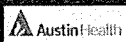


The Prospects of Neuroimaging for Early Detection in Alzheimer's Disease

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 Department of Pathology, University of Melbourne
 The Mental Health Research Institute of Victoria
 Neurosciences Victoria
 Melbourne, AUSTRALIA



The Normal Biology of Aging



Neurodegenerative Disorders in Older People

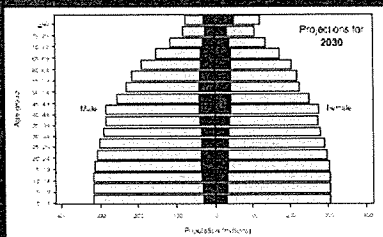
- Cognitive impairment, dementia
- Motor slowing, impaired movement
- Instability, falls, gait disturbance
- Sensory impairment (visual, auditory)

Australian Science and Technology Council
 Foresighting Study: 2010

Neurodegenerative diseases associated with abnormal protein conformations (gain of toxic function)

Disease	Gene product
• Alzheimer's disease	APP and A β amyloid
• Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease	Prion protein
• ALS / MND	Superoxide dismutase
• Parkinson's disease	α -synuclein
• Huntington's disease	Huntingtin/PolyQ
• FTDP, PSP, CBD	Tau

Population Age Distribution



United Nations, 1999, and US Bureau of the Census, 2000

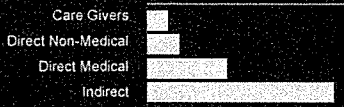
Background

- Alzheimer's disease represents the most common form of dementia syndrome
- Prevalence: 5% of individuals aged 65 years, 20–30% of 85-year olds
- With life expectancy increasing across the world, AD poses an increasing medical and socio-economic problem
- Treatment strategies are likely to be most effective if administered early
- No method of definitive early diagnosis, or predictive whether a person is likely to develop AD
 - Mild cognitive impairment (MCI): 40–60% develop AD

Economic Costs of AD in Australia, UK and USA

Currency	Com. Costs for AD Patients/annum
AUD	\$ 13 billion
UKP	£ 21 billion
USD	\$ 112 billion

Mean Costs/patient/annum for all stages of AD

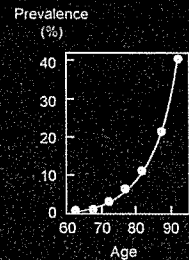


Total Costs/patient over 10 years

UAD = \$2.7 million
 UKP = £1.3 million
 USD = \$1.7 million

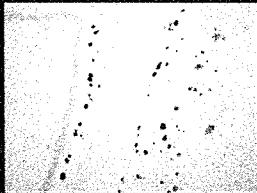
Risk Factors for AD

- Familial/ Genetic
 - Chromosome 21 (APP mutations)
 - Chromosome 19 (Apolipoprotein E)
 - Chromosome 14 (PS 1)
 - Chromosome 1 (PS 2)
- Down's Syndrome (Trisomy 21)
- Gene dosage: A β /APP gene
- Age
 - Exponential doubling of prevalence of AD with each decade after age 50 y

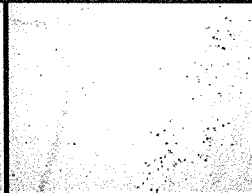


Neuropathological Hallmarks of AD

Senile Plaques (A β)



Neurofibrillary Tangles (tau)



AD Neuropathology

(adapted from Braak & Braak, 1997)

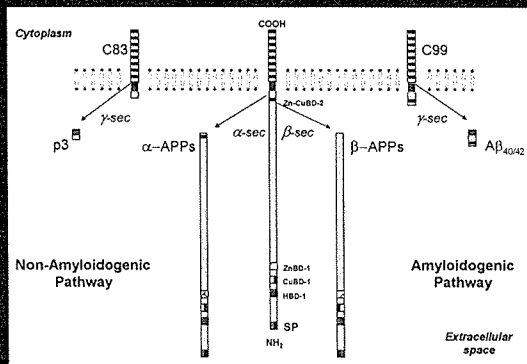
Plaque Progression



NFT Progression



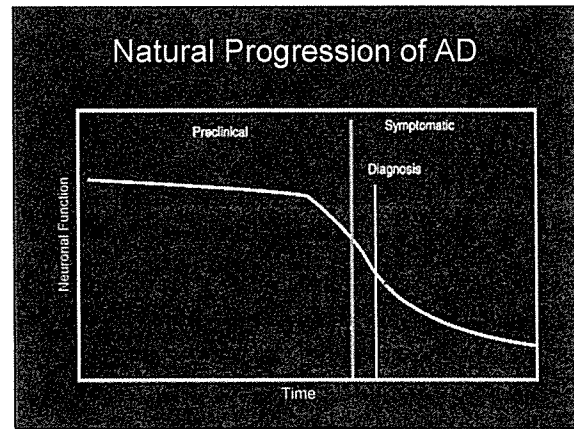
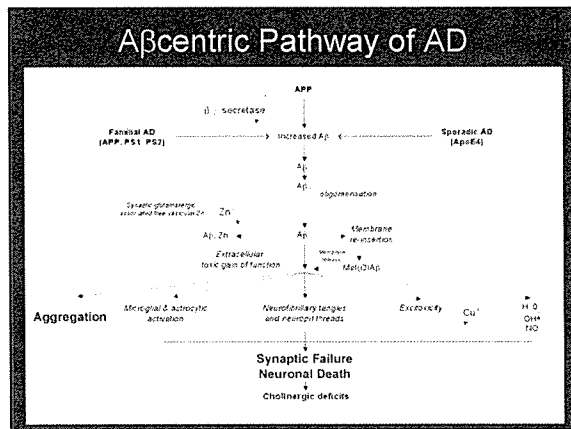
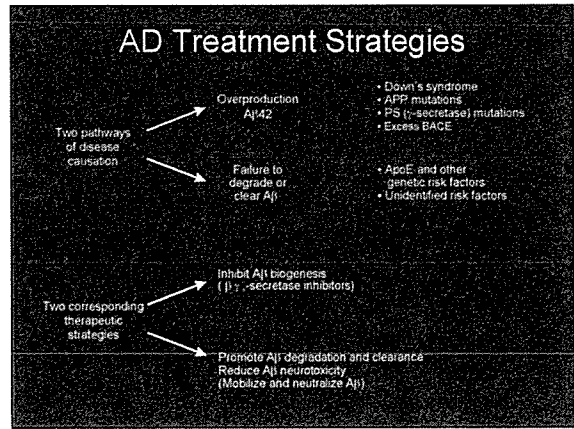
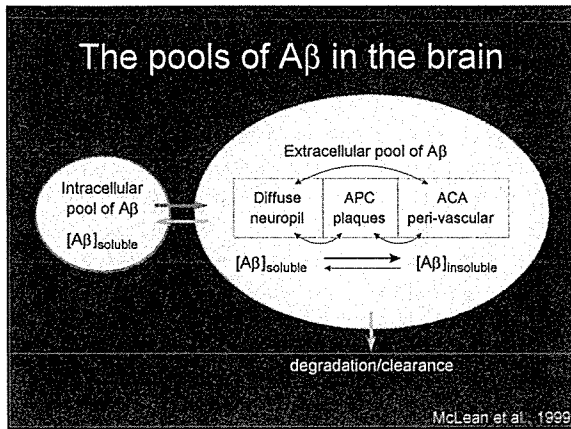
APP Cleavage



A β levels (μ g/g) Frontal Cortex

	Soluble A β (μ g/g)	Insoluble A β (μ g/g)	Proportion soluble (%)
Controls (n=18)	0.013 \pm 0.012	3.7 \pm 4.1	0.3
AD (n=18)	0.24 \pm 0.23*	34.4 \pm 35.3**	0.7
Fold increase	18	9	

McLean et al., 1999



The Search for Biomarkers

- Biomarkers are based on genotypical or phenotypical characteristics that can be objectively measured and evaluated as indicators of normal or pathological biological processes, as well as pharmacologic responses to a drugs
- Despite the promise of recent advances in molecular neurosciences, the early detection of neurodegenerative diseases like AD, especially the identification of at-risk individuals before the development of the typical phenotype, will require several biomarkers to ensure presymptomatic diagnosis and, ultimately, intervention with disease-modifying medications during the presymptomatic period

Types of Biomarkers

- Antecedent Biomarkers:* used to identify the risk of developing a disease
- Diagnostic Biomarkers:* aid in identifying disease
- Prognostic Biomarkers:* predict disease course, including response to therapy

Biomarkers

- **Genetic** genes that are either causative or associated with functional mechanisms that are disease specific
- **Neuroimaging** provide non-invasive measurement of the altered molecular pathway allowing early diagnosis, monitoring of therapy and disease progression
- **Biochemical** Modern array-based technologies allow targeting biochemical deficits more effectively for identification of markers of disease in serum and CSF
- **Clinical** Longitudinal studies of AD and MCI subjects allows the identification the earliest changes in *serial* neuropsychological evaluations

Ideal Biomarker

"The ideal biomarker for AD should detect a fundamental feature of neuropathology and be validated in neuropathologically confirmed cases; it should have a diagnostic sensitivity >80 percent for detecting AD and a specificity of >80 percent for distinguishing other dementias; it should be reliable, reproducible, noninvasive, simple to perform, and inexpensive."

