Non-lesioned subcortical brain volumes are associated with post-stroke sensorimotor behavior across 28 cohorts worldwide: An ENIGMA Stroke Recovery study

Sook-Lei Liew1,2*, PhD, OTR/L, Artemis Zavaliangos-Petropulu3,4, BA, Nicolas Schweighofer5, PhD, Neda Jahanshad4, PhD, Catherine E. Lang6, PhD, Keith R. Lohse7, PhD, Nerisa Banaj8, PhD, Giuseppe Barisano3,9, MD, Lee A. Baugh10–13, PhD, Anup K. Bhattacharya14, MD, Bavrina Bigjahan15, MSc, Michael R. Borich16, PhD, Lara A. Boyd17, PhD, Amy Brodtknann18,19, PhD, MD, Cathrin M. Bueteisch16,20,21, PhD, MD, Winston D. Byblow22, PhD, Jessica M. Cassidy23, PhD, Valentina Ciullo8, PhD, Adriana B. Conforto24,25, PhD, Richard C. Craddock26, PhD, Adrienne N. Dula, PhD,26 Natalia Egorova18,27, PhD, Wuwei Feng, MD28, Kelene A. Fercho29,30, PhD, Chris M. Gregory28, PhD, PT, Colleen A. Hanlon31,32, PhD, Kathryn S. Hayward18,33,34, PhD, Jess A. Holguin1, OTD, Brenton Hordacre35, PhD, Darryl H. Hwang15,36, PhD, Steven A. Kautz28,37, PhD, Mohamed Salah Khili48, PhD, Bokkyu Kim38, PhD, Hosung Kim2, PhD, Amy Kuceyeski39, PhD, Jingchun Liu, MD,40 David Lin41, MD, Martin Lotze42, MD, Bradley J. MacIntosh43,44, PhD, John L. Margetis1, OTD, Feroze B. Mohamed45, PhD, Jan Egil Nordvik46, PhD, Matthew A. Petoe47,48, PhD, Fabrizio Piras8, PhD, Sharmila Raju49, MSc, Ander Ramos-Murguia1day51,51, PhD, Kate P. Reviill52, PhD, Pamela Roberts1,53,54, PhD, OTR/L, SCFES, FAOTA, CPHQ, FNAP, FACRM, Andrew D. Robertson55,56, PhD, Heidi M. Schambra49, MD, Na Jin See28,37,57, PhD, Mark S. Shiroishi4,15, MD, MSc, Surjo R. Soekadar58, MD, Gianfranco Spalletta8,59, PhD, MD, Cathy M. Stinear60, PhD, Anisha Suri61, MSc, Wai Kwong Tang62, MD, Gregory T. Thielman63, EdD, Vincent N. Thijs18,64, PhD, MD, Daniela Vecchio8, PhD, Junping Wang, MD, Nick S. Ward65, MD, Lars T. Westley66,67, PhD, Carolee J. Winston5,68, PhD, George F. Wittenberg69,70, PhD, MD, Kristin A. Wong71, MD, Chunshui Yu40,72, MD, Steven L. Wolf73–75, PhD, Steven C. Cramer54,68, MD, and Paul M. Thompson4, PhD

