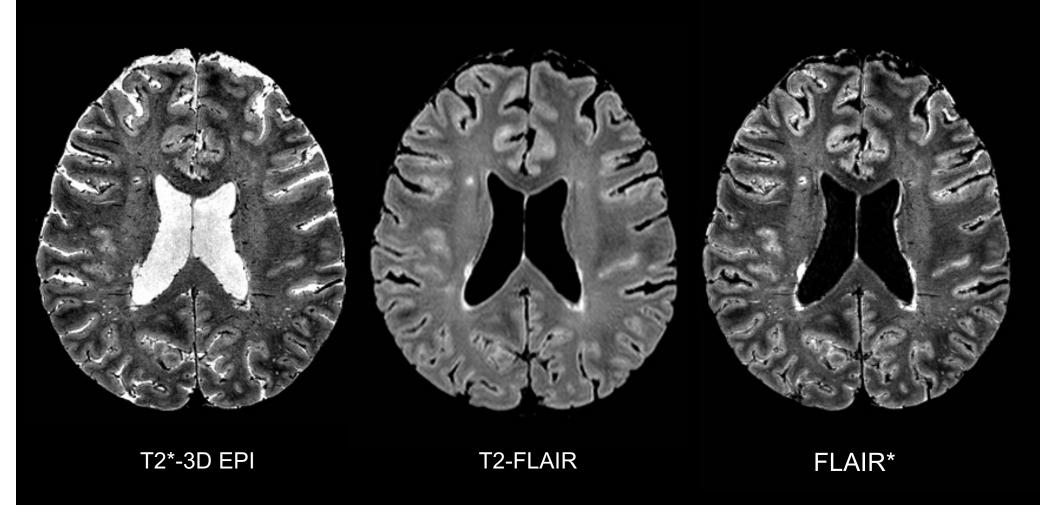
- 2D or 3D high-resolution (1mm) isotropic T1-weighted (opt.)
- Axial proton-density and/or T2-weighted (mand.)
- Sagittal 2D or 3D T2-FLAIR (mand.)
- Injection of gadolinium-based contrast agent (mand.)
- 5 min "dead time"

Replace with high-resolution 3D EPI

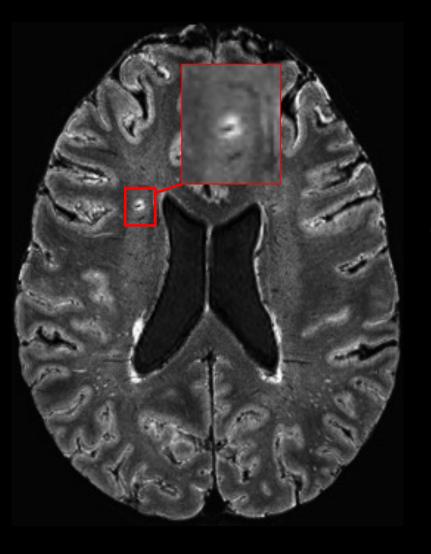
2D or 3D contrast-enhanced T1-weighted (mand.)

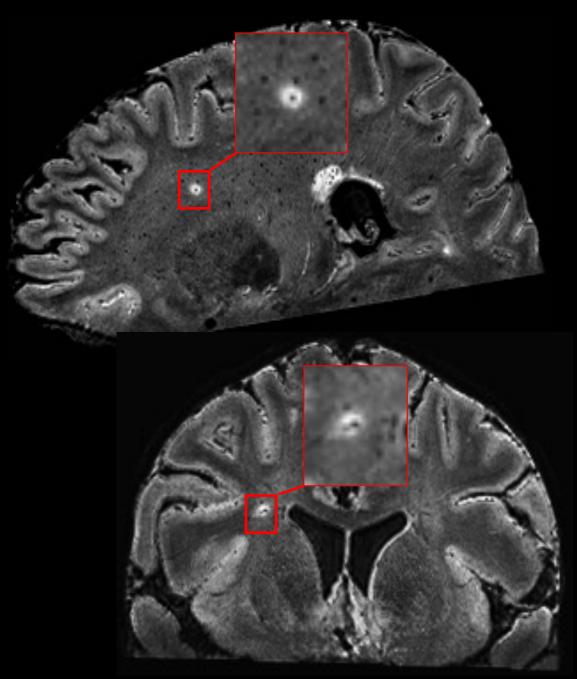
Total scan time ~30 min

FLAIR* for detecting CV+ lesions in the clinic



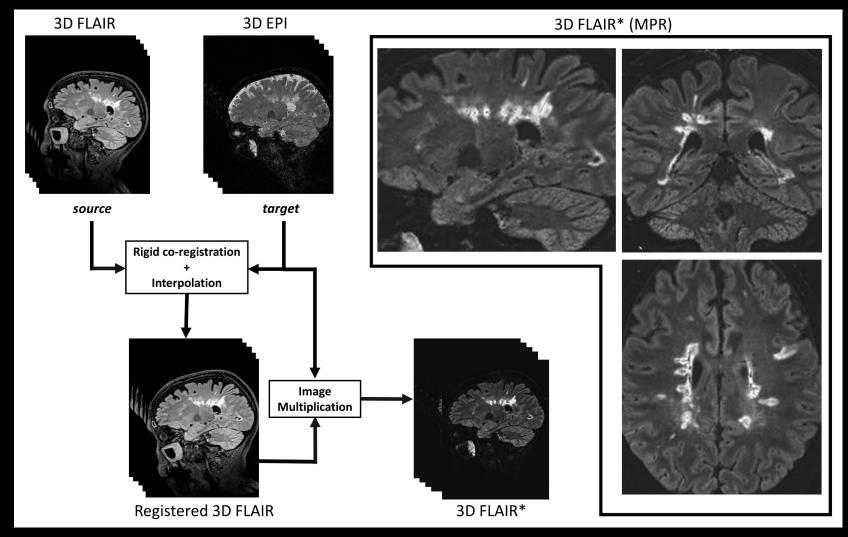
Multi-planar viewing with FLAIR*





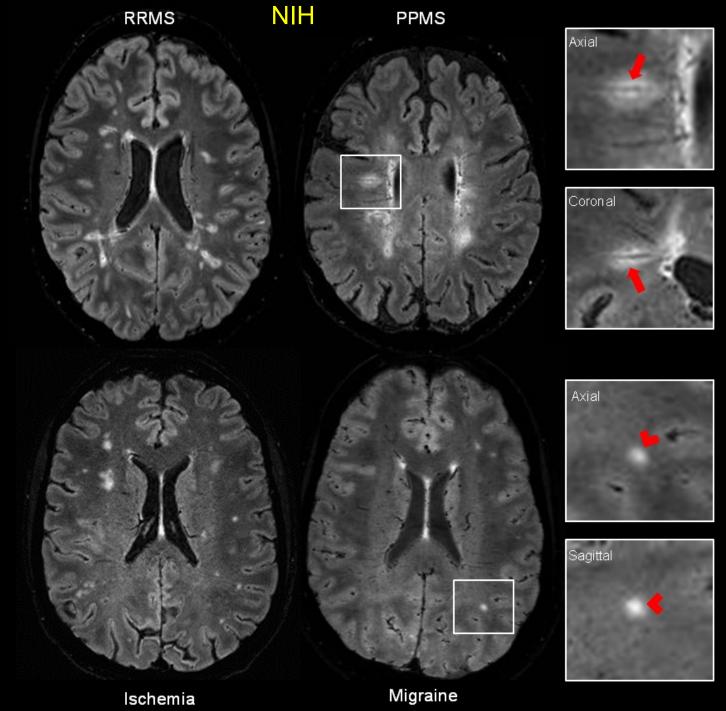
Sati et al., Radiology (2012)