AlzForum

Potential Roles for Amyloid Imaging

- Accurate diagnosis of AD
- Early diagnosis and intervention when minimally impaired
- Investigate the spatial and temporal pattern of A β deposition and its relation to disease progression and cognitive decline
- Subject selection for anti-A β trials
- Monitor the effectiveness of anti-A β therapy

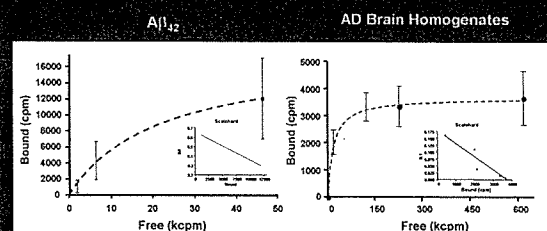
Ideal Amyloid Ligand

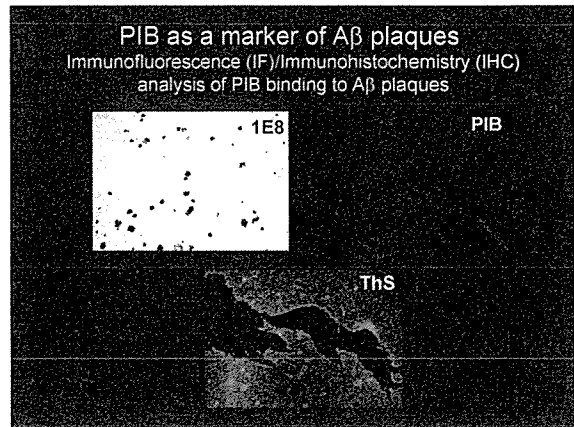
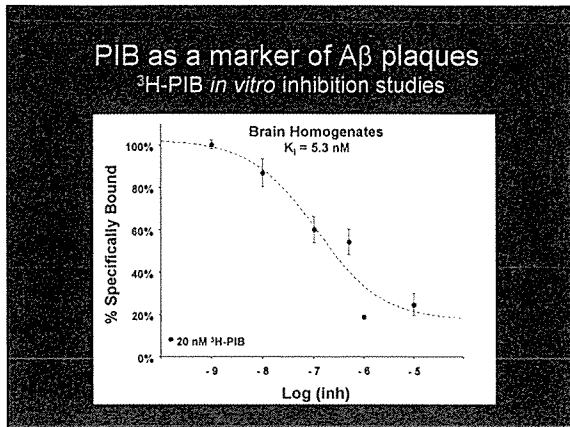
- Easily labeled with ^{18}F , $^{99\text{m}}\text{Tc}$, ^{123}I
- Lipid soluble (crosses BBB)
- High affinity and selectivity for A β plaques
- Slow dissociation from binding site
- Rapidly cleared from blood
- Not metabolized
- Provide quantitative and reproducible information about A β burden in the brain

In Vitro Binding Criteria

- Saturable Binding
- Specific Binding
- Stereoselectivity
- Appropriate Co-Localization w/IHC

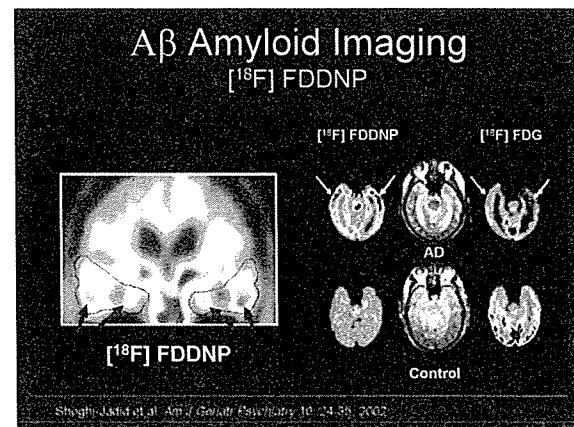
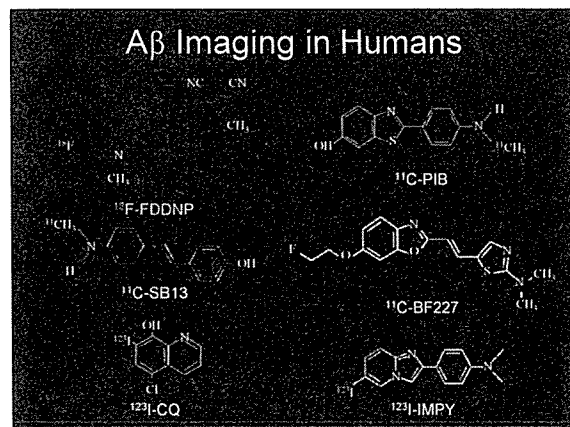
PIB as a marker of A β plaques ^3H -PIB *in vitro* saturation binding studies

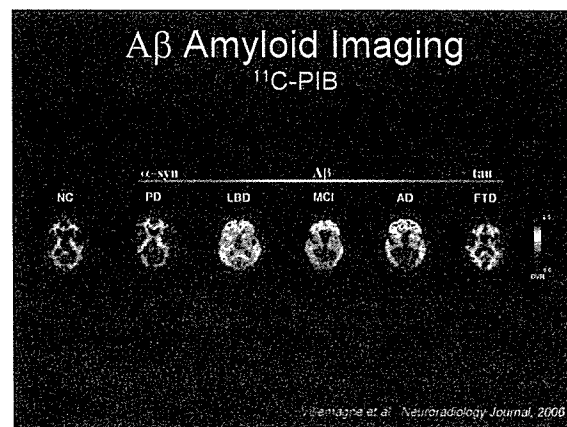
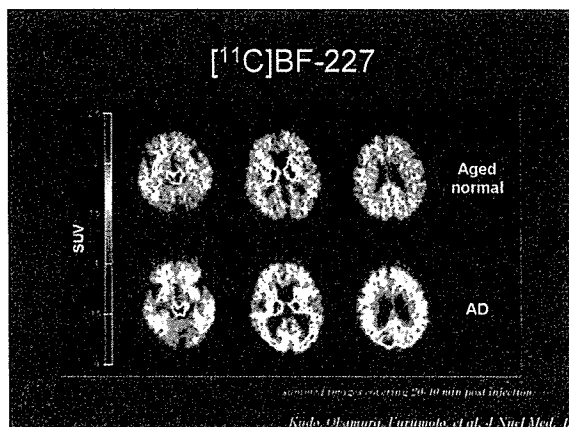
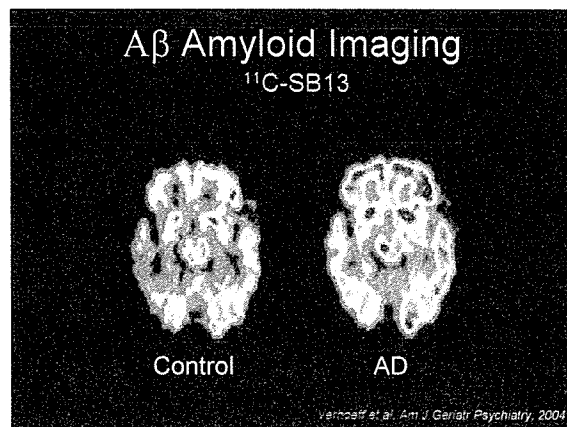
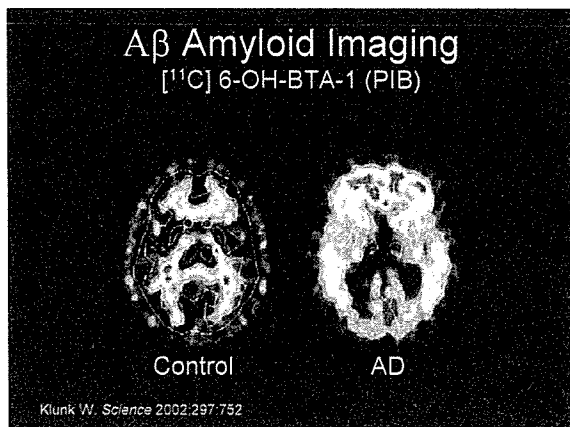