Affiliations
1. Chan Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA, USA.
2. Mark and Mary Stevens Neuroimaging and Informatics Institute, Keck School of Medicine, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA, USA.
3. Neuroscience Graduate Program, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA, USA.
4. Imaging Genetics Center, Mark and Mary Stevens Neuroimaging and Informatics Institute, Keck School of Medicine, University of Southern California, Marina del Rey, CA, USA.
5. Biokinesiology and Physical Therapy, Ostrow School of Medicine, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA, USA.
6. Departments of Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, and Neurology, Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, MO, USA.
7. Department of Health and Kinesiology, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT, USA.
8. Laboratory of Neuropsychiatry, IRCCS Santa Lucia Foundation, Rome, Italy.
9. Laboratory of Neuro Imaging, Mark and Mary Stevens Neuroimaging and Informatics Institute, Keck School of Medicine, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA, USA.
10. Basic Biomedical Sciences, Sanford School of Medicine, University of South Dakota, Vermillion, SD, USA.
11. Sioux Falls VA Health Care System, Sioux Falls, SD, USA.
12. Center for Brain and Behavior Research, Vermillion, SD, USA.
13. Sanford Research, Sioux Falls, SD, USA.
14. Mallinckrodt Institute of Radiology, Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, St. Louis, MO, USA.
15. Department of Radiology, Keck School of Medicine, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA, USA.
16. Department of Rehabilitation Medicine, Emory University, Atlanta, GA, USA.
17. Department of Physical Therapy & the Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health, Faculty of Medicine, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, Canada.
18. Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health, University of Melbourne, Heidelberg, VIC, Australia.
19. Eastern Cognitive Disorders Clinic, Monash University, Melbourne, VIC, Australia.
20. Department of Neurology, School of Medicine, Emory University, Atlanta, GA, USA.
21. Department of Radiology, Emory University, Atlanta, GA, USA.
22. Department of Exercise Sciences and Centre for Brain Research, University of Auckland, Auckland, New Zealand.
23. Allied Health Science, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC, USA.
24. Hospital das Clínicas da Faculdade de Medicina da Universidade de São Paulo, São Paulo, SP, Brazil.
25. Hospital Israelita Albert Einstein, São Paulo, SP, Brazil.
26. Department of Diagnostic Medicine, Dell Medical School, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas, USA.
27. Melbourne School of Psychological Sciences, University of Melbourne, Melbourne, VIC, Australia.
28. Department of Health Sciences & Research, Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC, USA.
29. Civil Aerospace Medical Institute, US Federal Aviation Administration, Oklahoma City, OK, USA.
30. Division of Basic Biomedical Sciences, Sanford School of Medicine, University of South Dakota, Vermillion, SD, USA.
31. Cancer Biology, Wake Forest School of Medicine, Winston Salem, NC, USA.
32. College of Health Professions, Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC, USA.
33. Department of Physiotherapy, University of Melbourne, Heidelberg, VIC, Australia.
34. NHMRC CRE in Stroke Rehabilitation and Brain Recovery, University of Melbourne, Heidelberg, VIC, Australia.
35. Innovation, IMPLementation and Clinical Translation (IIMPACT) in Health, Allied Health and Human Performance, University of South Australia, Adelaide, SA, Australia.
36. Department of Biomedical Engineering, Viterbi School of Engineering, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA, USA.
37. Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center, Charleston, SC, USA.
38. Department of Physical Therapy Education, College of Health Professions, SUNY Upstate
39. Department of Radiology, Weill Cornell Medicine, New York, NY, USA.
40. Department of Radiology, Tianjin Medical University General Hospital, Tianjin, China.
41. Center for Neurotechnology and Neurorecovery, Department of Neurology, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA, USA.
42. Department of Diagnostic Radiology, University Medicine Greifswald, Greifswald, Germany.
43. Hurvitz Brain Sciences, Sunnybrook Research Institute, Toronto, ON, Canada.
44. Department of Medical Biophysics, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, Canada.
45. Jefferson Integrated Magnetic Resonance Imaging Center, Department of Radiology, Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, PA, USA.
46. CatoSenteret Rehabilitation Center, Son, Norway.
47. Bionics Institute, Melbourne, VIC, Australia.
48. Department of Medicine and Centre for Brain Research, University of Auckland, Auckland, New Zealand.
49. Department of Neurology, Langone School of Medicine, New York University, New York, NY, USA.
50. TECNALIA, Basque Research and Technology Alliance (BRTA), Neurotechnology Laboratory, San Sebastian Donostia, Spain.
51. Institute of Medical Psychology and Behavioral Neurobiology, University of Tübingen, Tübingen, Germany.
52. Facility for Education and Research in Neuroscience, Emory University, Atlanta, GA, USA.
53. Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Cedars-Sinai, Los Angeles, CA, USA.
54. California Rehabilitation Institute, Los Angeles, CA, USA.
55. Canadian Partnership for Stroke Recovery, Sunnybrook Research Institute, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, Canada.
56. Department of Kinesiology, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, ON, Canada.
57. Department of Rehabilitation Sciences, Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC, USA.
58. Clinical Neurotechnology Laboratory, Dept. of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy, Charité - University Medicine Berlin, Berlin, Germany.
59. Division of Neuropsychiatry, Menninger Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX, USA.
60. Department of Medicine, University of Auckland, Auckland, New Zealand.
61. Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Swanson School of Engineering, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA, USA.
62. Department of Psychiatry, Faculty of Medicine, the Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, China.
63. Department of Physical Therapy and Neuroscience, University of the Sciences, Philadelphia, PA, USA.
64. Department of Neurology, Austin Health, Heidelberg, VIC, Australia.
65. UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology, London, UK.
66. Department of Psychology, University of Oslo, Oslo, Norway.
67. NORMENT, Division of Mental Health and Addiction, Oslo University Hospital, Oslo, Norway.
68. Department of Neurology, Keck School of Medicine, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA, USA.
69. Department of Neurology, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA, USA.
70. Neurology, Department of Veterans Affairs Pittsburgh Healthcare System, Pittsburgh, PA, USA.
71. Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation, Dell Medical School, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX, USA.
72. Tianjin Key Laboratory of Functional Imaging, Tianjin Medical University General Hospital, Tianjin, China.
73. Division of Physical Therapy Education, Department of Rehabilitation Medicine, Department of Medicine, and Department of Cell Biology, Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, GA, USA.
74. Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing, Emory University, Atlanta, GA, USA.
75. Center for Visual and Neurocognitive Rehabilitation, Atlanta VA Health Care System, Decatur, GA, USA.
*Corresponding Author Contact Information:

Sook-Lei Liew, PhD, OTR/L
Assistant Professor and Director, Neural Plasticity and Neurorehabilitation Laboratory
University of Southern California
Address: 2025 Zonal Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90033
Telephone: 323-865-1755
Email: sliew@usc.edu
ABSTRACT

Up to two-thirds of stroke survivors experience persistent sensorimotor impairments. Recovery relies on the integrity of spared brain areas to compensate for damaged tissue. Subcortical regions play critical roles in the control and regulation of sensorimotor circuits. Identifying relationships between sensorimotor behavior and non-lesioned subcortical volumes will reveal new neural targets for improving outcomes.

We pooled high-resolution T1-weighted MRI brain scans and behavioral data in 828 individuals with unilateral stroke from 28 cohorts worldwide (age: median 63, interquartile range 19 years; 516 males, 312 females). Cross-sectional analyses using linear mixed-effects models related post-stroke sensorimotor behavior to non-lesioned subcortical volumes. We analyzed subacute (≤90 days) and chronic (≥180 days) stroke; sub-analyses in chronic stroke were performed on class of sensorimotor deficit (impairment, activity limitations) and side of lesioned hemisphere, with exploratory analyses in early stroke (≤21 days) and across time (Bonferroni-corrected, p<0.004).

Worse sensorimotor behavior was associated with a smaller ipsilesional thalamic volume in both subacute (n=274, $d=0.46$) and early stroke (n=179; $d=0.68$). In chronic stroke (n=404), worse sensorimotor behavior was associated with smaller ipsilesional putamen ($d=0.52$) and nucleus accumbens ($d=0.39$) volumes, and a larger ipsilesional lateral ventricle volume ($d=-0.42$), representing atrophy. In chronic stroke, worse sensorimotor impairment specifically (measured by the Fugl-Meyer Assessment; n=256) was associated with a smaller ipsilesional putamen ($d=0.72$), and larger lateral ventricle ($d=-0.41$), while several measures of activity limitations (n=116) showed no significant relationships. Side of lesion (left=214, right=190) had no impact. The full cohort (n=828) revealed associations of sensorimotor behavior with the ipsilesional nucleus accumbens ($d=0.23$), putamen ($d=0.33$), thalamus ($d=0.33$), and lateral ventricle ($d=-0.23$).

This analysis identified significant relationships between sensorimotor behavior and key subcortical regions at different times post-stroke. While further longitudinal studies are needed, these findings may represent brain imaging markers of resilience and reserve and provide putative neuroanatomical targets for improving sensorimotor outcomes post-stroke.
Keywords: stroke, rehabilitation, sensorimotor behavior, MRI, subcortical volumes
INTRODUCTION

Despite intensive research efforts and decades of clinical trials, stroke remains a leading cause of adult long-term disability worldwide (Virani et al., 2020), and interventions to improve sensorimotor outcomes have yielded variable results. Although baseline impairment, corticospinal tract integrity, and lesion overlap with cortical regions are reliable prognostic indicators (Boyd et al., 2017), effective therapies to improve sensorimotor outcomes are sparse. Even when accounting for these predictors, many interventional studies still show large inter-individual variability in response, suggesting that personalized neuroanatomical targets should be considered during rehabilitation.