FLAIR* processing pipeline



Can be performed offline (pushed back to PACS), inline using advanced console (syngo.via Frontiers)

FLAIR* in the (research) clinic



University of Nottingham (UK) University of Vermont

CentrAl Vein Sign in the early diagnosis of Multiple Sclerosis (CAVS MS)



Prospective observational multi-center pilot study

6 imaging sites (CCF, JHU, UCSF, UofT, UVM, UTHealth) + 2 analysis sites (NIH, Penn)

60 patients / site

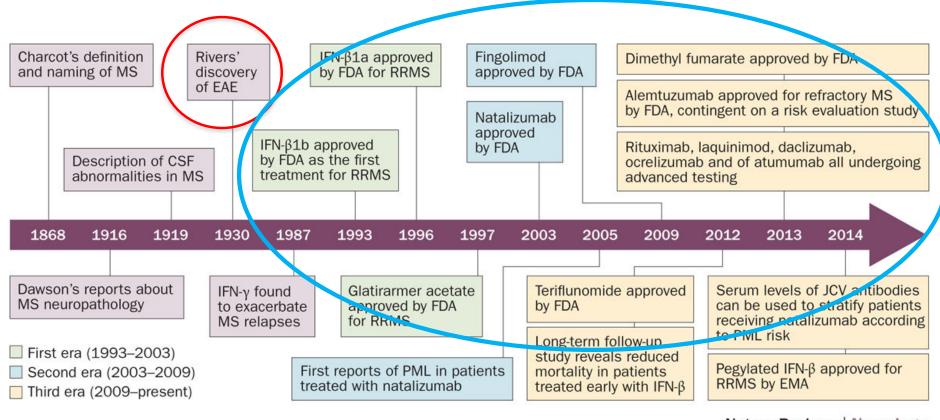
Primary Objective:

Determine the variability of 3T FLAIR* imaging across sites and across MRI scanners in subjects with a clinical or radiological suspicion of MS.

Secondary Objectives:

- Investigate the difference in CNR identified in the primary objective between pre-contrast FLAIR* imaging and post contrast FLAIR* imaging to identify whether gadolinium injection is required for central vein detection
- 2. Determine the reproducibility of different methods for detection of positive CVS across sites.
- 3. Determine the sensitivity and specificity of the different methods for the diagnosis of MS compared to the McDonald 2010 MS criteria.

Timeline for the development of disease-modifying drugs for MS

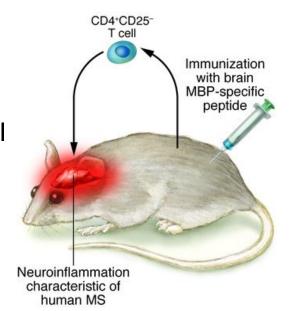


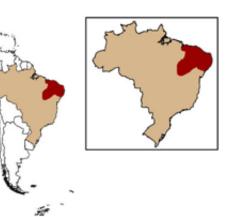
Nature Reviews | Neurology

Ransohoff, R. M. et al. (2015) Nat. Rev. Neurol. doi:10.1038/nrneurol.2015.14

Experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis (EAE) as an animal model of MS

- □ Autoimmune aspects of MS can be modeled depending on animal species, strain, antigen, immunization protocol
- □ Rodent EAE models have been essential in developing successful MS therapies
- ☐ However, promising effects in rodent EAE models are often not reproduced in clinical trials (~10% success rate for CNS diseases)
- □ Need for an animal model more closely related to MS immunologically and pathogenetically





Common Marmoset (Callithrix jacchus)





- o Small New World monkey (northeastern Brazil)
- o Highly active, playful, and eye contact communication
- o High fecundity: 2+ offsprings; every 6 months
- o Easy to handle as a laboratory animal
 - Useful model for neuroscience, stem cell research, reproductive biology, regenerative medicine, drug toxicology, **immunity and autoimmune diseases**

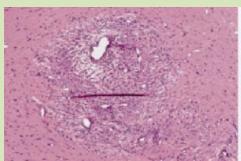
Marmoset EAE: a bridge between rodent EAE and MS

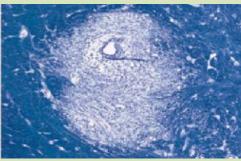
Kap et al. Drug Discovery Today (2016);21(8):1200-5

EAE induction: Human white matter homogenate + Freund's complete adjuvant. *Massacesi et al., Ann Neurol.* 1995

Pathology: scattered perivascular inflammatory infiltrates surrounded by large concentric areas of demyelination and associated with intense macrophage infiltration and mild astrogliosis. *Jordan EK et al., AJNR Am J Neuroradiol.* 1999

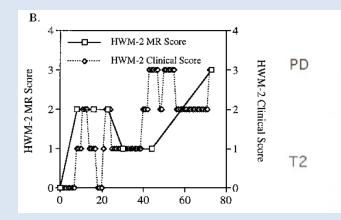
H&EDense perivascular mononuclear infiltration

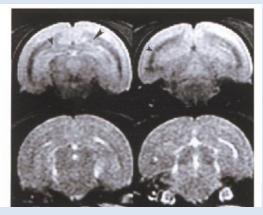




LFB Demyelination

Clinical presentation: Aggressive course with severe neurological signs or chronic relapsing-remitting course, mild neurological signs, and complete recovery from initial attack. *Jordan EK et al., AJNR Am J Neuroradiol.* 1999





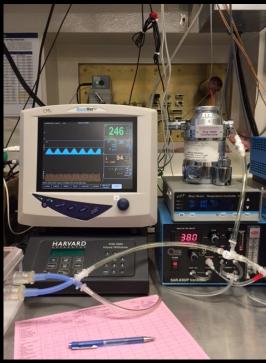
1.5T human MRI (NIH)

Ultra-high-field (7T) MRI of marmoset CNS

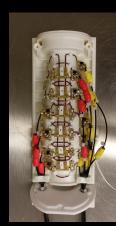
in collaboration with Afonso Silva's laboratory