In vivo A β Amyloid Imaging

- ### A β Ligand Strategies
- Histological Dyes
 - Thioflavin T
 - Congo Red
 - Chrysamine G
 - Acridine Orange
 - NSAID Derivatives
 - MPACs
 - A β Fragments
 - Antibodies





AIMS Overview

- Determine A β burden using ¹¹C-PIB PET in healthy ageing, mild cognitive impairment, Alzheimer's disease and other dementias
- Correlate A β burden to clinical features, cognitive status and glucose metabolism
- Evaluate the diagnostic utility of PIB PET
- Compare A β burden as measured by ¹¹C-PIB with previously established neuropathological findings in AD

Methods

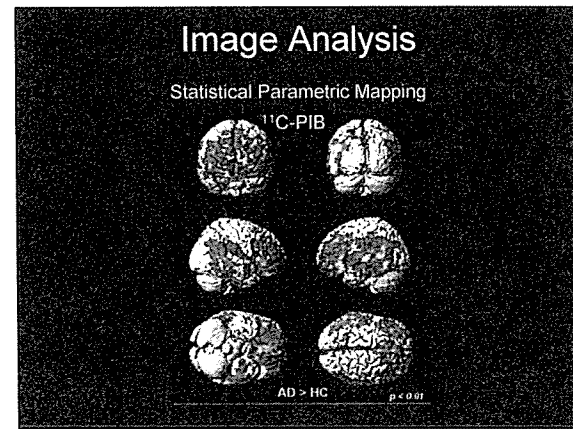
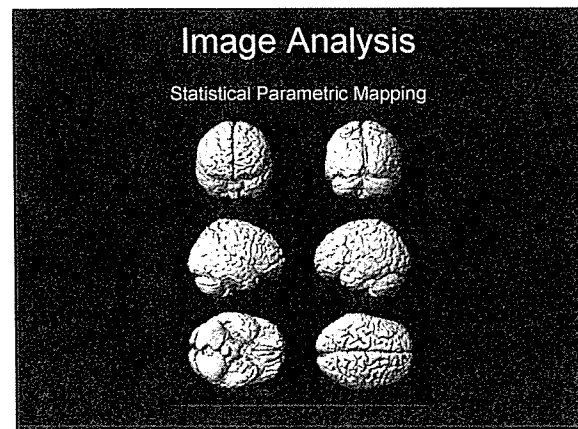
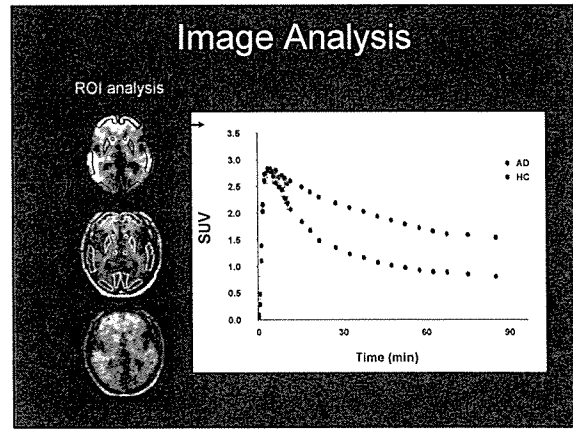
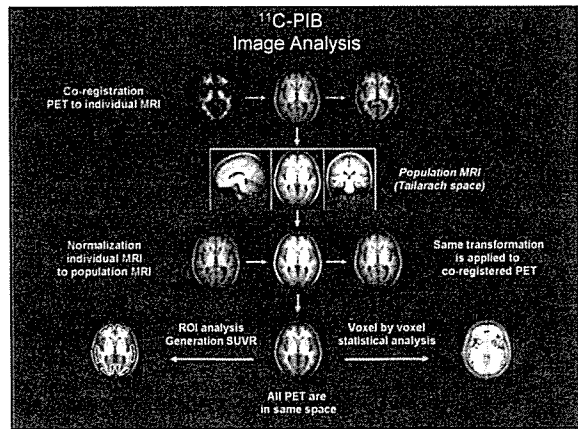
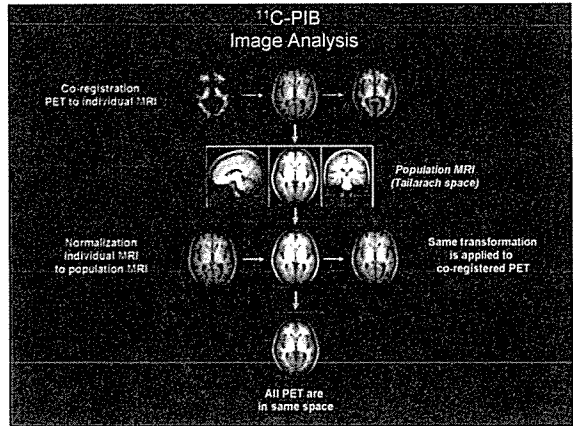
- 34 age-matched healthy controls (HC)
- 43 subjects meeting criteria for MCI (*Petersen et al., 2001*)
- 66 subjects with dementia
 - 44 subjects with NINCDS-ADRDA criteria for probable AD
 - 12 subjects meeting criteria for DLB (*McKeith et al., 1996*)
 - 10 subjects meeting criteria for FTD (*Neary et al., 1998*) + MRI & FDG
 - 1 subject with Parkinson's disease

Extensive Neuropsychological Evaluation:
(including CDR, MMSE, CVLT II, CAT Fluency, Rey Figure, etc)

MRI: SPGR scans for screening and PET-MR co-registration

Methods

- PET
 - 10 mCi of ^{11}C -PIB iv
 - Sequential imaging from 0 to 90 min (n=68)
 - Equilibrium Imaging 40-70 mpi (n = 78)
- Image Analysis
 - ROIs placed on co-registered MRI
 - Generation of time-activity curves (TAC)
- Calculation of Region to Cb Ratios (SUVR₄₀₋₇₀)
- Calculation of Distribution Volume Ratio (DVR)
 - Graphical analysis w/Cb as input function (Logan et al., 1996; Price et al., 2005)
- Statistical Analysis
 - Wilcoxon Signed-Ranks test
 - Dunnett's test against controls
 - Tukey-Kramer HSD for group means
 - Pearson correlation between A β burden and clinical parameters



Evaluation and Optimization of a Simplified Quantification Approach for ^{11}C -PIB

Objective

Evaluate a minimally invasive method for $\text{A}\beta$ burden quantification in the human brain, suitable for routine clinical application, using ^{11}C -PIB and PET

Tracer Kinetics

Quantification Strategies

Full Kinetic

Graphical

Equilibrium

Continuous Infusion

Delayed scanning

Pseudoequilibrium

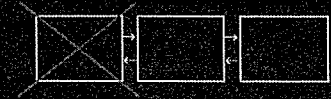
Tracer Kinetics

- Highly invasive
- Sometimes not possible
- Difficult for some patient populations or in serial/longitudinal studies

