

Great Minds talk 28.5.2020

Brain Imaging for Dementia



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Brain imaging in dementia

- Rule out other brain disorders
- Assist with subtype diagnosis
- Select subjects for clinical trials/ treatments
- Outcome biomarker for clinical trials
- Investigate underlying causes and mechanisms of disease



Research use



Types of brain imaging

<u>Structure</u>

- Computed tomography (CT)
- Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)

• Function

- Blood flow/ metabolism (SPECT/ Glucose PET)
- Chemical imaging (Dopaminergic SPECT)
- Specific proteins (amyloid PET and tau PET)
- Other (inflammation, synapses, receptors)

Red = research use only at current time



A space occupying lesion (frontal meningioma) in someone presenting to the Memory Clinic with suspected dementia





Healthy Control

Alzheimer's disease



Control

AD

Atrophy of the medial temporal lobe (hippocampus) seen in approx. 80% people with Alzheimer's disease and 10-15% controls

Serial MR Imaging in AD and DLB









Advantages of higher field strength MR imaging



Medial temporal lobe and hippocampus at 1.5 T





Imaging changes associated with VaD

Cortical infarcts (FLAIR)





Multiple lacunar Infarcts (T1)







Extensive (>25%) WML (FLAIR)

Microbleed (T2*)





O'Brien and Thomas, Lancet 2015

Dementia diagnosis in specialist dementia diagnostic services

 <u>Offer</u> structural imaging to rule out reversible causes of cognitive decline and assist with subtype diagnosis, unless dementia is well established <u>and</u> the subtype diagnosis is clear

• If the dementia subtype is uncertain and vascular dementia is suspected, use MRI

NICE Dementia guideline, June 2018 (www.nice.org.uk)

Diagnosing Alzheimer's disease

If the diagnosis is uncertain and Alzheimer's disease is suspected, consider using **FDG-PET** (fluorodeoxyglucose-positron emission tomography) or **perfusion SPECT** (single-photon emission CT) if FDG-PET is unavailable





Control





Control



AD



NICE Dementia Guideline, June 2018

Diagnosing frontotemporal dementia

If the diagnosis is uncertain and frontotemporal dementia is suspected, use either:

- FDG-PET or
- perfusion SPECT





NICE Dementia Guideline, June 2018

Diagnosing dementia with Lewy bodies

 If the diagnosis is uncertain and dementia with Lewy bodies is suspected, use dopaminergic (¹²³I-FP-CIT) SPECT





Dopamine deficit in DLB





NICE Dementia Guideline, June 2018

Amyloid imaging in Dementia





3 commercially available Fluorine based ligands for AD diagnosis

Amyloid β deposition and cognitive decline in Alzheimer's disease: a prospective cohort study





Villemagne et al, Lancet Neurol, 2013

The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Two Phase 3 Trials of Bapineuzumab in Mild-to-Moderate Alzheimer's Disease

Stephen Salloway, M.D., Reisa Sperling, M.D., Nick C. Fox, M.D., Kaj Blennow, M.D., William Klunk, M.D., Murray Raskind, M.D., Marwan Sabbagh, M.D.,

- Negative study
- Over a third (36%) of Apo E4 non-carriers entered into the study had normal amyloid PET scans
- Current anti-amyloid studies usually require presence of amyloid on imging or in spinal fluid for inclusion (stratification)



Salloway et al, NEJM, 2014

The antibody aducanumab reduces $A\beta$ plaques in Alzheimer's disease

Jeff Sevigny¹*, Ping Chiao¹*, Thierry Bussière¹*, Paul H. Weinreb¹*, Leslie Williams¹, Marcel Maier², Robert Dunstan¹, Stephen Salloway³, Tianle Chen¹, Yan Ling¹, John O'Gorman¹, Fang Qian¹, Mahin Arastu¹, Mingwei Li¹, Sowmya Chollate¹, Melanie S. Brennan¹, Omar Quintero-Monzon¹, Robert H. Scannevin¹, H. Moore Arnold¹, Thomas Engber¹, Kenneth Rhodes¹, James Ferrero¹, Yaming Hang¹, Alvydas Mikulskis¹, Jan Grimm², Christoph Hock^{2,4}, Roger M. Nitsch^{2,4}§ & Alfred Sandrock¹§





Sevigny et al, Nature, 2016

Tau imaging with AV1451 in Alzheimer's disease (AD) and progressive supranuclear palsy (PSP)



Clearly differentiates AD from PSP with differences in keeping with known and distinct regional distributions

Passamonti, Vázquez Rodríguez et al, Brain 2017



- Brain imaging is in clinical use to help diagnose all the common types of dementia
- It is increasing being used as a marker for selecting people for trials, and as an outcome measure
- The UK has some of the best research imaging in the world for dementia, MRC funded PET-MR and 7T MR network
- Imaging has a central role in many research studies in those with and at risk of developing dementia