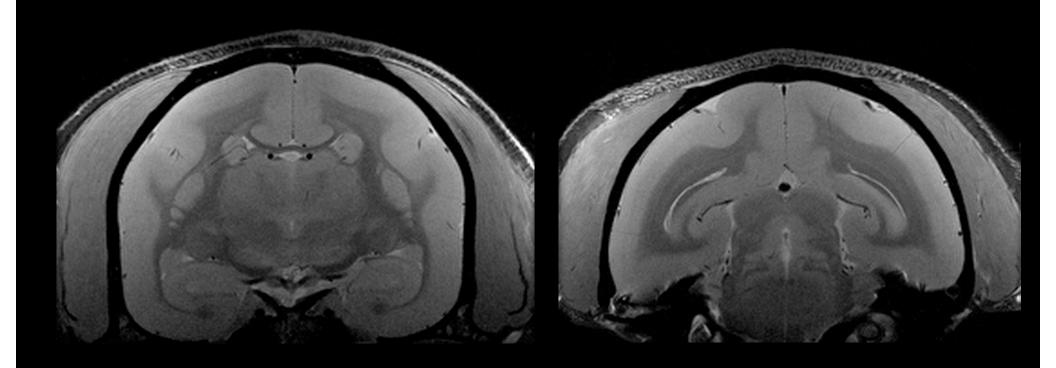






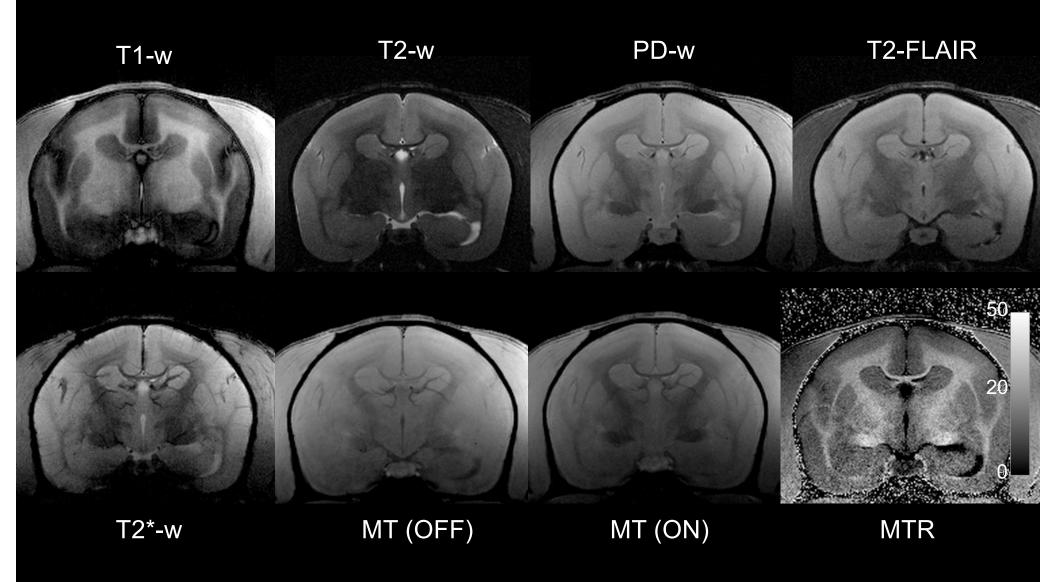


High-resolution in vivo 7T MRI of marmoset brain



Proton-density weighted (125 μm in-plane resolution)

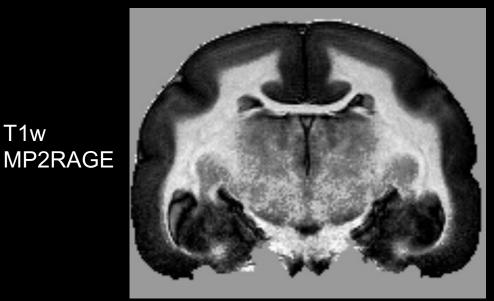
Multi-contrast in vivo brain MRI

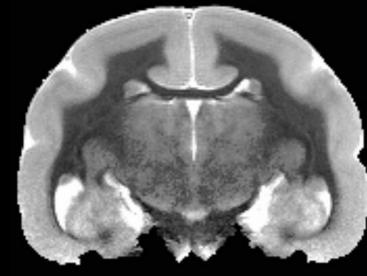


Voxel size =150 μ m x 150 μ m x 1 mm Total scan time = 60 min

Advanced in vivo MRI of marmoset brain

in collaboration with Frank Ye (NIMH) and Steve Dodd (NINDS)

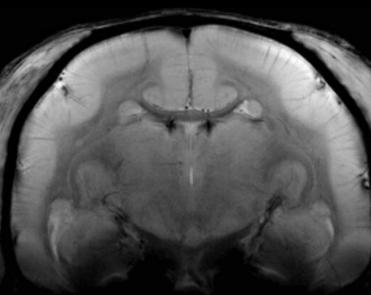


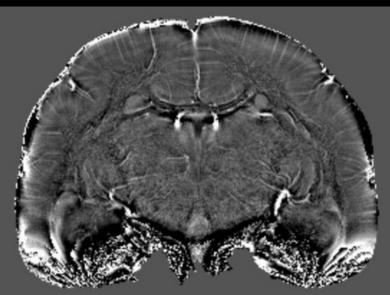


MP2RAGE T1 map



T1w

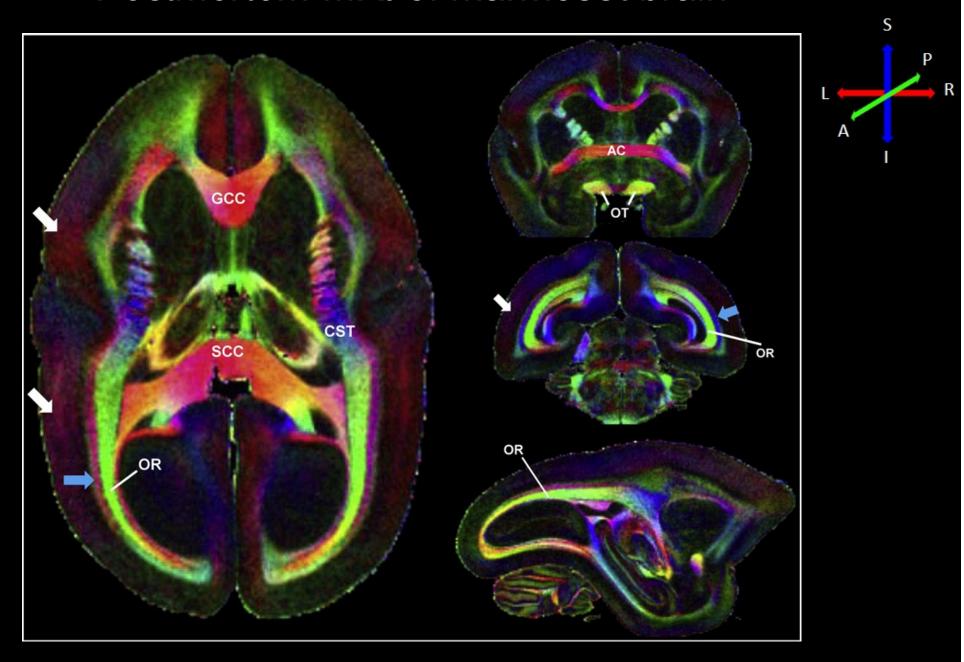




Phase QSM

Nathanael Lee (grad student, TNS)