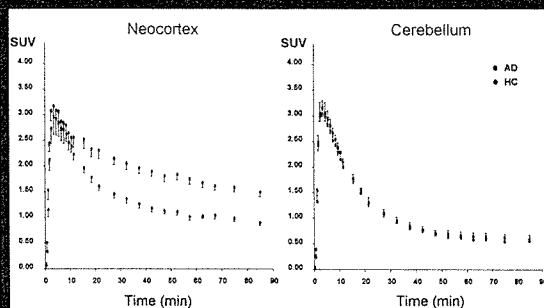
Reduces the compartmental analysis to a single differential equation with just two unknowns

$$\frac{dC_2}{dt} = k_1 C_1(t) - k_2 C_2(t)$$

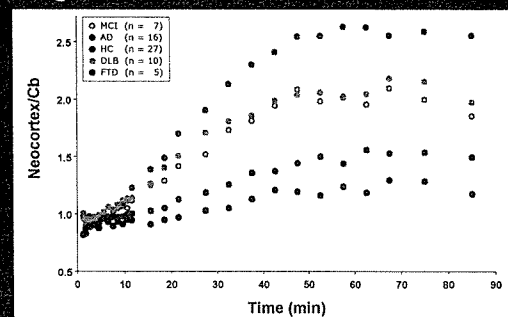
$$\frac{dC_3}{dt} = k_3 C_2(t) \otimes e^{-\lambda t}$$



Tracer Kinetics Time-Activity Curves



Tracer Kinetics Region to Cerebellum Ratios



Tracer Kinetics

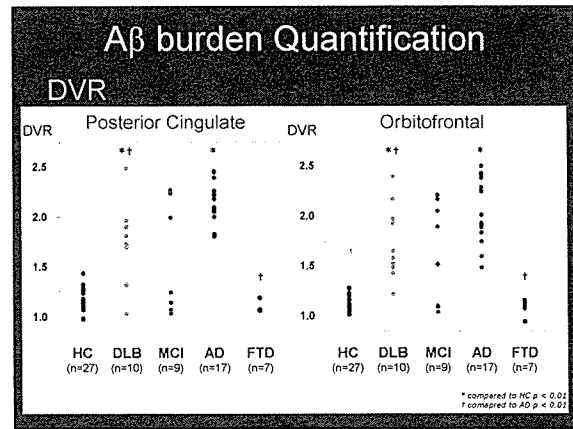
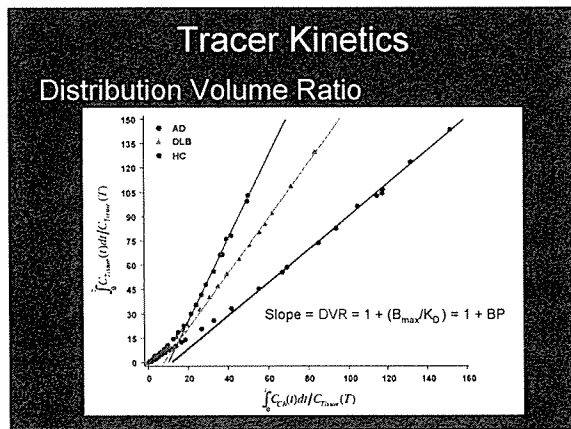
Quantification Strategies

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Tracer Kinetics

Quantification Strategies

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Tracer Kinetics

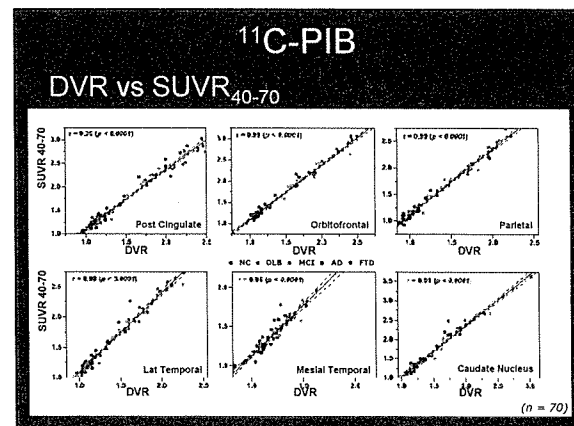
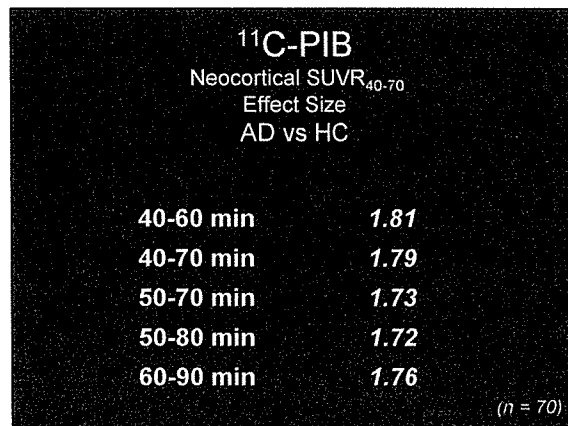
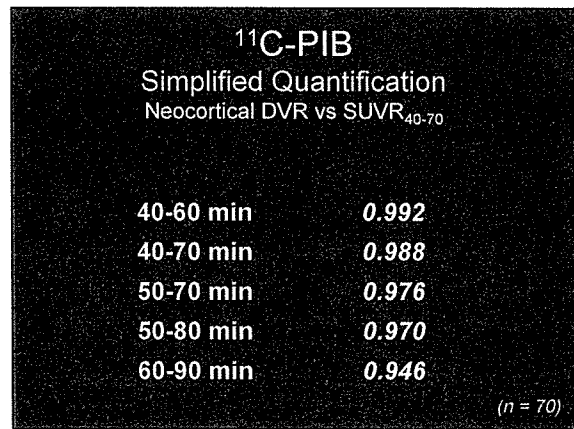
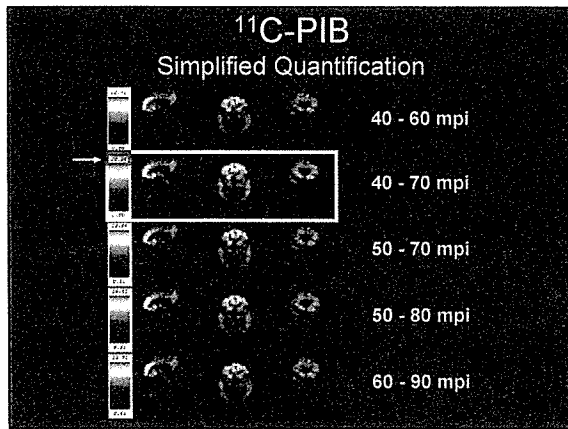
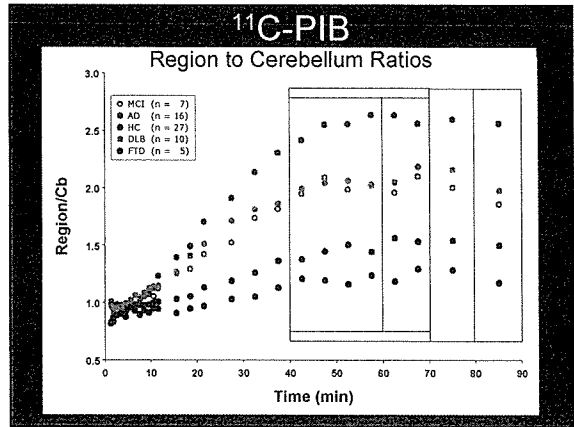
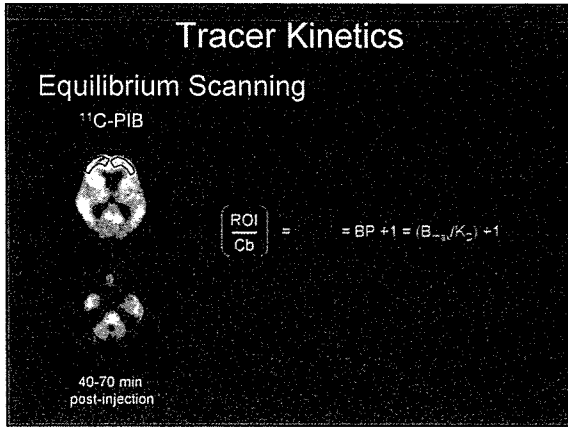
Quantification Strategies