While the role of cortical regions in post-stroke sensorimotor behavior has been widely examined, less attention has been paid to subcortical structures, such as the thalamus and basal ganglia. These structures not only play a critical role in the maintenance and regulation of sensorimotor circuits and motor learning, but they also subserve cognition, metabolic regulation, and reward—all of which have been implicated as contributors to post-stroke outcomes, including sensorimotor functioning and recovery (Fries et al., 1993; Binkofski et al., 1996; Shelton and Reding, 2001; Kuceyeski et al., 2016). Each structure in the cortico-striatal-thalamic circuit has a distinct role in sensorimotor control and possibly outcomes. For instance, the thalamus is integral to the regulation of metabolism, sleep and wakefulness, cognitive processing, and integrating sensorimotor information (Jones, 2012), and thalamic metabolism has been shown to be disordered in the early weeks after stroke (Binkofski et al., 1996; Carmichael et al., 2004). Similarly, the basal ganglia (e.g., caudate, putamen, globus pallidus, and nucleus accumbens) are heavily involved in motor control, learning, and reward, with distinct roles for each nuclei (Alexander et al., 1991; Lanciego et al., 2012). Direct damage to the thalamus and basal ganglia is associated with poor sensorimotor behavior and recovery (Fries et al., 1993; Boyd and Weinstein, 2004), but the role of each spared subcortical nuclei is unclear.

To date, these subcortical structures have been studied only in modestly-sized samples, with varying results, and with measurements across multiple regions often aggregated as one (e.g., combined analysis of the thalamus and basal ganglia). However, each nucleus has a characteristic distribution of neurotransmitters, and identifying specific non-lesioned subcortical nuclei could provide more precise neurobiological targets for therapeutics to potentiate recovery.
Inter-individual variability and the heterogeneity of brain changes after stroke pose challenges to the identification of neural targets in spared tissue. Addressing this issue requires large, diverse, and appropriately-powered sample sizes with high-resolution brain MRIs. Although acute stroke research has successfully utilized pooled approaches with individual patient data to examine acute treatment outcomes (Goyal et al., 2016; Campbell et al., 2019), stroke rehabilitation research has been slower to adopt this type of approach due to the complexity of combining elaborate rehabilitation research protocols, differences in the site and size of infarcts, diversity of the patient populations recruited, and variety of the stroke neuroimaging and behavioral measures collected. To address these challenges, we formed the international ENIGMA Stroke Recovery Working Group to harmonize and combine diverse individual patient data, including high-resolution structural brain MRIs and behavioral outcome measures, across multiple research centers (Liew et al., 2020). This combined analysis pools individual patient data across research sites using a harmonized analytical pipeline and includes both published and unpublished data. Compared to traditional single-site analyses or retrospective meta-analyses, this approach allows for greater statistical rigor, testing of more sophisticated hypotheses (e.g., subgroup analyses), and less bias due to the inclusion of both published and unpublished data across diverse cohorts (Berlin et al., 2002; Ioannidis, 2017). Furthermore, pooled analyses with multi-site data increase heterogeneity, which improves generalizability of findings, reduces research inefficiency by leveraging previously collected data to examine novel questions, and advances the field faster than is achievable by prospective studies (Glasziou et al., 2014).