Postmortem MRI of marmoset brain

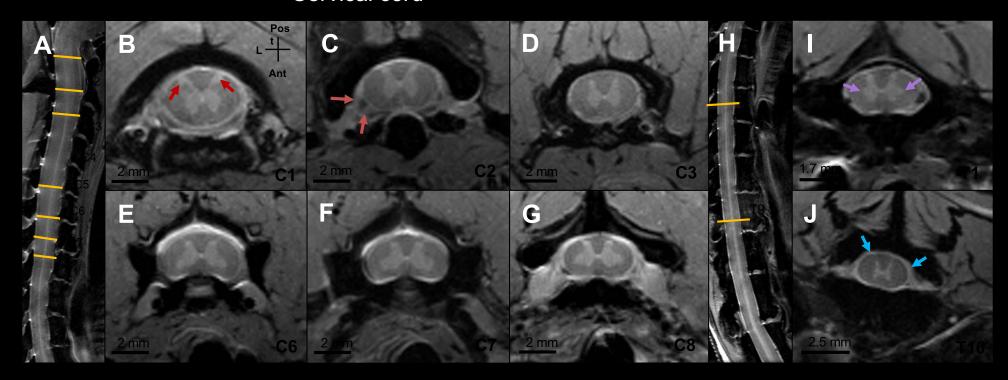


In vivo spinal cord imaging of marmoset

Jennifer Lefeuvre (grad student, TNS)

Cervical cord

Thoracic cord

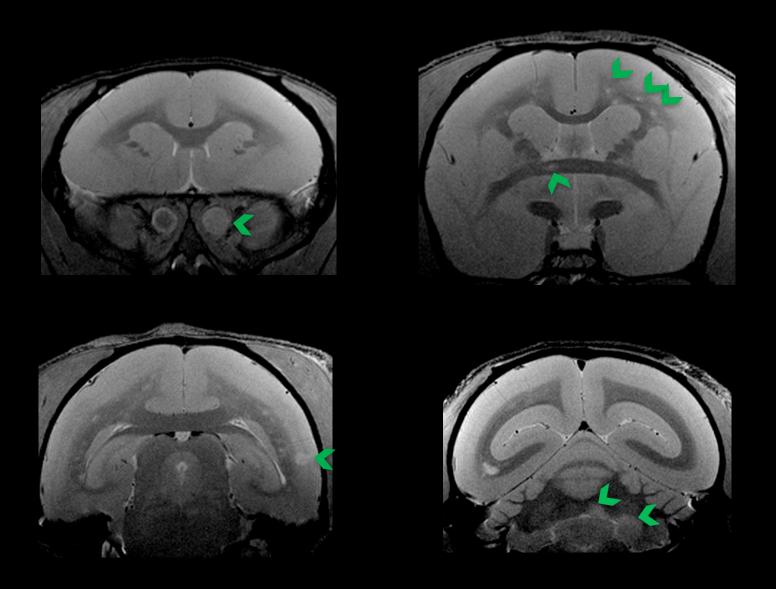


Proton-Density weighted

Sagittal: 0.125 x 0.125 x 0.6 mm and axial plane: 0.135 x 0.135 x 0.6 mm

Lefeuvre et al. ISMRM (2017)

Brain lesions in marmoset EAE by in vivo MRI

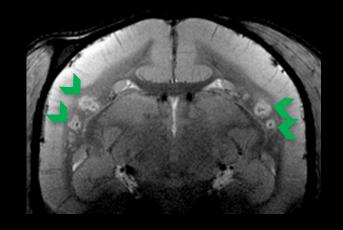


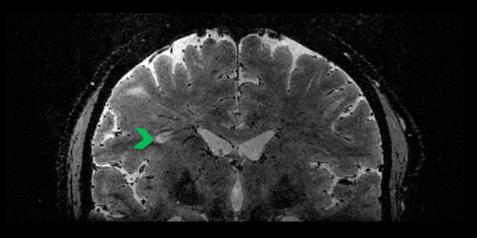
Absinta M, Sati P, Reich DS, Nature Review Neurology (2016); 12(6):358-68 Maggi P, Sati P, Massacesi L. Journal of Neuroimmunology (2017); 304:86-92

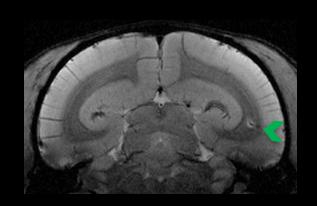
Central veins in EAE and MS lesions

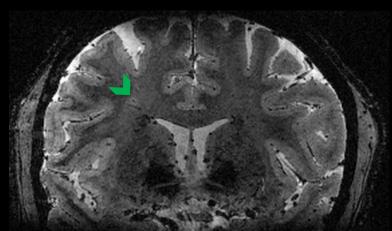
(T2*w - 7T Bruker)

(T2*w - 7T Siemens)







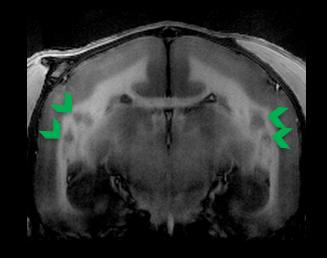


Gaitan et al., Multiple Sclerosis (2014): 20(1):64-71
Absinta M, Sati P, Reich DS, Nature Review Neurology (2016); 12(6):358-68
Maggi P, Sati P, Massacesi L. Journal of Neuroimmunology (2017); 304:86-92

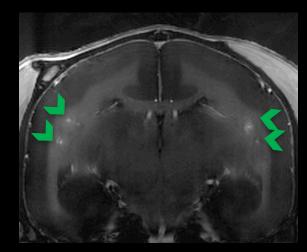
Acute lesions in EAE and MS

(T1w - 7T Bruker)

pre-injection

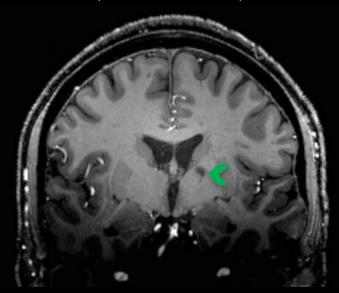


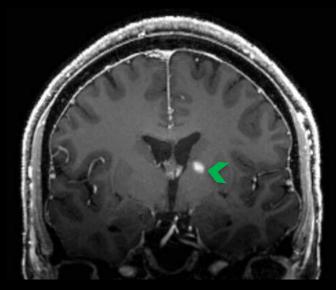
post-injection



Triple-dose gadobutrol (0.3 mL/kg)