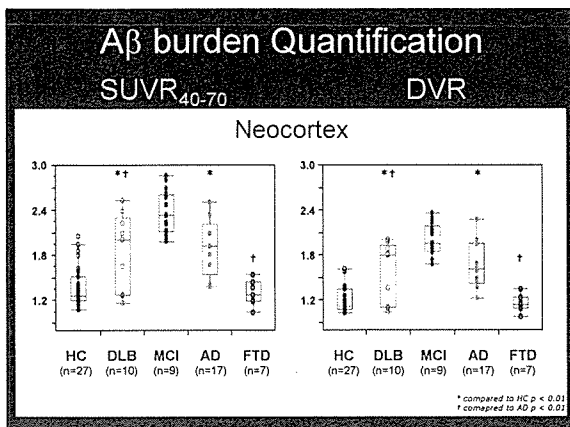
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Tracer Kinetics

Quantification Strategies

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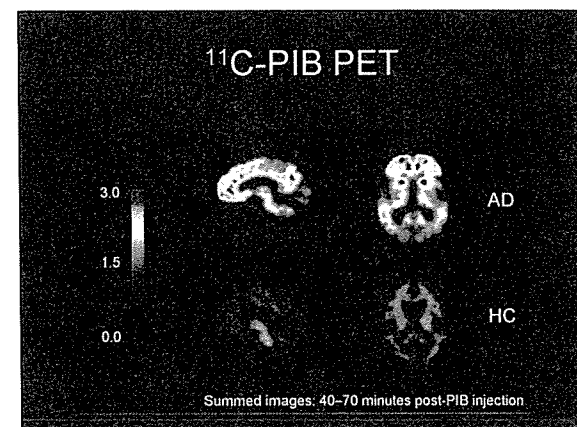


- ### Summary
- Both graphical (DVR) and simplified equilibrium scanning approaches (SUVR) using the cerebellum as input function allow reliable and reproducible quantitative statements on A β burden in the brain, requiring no blood sampling
 - Summed SUV₄₀₋₇₀ images provide the highest count-rate PET images, appropriate for visual analysis
 - DVR is highly correlated with SUV₄₀₋₇₀ ($r > 0.95$)

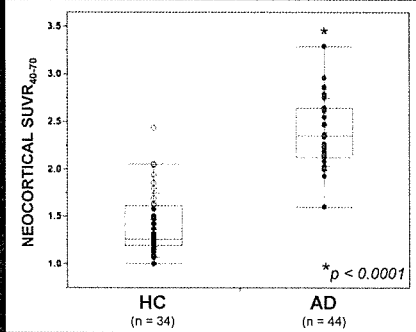
- ### Conclusions
- SUVR₄₀₋₇₀ values obtained from a single 30-min ¹¹C-PIB PET scan appear:
 - acceptable for quantification of A β burden
 - suitable for clinical studies particularly in the elderly and cognitively impaired who may not be able to tolerate a prolonged scan.
 - allow maximizing resources by using a single cyclotron run to provide two individual doses to be injected 35 min apart.
 - A simple quantification strategy, based on equilibrium scanning will further facilitate widespread clinical application of the technique.

In vivo A β Amyloid Imaging in Alzheimer's disease

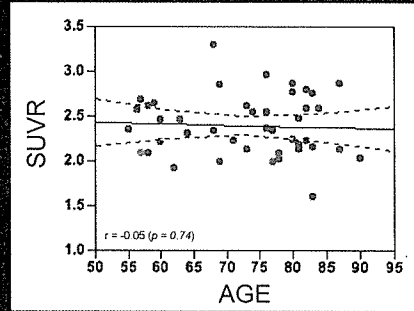
- ### AIMS
- Determine A β burden using ¹¹C-PIB PET in Alzheimer's disease age-matched controls
 - Correlate A β burden to clinical features, cognitive status and glucose metabolism
 - Evaluate the diagnostic utility of PIB PET
 - Correlate A β burden as measured by PET with neuropathology and IHC studies



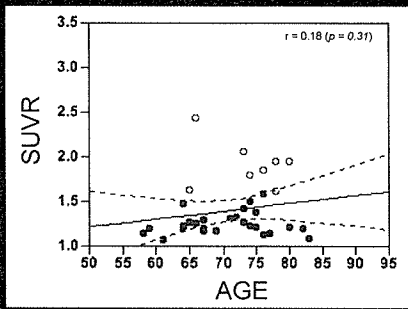
A β burden Quantification



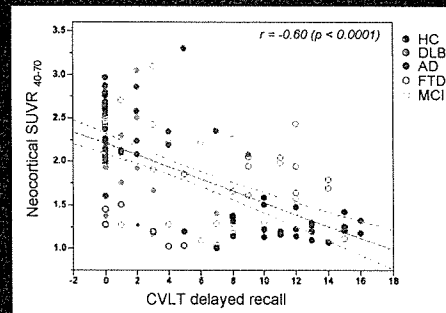
PIB vs Age AD (n = 44)



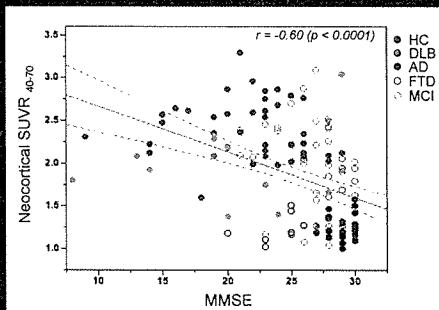
PIB vs Age HC (n = 34)



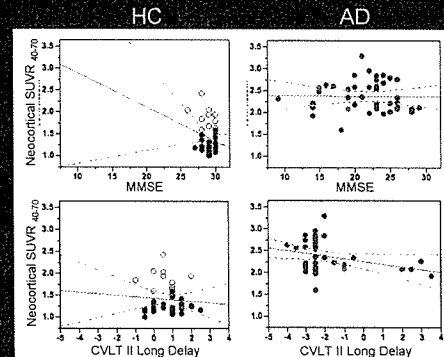
¹¹C-PIB Memory impairment vs A β burden



¹¹C-PIB Disease severity vs A β burden

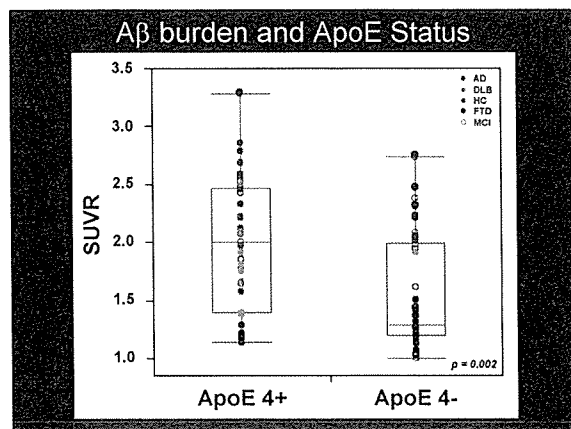
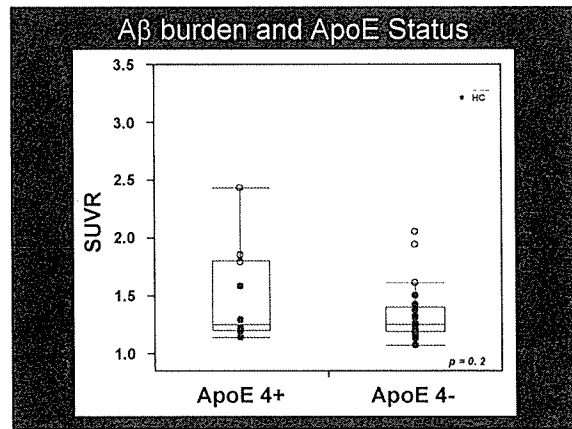
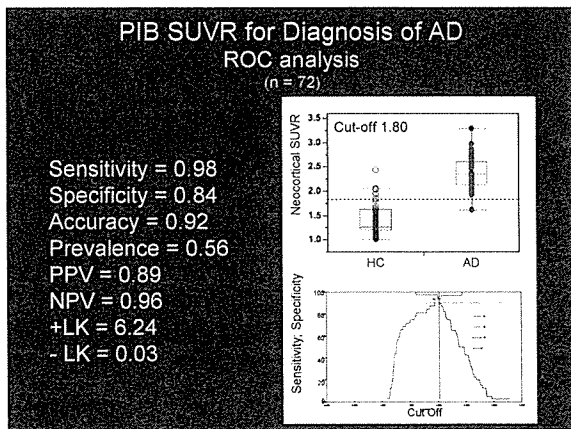
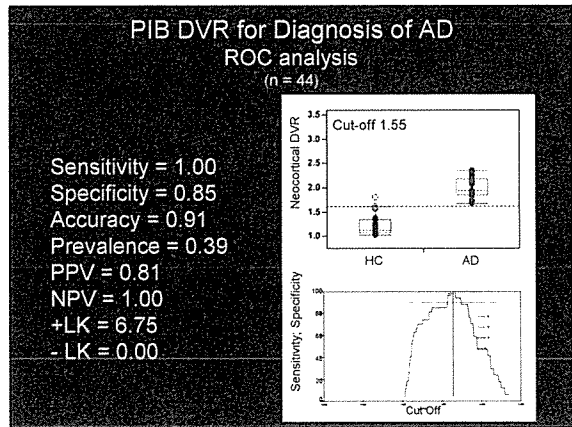