The current study pools data from 828 individuals across 28 cohorts worldwide from the ENIGMA Stroke Recovery Working Group to examine relationships between sensorimotor behavioral measures and volumes of the ipsilesional and contralesional thalamus, putamen, caudate, pallidum, and nucleus accumbens. Enlargement of the lateral ventricles was also examined as an indirect measure of atrophy and vascular integrity (Hijdra and Verbeeten Jr, 1991; Apostolova et al., 2012). Given the neurobiological events unique to early and subacute stroke compared to chronic stroke, data were analyzed separately for individuals in the subacute (≤ 90 days) and chronic (≥ 180 days) stages (Bernhardt et al., 2017). As an exploratory measure, we also analyzed relationships early after stroke (≤ 21 days), before post-stroke secondary structural atrophy is thought to be observed (Egorova et al., 2019), to estimate whether subacute associations are driven by early post-stroke changes or likely existed prior to the stroke.
We hypothesized the thalamus relates to sensorimotor behavior in early and subacute phases after stroke, given its multiple roles in supporting cellular repair (Azari et al., 1996; Binkofski et al., 1996). We further expected to find smaller subcortical volumes, reflecting atrophy of structures associated with sensorimotor control, and larger ventricles, reflecting general atrophy, to be related to chronic sensorimotor behavior (Gauthier et al., 2012). Furthermore, as sensorimotor behavior encompasses multiple classes of the International Classification of Functioning, Disability, and Health (ICF), separate subgroup analyses in chronic stroke were conducted to examine if there are specific neural correlates of loss of body structures and function (i.e., sensorimotor impairment) versus loss of activity in daily tasks (i.e., activity limitations) (McDougall et al., 2010). Here, we anticipated that subcortical nuclei that play a significant role in direct sensorimotor control, such as the putamen, more strongly relate to impairment, while regions associated with reward and motivation, such as the nucleus accumbens, may be more strongly related to activity limitations. Finally, in chronic stroke, we also examined the impact of the side of the lesion. Based on evidence of hemispheric specialization for motor behavior after stroke (Sainburg et al., 2016), we hypothesized that the side of the lesion would modify the relationship between non-lesioned subcortical tissue volume and sensorimotor behavior.

**MATERIALS AND METHODS**

**Study design**

The current cross-sectional pooled analysis used data from the ENIGMA Stroke Recovery Working Group, which was frozen for this analysis on May 22, 2020. A detailed overview of ENIGMA Stroke Recovery procedures and methods are reported elsewhere (Liew et al., 2020). The data were collected across 28 different research studies (i.e., cohorts) at 16 different research institutes in 10 countries, in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki and in compliance with local ethics review boards at each institute (see Supplementary Table 1 for details).

**ENIGMA Stroke Recovery Dataset**

Participants with at least one sensorimotor behavioral outcome measure (see Behavioral Data Analysis, Supplementary Table 1) and a segmented high-resolution (e.g., 1-mm isotropic) T1-
weighted (T1w) structural MRI of the brain (see MRI Data Analysis) were included, yielding an initial dataset of 1,285 individuals. Only participants with unilateral ischemic stroke or intracerebral hemorrhage were included, and individuals identified as having bilateral lesions or lesions in the brainstem or cerebellum were excluded from this analysis. For any longitudinal observations, only the first time-point was used; the resulting dataset was therefore cross-sectional. Each brain region was manually inspected for quality and overlap with the lesion (see MRI Data Analysis). Any individuals missing covariates of age (n=50) or sex (n=89) were also excluded, yielding a final N=828 (age: median 63, interquartile range (IQR) 19 years; 516 males, 312 females). As the relationships between brain volume and sensorimotor behavior were expected to change with time after stroke, the data were divided into subacute stroke (≤90 days post-stroke) and chronic stroke (≥180 days post-stroke). Exploratory analyses looking only at early stroke (≤21 days post-stroke) and across all times after stroke are included in Supplementary Materials.

MRI Data Analysis

To extract subcortical volumes, brain imaging software package FreeSurfer (version 5.3) was used to segment subcortical regions of interest (ROIs) from the T1w MRIs (Fischl et al., 2002). Twelve ROIs were extracted: the left and right thalamus, caudate, putamen, pallidum, nucleus accumbens, and lateral ventricles. For all analyses, these were characterized as ipsilesional and contralesional based on the lesioned hemisphere. Total intracranial volume (ICV) was also quantified using FreeSurfer outputs. ENIGMA scripts developed in-house were used to extract the volume of each ROI for each individual and to generate quality control (QC) triplanar images of each segmented ROI as done previously (Hibar et al., 2015; Thompson et al., 2020) (http://enigma.ini.usc.edu/protocols/). Given the variability of post-stroke neuroanatomy following a lesion, trained research team members (A.Z.-P., A.S.) performed visual QC for each ROI in each subject. Any regions intersecting the lesion were marked “lesioned” and any regions not properly segmented by FreeSurfer were marked “failed”; regions falling in either category were excluded from further analysis (for the full QC protocol, see Appendix 1 in (Liew et al., 2020)). Sample sizes for each analysis and brain region are reported.