(T1w - 7T Siemens)





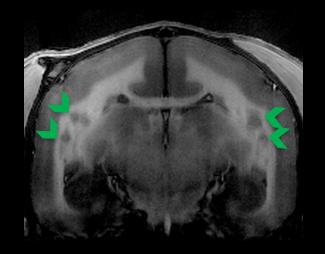
single-dose gadobutrol (0.1 mL/kg)

Absinta M, Sati P, Reich DS, Nature Review Neurology (2016); 12(6):358-68 Maggi P, Sati P, Massacesi L. Journal of Neuroimmunology (2017); 304:86-92

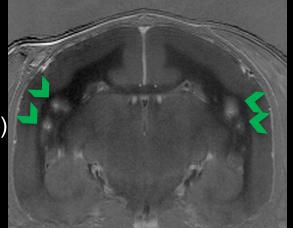
Acute lesions in EAE and MS

(T1w - 7T Bruker)

pre-injection

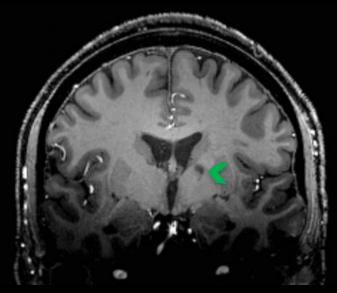


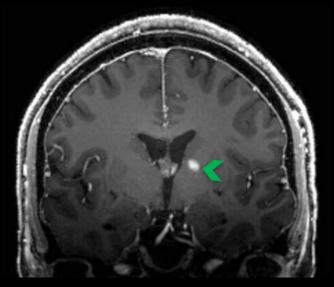
(difference image)



Triple-dose gadobutrol (0.3 mL/kg)

(T1w - 7T Siemens)



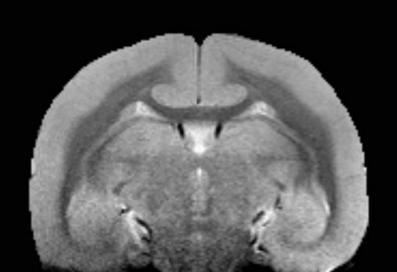


single-dose gadobutrol (0.1 mL/kg)

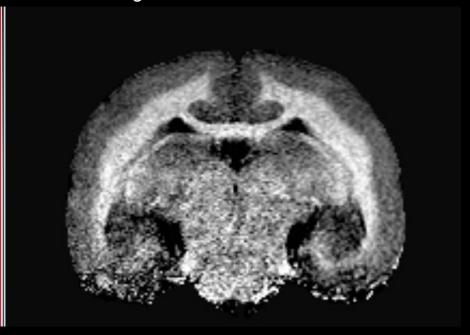
Absinta M, Sati P, Reich DS, Nature Review Neurology (2016); 12(6):358-68 Maggi P, Sati P, Massacesi L. Journal of Neuroimmunology (2017); 304:86-92

Serial brain MRI of marmoset EAE

Proton-Density Weighted



Magnetization Transfer Ratio

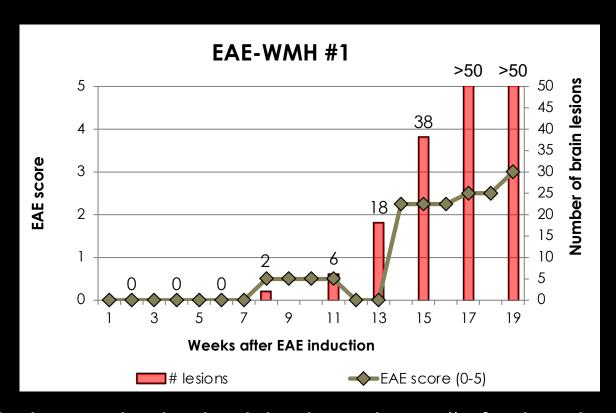


From baseline (healthy) until termination (severe disease)

Time series generated using home-built image processing pipeline

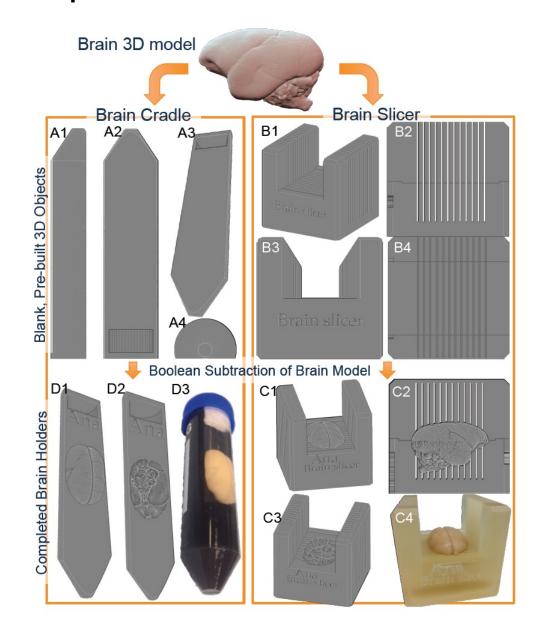
Nicholas Luciano (postbac, TNS), Blake Dewey (grad student, JHU)

MRI as an outcome for marmoset EAE trials

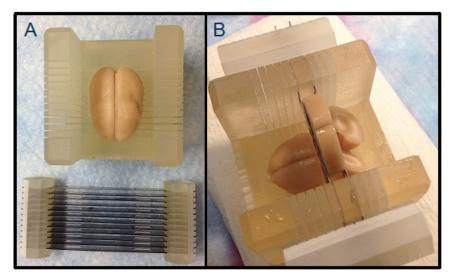


Clinical score, Lesion load, Lesion volume, # of enhancing lesions (similar to human MS trials)