A β burden and Cognitive Status



**^{11}C -PIB PET
SUVR₄₀₋₇₀**

	HC	AD
Frontal Ctx	1.4	2.5
Posterior Cingulate	1.5	2.6
Caudate Nuc	1.5	2.7
Mesial Temp	1.4	1.6
Occipital	1.4	1.9
White Matter	1.9	1.8

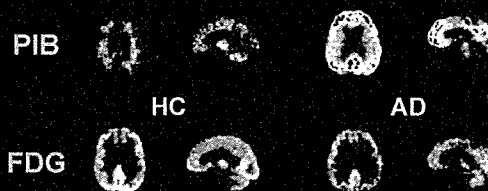


**^{11}C -PIB and ^{18}F -FDG
in the Diagnosis of Alzheimer's Disease**

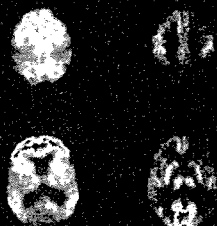
Background

- Lack of accurate tests for Alzheimer's Disease (AD)
- Gold standard: post-mortem demonstration of A β plaques and NFTs
- Clinical assessment (Knopman et al 2001)
 - Probable AD: sensitivity 80%, specificity 70%
 - Possible AD: sensitivity 93%, specificity 48%
- No blood test available at present
- Structural neuroimaging (CT and MRI) neither sensitive nor specific
- Functional neuroimaging (FDG PET)
 - Sensitivity: 85%, Specificity: 70% - 90% (Silverman et al. 2004)

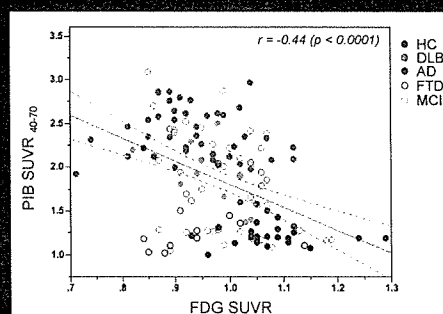
^{11}C -PIB and ^{18}F -FDG in the diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease



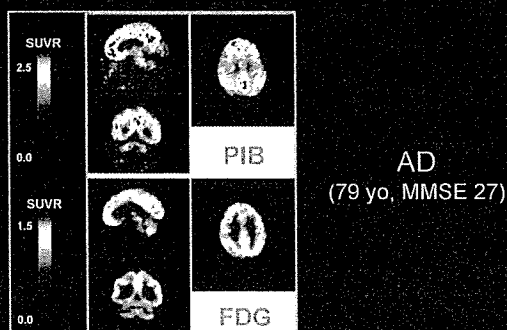
^{11}C -PIB - ^{18}F -FDG AD



^{11}C -PIB - ^{18}F -FDG Neocortex



^{11}C -PIB and ^{18}F -FDG in the diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease

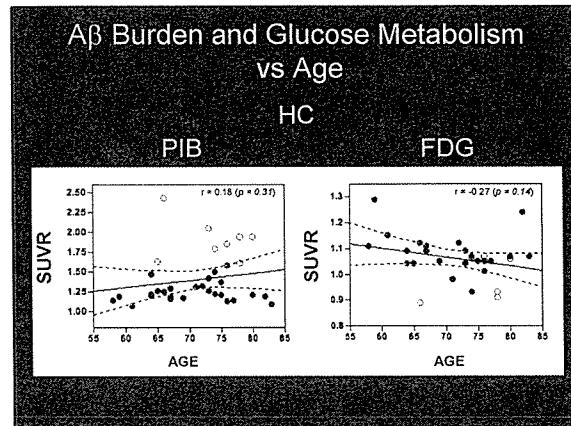
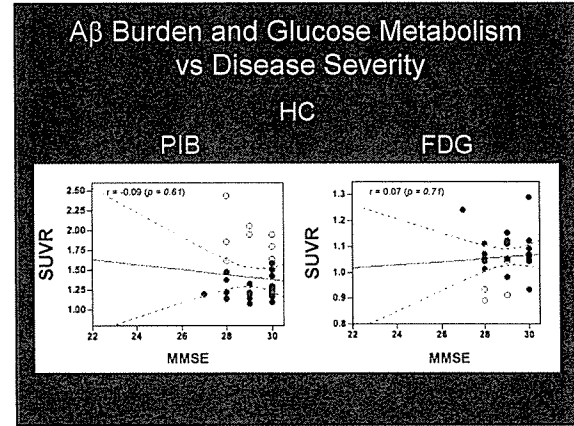
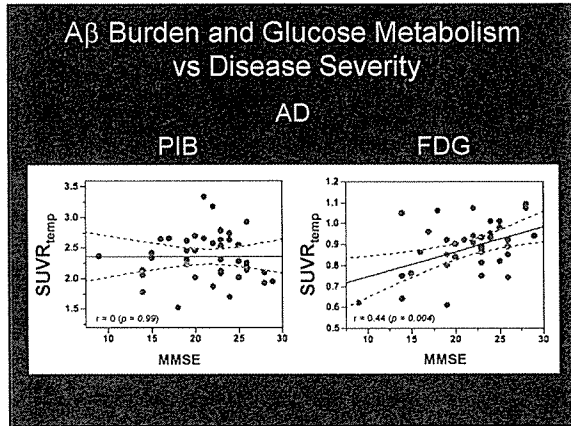
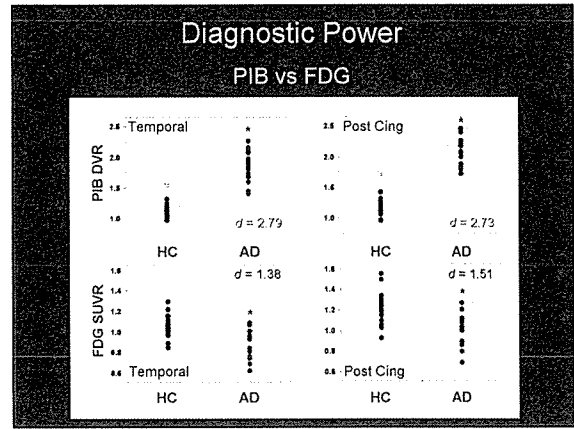
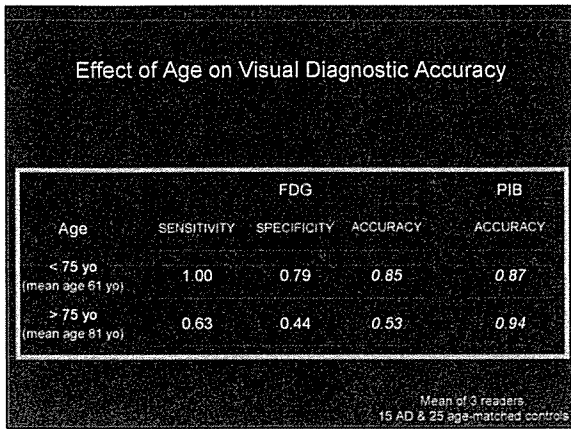


Diagnostic Accuracy

PIB vs FDG

	SENSITIVITY	SPECIFICITY	ACCURACY	Reader agreement (%)
PIB VISUAL	0.98	0.89	0.90	0.84
FDG VISUAL	0.80	0.68	0.72	0.56
PIB DVR	1.00	0.92	0.95	
FDG SUVR	0.92	0.80	0.86	