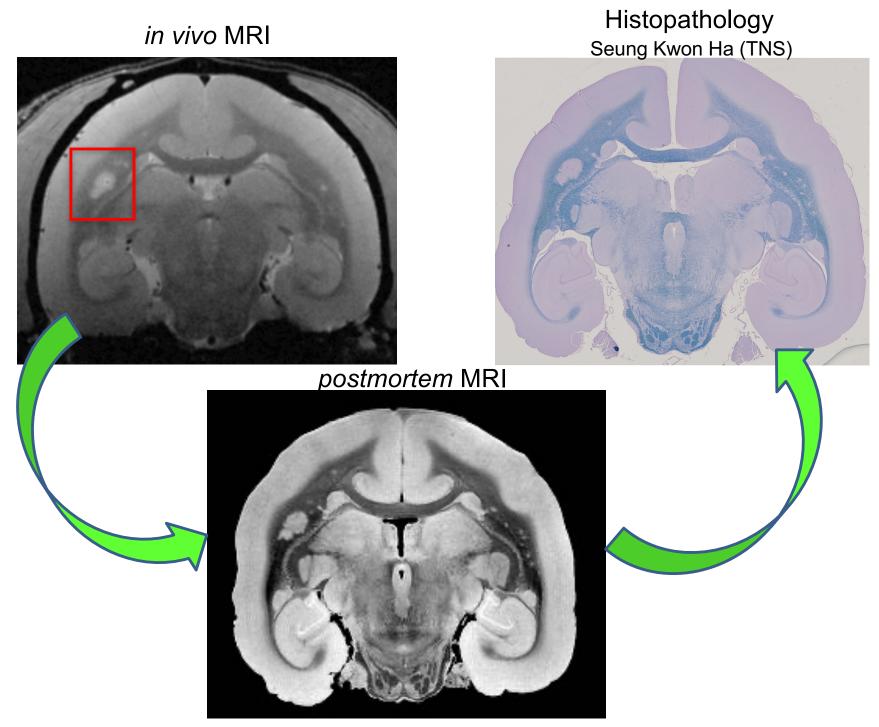
3D-printed marmoset brain holder and slicer





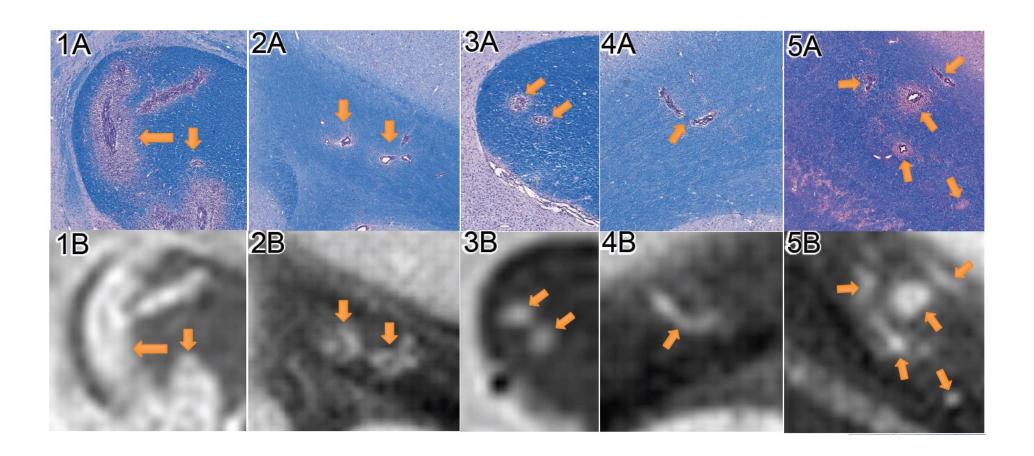


Guy et al., Journal of Neuroscience Methods (2016); 257:55-63 Luciano et al. Journal of Visualized Experiments (2016); 118



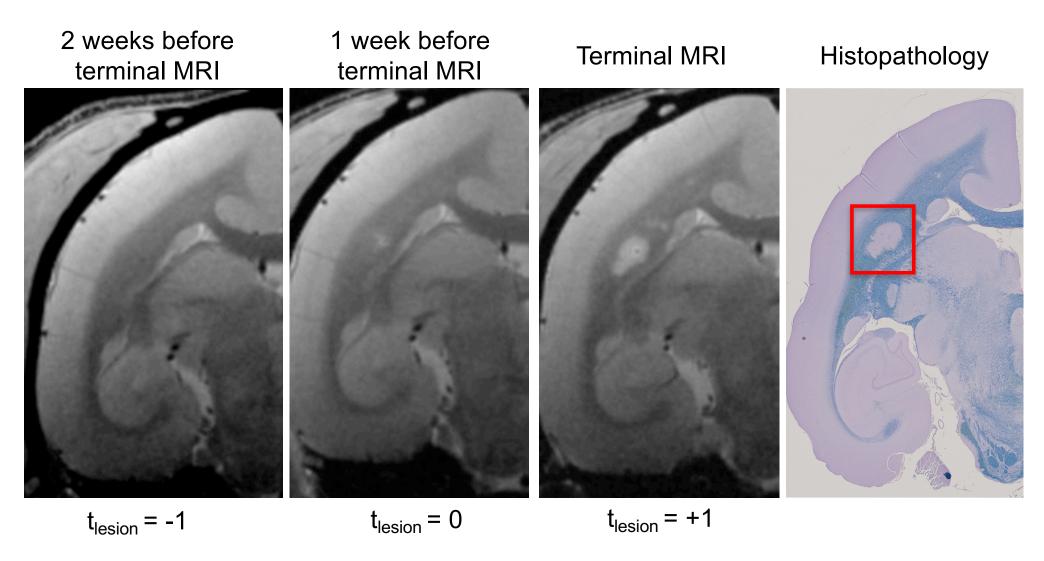
Guy et al., Journal of Neuroscience Methods (2016); 257:55-63 Luciano et al. Journal of Visualized Experiments (2016); 118

Method for validation of novel MRI markers



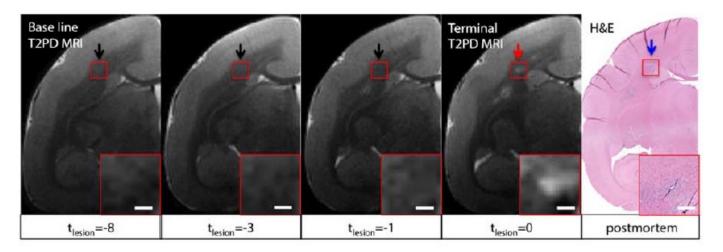
Method for unraveling the lesion formation process

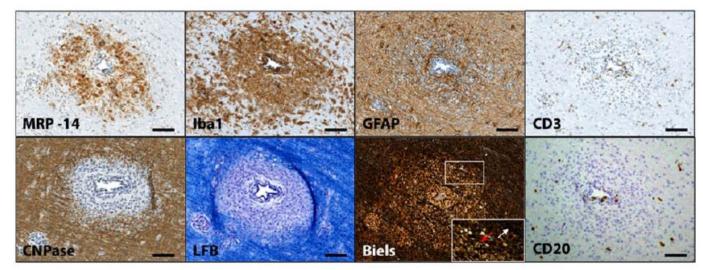
"Back in time" strategy



Lesion age can be determined based on serial MRI

Acute lesions (< 1 week old)