Mean of 3 readers
15 AD & 25 age-matched controls



- ### Summary
- The quantitative analysis of PIB PET revealed robust differences in DVR between AD and HC
 - Accuracy of PIB is limited by cortical PIB retention, retention that may represent preclinical Alzheimer's disease
 - Visual interpretation of a 30-minute PIB PET image had similar accuracy to quantitative analysis of a 90 minute dynamic scan,
 - PIB PET visual reading was more accurate than FDG PET
 - The inter-observer agreement was excellent for PIB, and was higher than for FDG
 - Visual reading of FDG scan has higher diagnostic accuracy in a younger population, while PIB results are not affected by age
 - Glucose hypometabolism correlates with dementia severity but PIB uptake does not

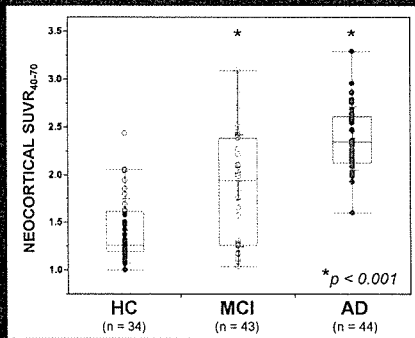
Conclusions

Visual interpretation of PIB images:

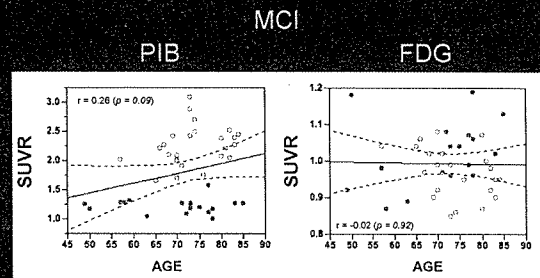
- accurately distinguishes AD from controls and is not affected by age or disease severity
- has similar accuracy to quantitative analysis
- appears superior to visual reading of FDG images with better reader agreement, sensitivity and specificity, particularly in older subjects.

^{11}C -PIB and ^{18}F -FDG in Mild Cognitive Impairment

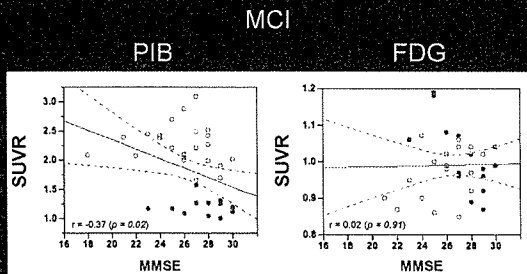
A β burden Quantification



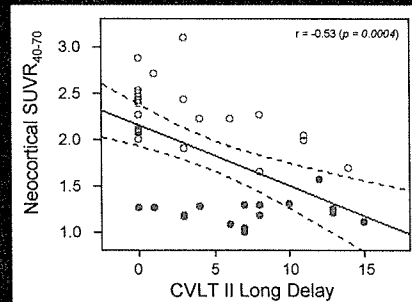
A β Burden and Glucose Metabolism vs Age



A β Burden and Glucose Metabolism vs Disease Severity



^{11}C -PIB Memory impairment vs A β burden MCI



Correlation with Neuropathology

Post Mortem Studies of Senile Plaques

- density does not correlate well with dementia severity.
- present in cognitively intact older persons (30% of those aged >75).
- present in most cases of Dementia with Lewy Bodies (DLB) (10-15% have none).
- not present in FTD

^{11}C -PIB PET SUVR₄₀₋₇₀

	HC	AD	
Frontal Ctx	1.4	2.5	(80%)
Posterior Cingulate	1.5	2.6	(80%)
Caudate Nuc	1.5	2.7	(86%)
Mesial Temp	1.4	1.6	(14%)
Occipital	1.4	1.9	(36%)
White Matter	1.9	1.8	(-8%)

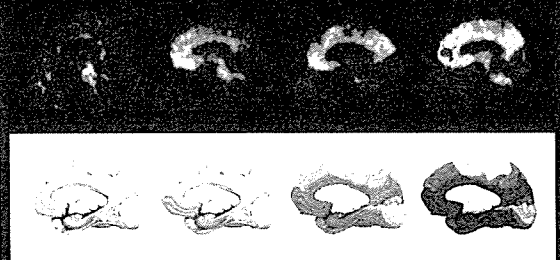
In Vitro Quantification Frontal Ctx

	HC	AD	
Image Quantification	0.006	0.044	(617%)
WB insoluble fraction (IF)	117	269	(130%)
ELISA A β_{1-42} IF	0.3	3.8	(1146%)
ELISA A β_{1-42} IF	6.7	12.9	(91%)

A β burden and plaque deposition

PIB binding matches histopathology of A β

HC HC MCI AD

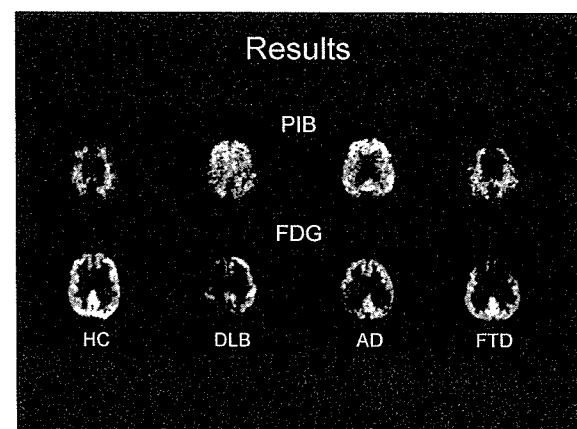
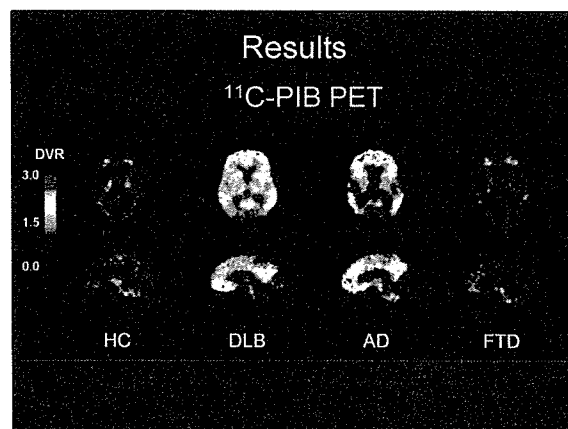
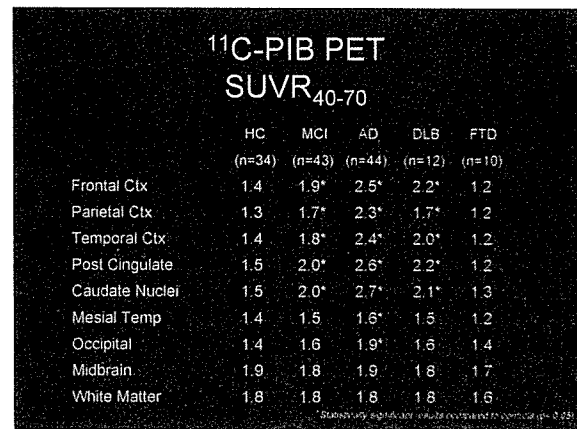
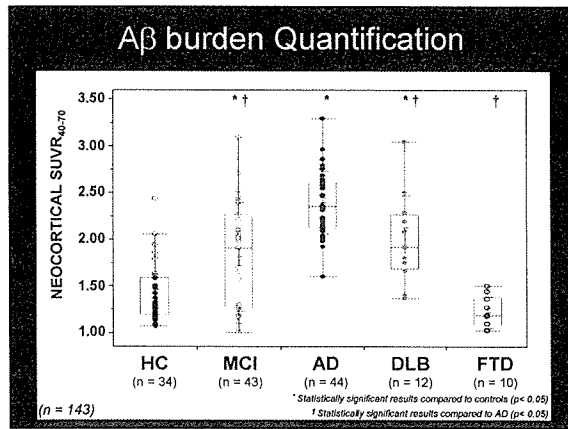
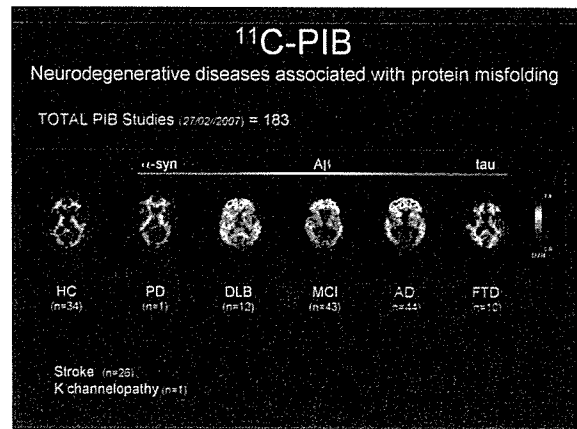
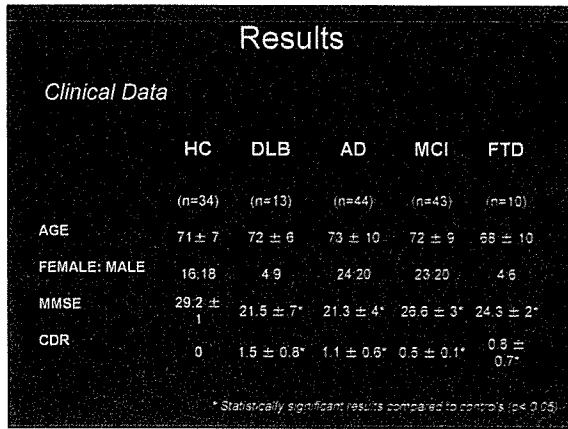