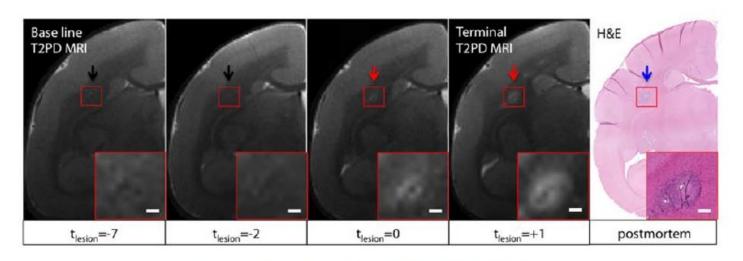


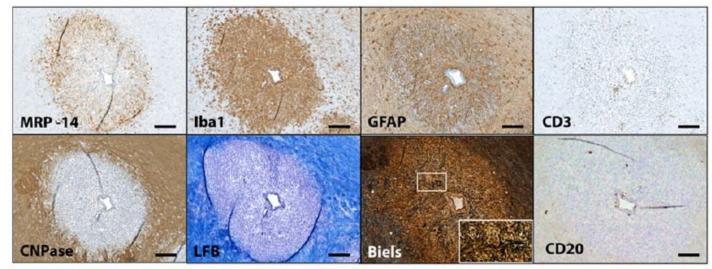


Pathological signature:

- Perivascular cuff: lymphocytes, activated microglia and macrophages
- Parenchyma: blood-derived macrophages, demyelination and axonal disruptions

Subacute lesions (1-5 week old)

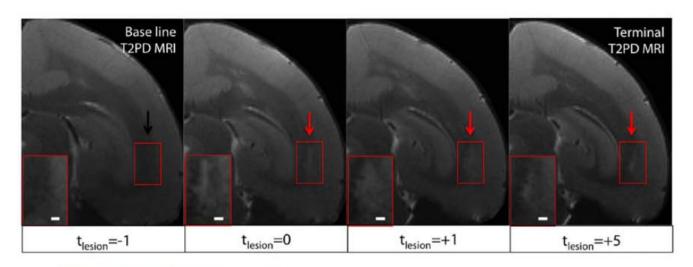


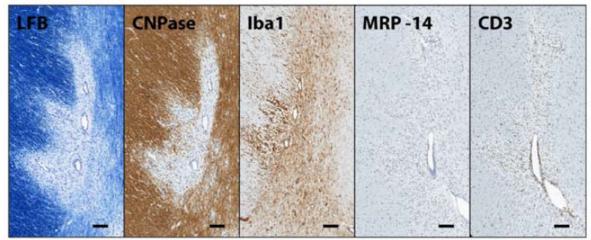


Pathological signature:

- Blood-derived macrophages are present at the lesion edge.
- Lesion is expanding (demyelination and axonal disruptions)

Late subacute lesions (>5 week old)

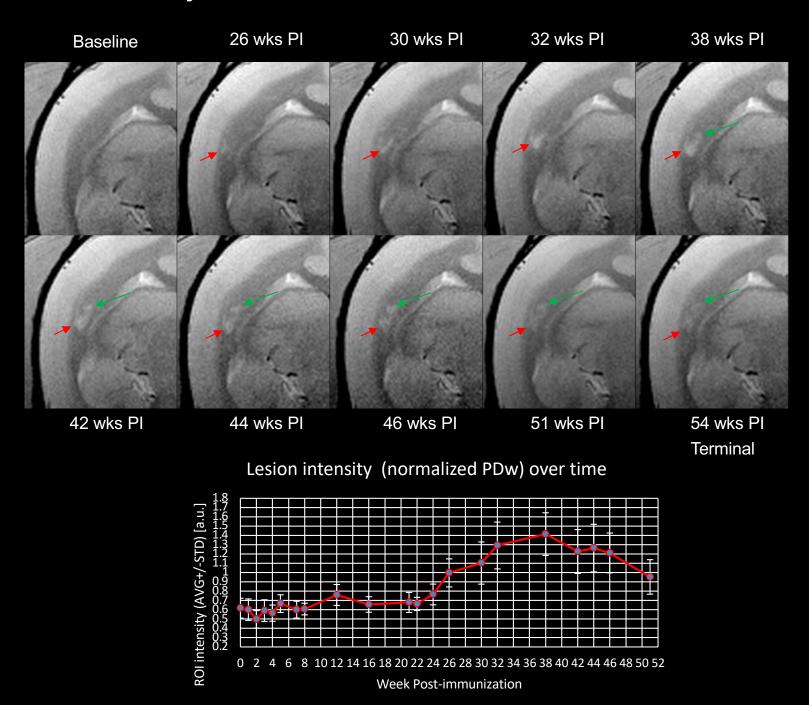




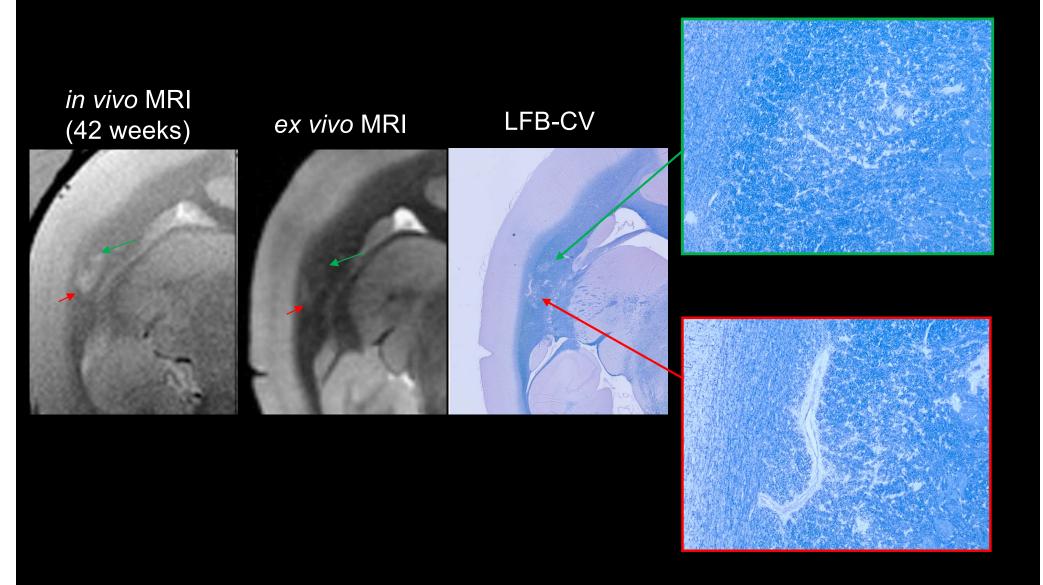
Pathological signature:

- Blood-derived MRP14⁺ early activated macrophages are absent
- Pale myelin staining suggesting remyelination at lesion edge

Spontaneous remyelination in marmoset EAE?