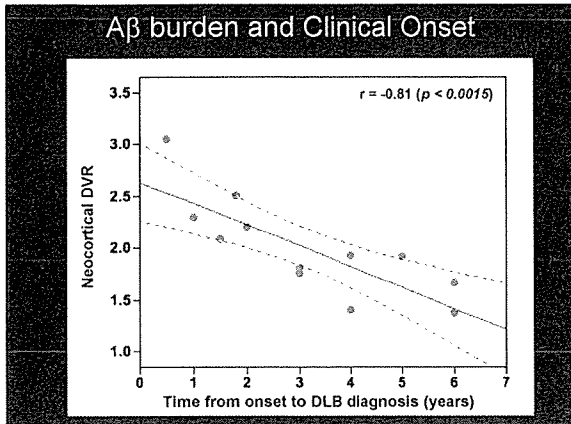
Braak Stages (1997)

Background

- Prevalence of dementia
 - Alzheimer's Disease - 60-70%
 - Dementia with Lewy Bodies - 15%
 - Frontotemporal Dementia - 15%
 - Multi-infarct dementia - 5%
 - Mixed Vascular/Alzheimer's Dementia
 - Movement Disorders - PD, CBD, PSP
- Clinical diagnosis is 85% sensitive in established dementia but only 40-60% specific for AD vs other dementias
- A β deposition precedes cognitive decline by up to 10 years:
 - A β plaques present in 25% of normal persons aged 75
 - this equals the prevalence of AD at age 85
 - In Down's Syndrome A β plaques precede dementia

^{11}C -PIB PET Imaging in the Differential Diagnosis of Dementia





Summary

Imaging of Aβ accurately reflects the neuropathology of amyloid plaque deposition

Aβ accumulation appears to occur very early in the development of AD and does not correlate with the severity of dementia

PIB is not a marker of dementia severity

PIB will allow earlier and more accurate diagnosis of AD

This will allow earlier intervention and monitoring of specific anti-Aβ therapy improving the chances for a successful outcome

Longitudinal studies to more clearly define the patterns of Aβ deposition in the development of dementia are warranted

Summary

- All AD subjects showed extensive cortical and striatal Aβ burden but no correlation with the severity of cognitive impairment
- 59% of MCI and 23% of HC showed cortical Aβ with one HC subsequently progressing to MCI
- 60% of MCI convert to AD
- Mean age of controls is 72. Prevalence of AD at age 85 is 20-30%.

This supports the hypothesis that Aβ deposition occurs well before the onset of AD and can be detected with PIB PET

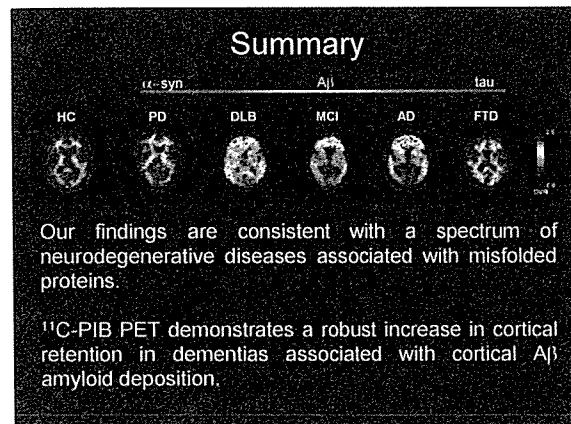
Summary

- DLB has variable and lower Aβ burden than AD despite worse cognitive function
- PIB PET cannot distinguish reliably between AD and DLB
- Greater Aβ burden was associated with more rapid development of the full DLB phenotype

This is consistent with the role of Aβ in promoting aggregation and exacerbation of α-synuclein dependent neuronal injury

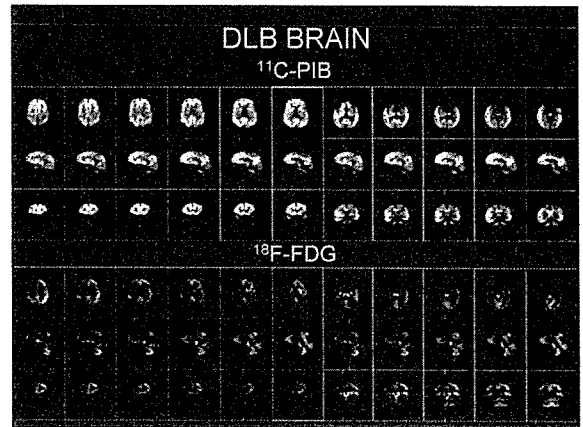
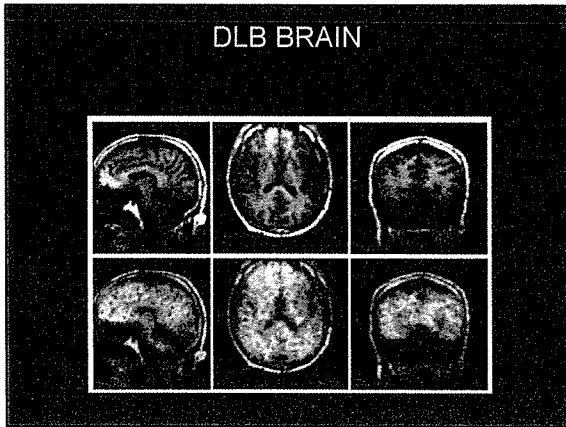
- FTD showed a similar pattern of PIB retention as HC

PIB PET will assist in the differential diagnosis of AD from FTD



DLB BRAIN

Correlation of in vivo
PIB PET vs Postmortem IHC levels



DLB BRAIN

¹¹C-PIB

	DLB PIB SUVR	HC PIB SUVR	Z score
Superior Dorsolateral Prefrontal	2.14	1.31 ± 0.31	2.66
Somatosensory	1.82	1.25 ± 0.20	2.78
Parietal	2.03	1.29 ± 0.25	2.94
Posterior Cingulate	2.60	1.50 ± 0.36	3.07
Anterior Cingulate	2.59	1.52 ± 0.41	2.59
Ventral Dorsolateral Prefrontal	2.41	1.41 ± 0.37	2.69
Caudate Nuclei	2.64	1.46 ± 0.31	3.80
Putamen	2.10	1.45 ± 0.31	2.11
Thalamus	1.82	1.62 ± 0.23	0.86
Orbitofrontal	2.35	1.41 ± 0.32	2.94
Gyrus Rectus	2.76	1.55 ± 0.49	2.45
Temporal	2.51	1.37 ± 0.28	4.06
Mesial Temporal	1.72	1.36 ± 0.18	1.98
Occipital	1.71	1.40 ± 0.18	1.74
Midbrain	1.84	1.90 ± 0.21	-0.28
Pons	2.06	2.19 ± 0.26	-0.51
White Matter	2.08	1.84 ± 0.29	0.84