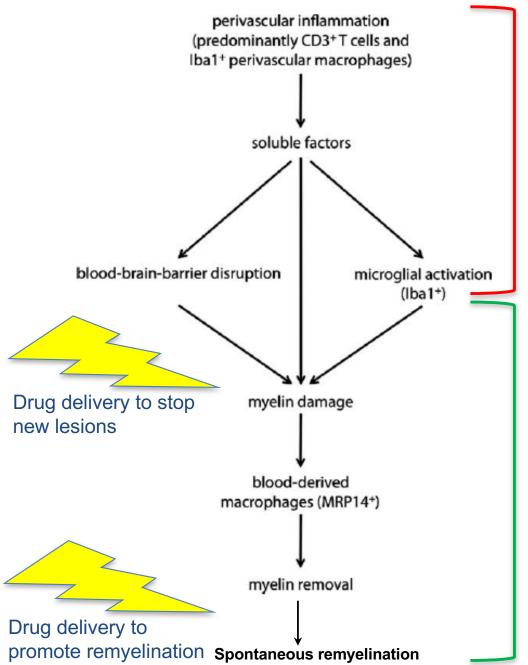


Spontaneous remyelination in marmoset EAE ? Yes, possibly!



Model of lesion evolution in marmoset EAE

Maggi P et al. Annals of Neurology (2014); 76(4):594-608



Nondemyelinated inflammatory nodules not visible on MRI

Acute lesion (<1 week)

visible on MRI

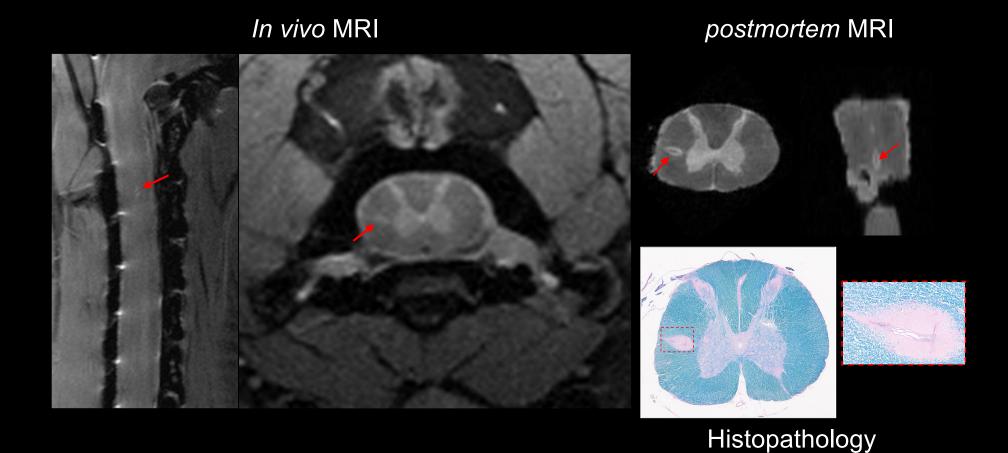
Subacute lesion (1 to 5 weeks)

visible on MRI

Late subacute (>5 weeks)

visible on MRI

in vivo detection of spinal cord lesion in marmoset EAE

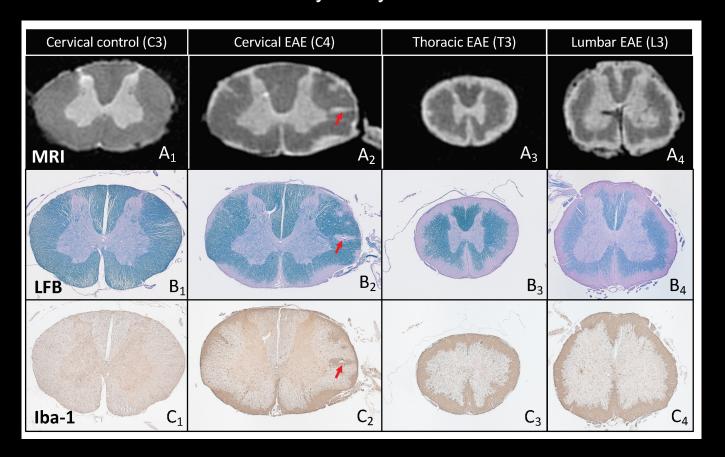


Seung Kwon Ha (TNS)

Lefeuvre et al. ISMRM (2017)

Frequent spinal cord damage in the marmoset EAE

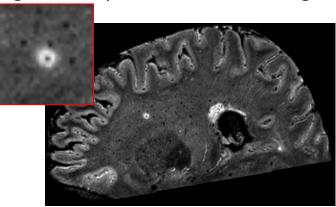
12/12 investigated animals show inflammatory demyelinated lesions



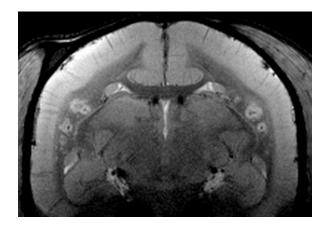
'Take-home messages'

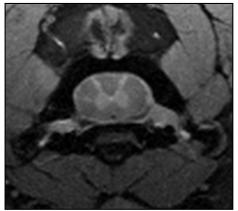
Studying central nervous system diseases with advanced MRI...

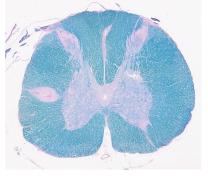
1. to improve MS diagnosis (Central Vein Sign, 3D EPI, FLAIR*)



2. to conduct translational preclinical MS research (marmoset EAE @ 7T)







Acknowledgments

TNS

Daniel Reich

Martina Absinta
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Roger Depaz

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Past members

MS clinic

Irene Cortese

Joan Ohayon

Frances Andrada

Jen Dwyer

Govind Nair

FMRIF/NIMH

Peter Bandettini

Andrew Derbyshire

Sean Marrett

Staff Scientists/ MR Techs

Frank Ye

VIS

Steven Jacobson

Emily Leibovitch

Jeanne Billioux

CMS

Afonso Silva

Cecil Yen

Wen-Yang Chiang

Lisa Zheng

AMRI

Jeff Duyn

Peter Van Gelderen

Jacco De Zwart

LFMI

Alan Koretsky

Hellmut Merkle

Steve Dodd

Siemens Healthineers

Gunnar Krueger

Sunil Patil

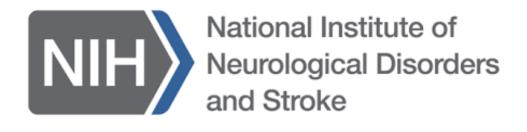
Himanshu Bhat

Tobias Kober

Vertex pharmaceuticals

Mac Johnson

Doug Bartels



Thank you for your attention