Behavioral Data Analysis
Across cohorts, behavioral data were collected within approximately 72 hours of the MRI. To maximize the utility of the full dataset, a primary sensorimotor behavior score was defined for each study cohort using the measure reported in that cohort that was most commonly represented in the dataset overall (see Supplementary Materials). From this measure, a fraction of the maximum possible score was calculated, such that 0 represented the worst sensorimotor performance (severe deficits) and 1 represented the best sensorimotor performance (no deficits). The most common measure across cohorts was the Fugl-Meyer Motor Assessment of Upper Extremities (FMA-UE) (Fugl-Meyer et al., 1975).

In chronic stroke, we also identified behavioral measures that specifically captured impairment and activity limitation. Impairment was measured by the FMA-UE, whereas activity limitation was measured by the Action Research Arm Test (ARAT) (Lyle, 1981) and Wolf Motor Function Test (WMFT) (Wolf et al., 2001); data with any of these measures were used. These data were not examined in early stroke due to the limited sample sizes with these measures.

**Statistical Analysis**

To examine the relationships between sensorimotor behavior and non-lesioned subcortical volumes, we performed linear mixed-effects regressions. A separate regression model was run for the volume of each subcortical ROI (outcome) using sensorimotor behavior (e.g., primary sensorimotor behavior score, sensorimotor impairment, or activity limitations) as the primary predictor of interest. After ruling out collinearity (variance inflation factor \( \leq 2.5 \)), normalized age, ICV, and sex were included as fixed effects. Research cohort was included as a random effect. In chronic stroke, the effect of side was also examined; an interaction term between sensorimotor behavior and side of lesioned hemisphere was added to the model predicting subcortical volume. This was not examined in subacute stroke due to the smaller sample size. A likelihood ratio test (LRT) was performed to compare models with and without random effects and showed that the random effects were always significant. The regression assumptions of linearity, normality of the residuals, and homogeneity of the residual variance were checked via visual inspection of residuals versus fits plots as well as qq-plots for both individual observations and research cohorts. Potential influential values for both observations and cohorts were assessed using Cook’s distance with recommended thresholds (Nieuwenhuis et al., 2012). As we detected influential observations in almost all analyses, we re-ran the analyses using robust mixed-effect
regression, which reduces the weight of influential observations in the models without excluding data (Greco et al., 2019). Results did not differ between original and robust regression models. The results of the robust regression models can be found in Supplementary Materials.

For all analyses, beta coefficients are presented for the factor of interest (e.g., sensorimotor behavior, sensorimotor impairment, or activity limitations), along with the sample size (n), standard error (SE), degrees of freedom (df), standardized effect size (d), t-value, and uncorrected p-value. Statistical significance was adjusted for multiple comparisons across the 12 ROIs using a Bonferroni correction (p<0.004). Any significant fixed covariates are also reported.

All statistical analyses were conducted in R (version 3.6.3; R Core Team, 2020 (Team, 2020)). The follow R libraries were used: the lme function from nlme was used for the linear mixed-effects regressions (Pinheiro J, 2020), the rlmer function from robustlmm was used for the robust linear mixed-effects regressions (Koller, 2016), and the rstatix library was used for the Wilcoxon rank sum test (Kassambara, 2019). In addition, influence.ME was used to detect influential values (Nieuwenhuis et al., 2012) and dplyr (Wickham et al., 2020) and tidyverse (Wickham et al., 2019) libraries were used for data organization.

Data Availability

The deidentified summary data and code that support the findings of this study are available upon reasonable request from the corresponding author. The data are not all publicly available in a repository as they may contain information that could compromise the privacy of research participants. There are also data sharing restrictions imposed by some of the (i) ethical review boards of the participating sites, and consent documents; (ii) national and trans-national data sharing laws; and (iii) institutional processes, some of which require a signed DTA for limited and predefined data use. However, we welcome sharing data with researchers, requiring that they become members of the ENIGMA Stroke Recovery working group and submit an analysis plan for a secondary project for group review. Once this analysis plan is approved, access to the relevant data will be provided contingent on data availability, local PI approval and compliance with all supervening regulatory boards.
RESULTS

Data from 828 individuals from 28 cohorts worldwide were included (see Table 1 for an overview of cohort characteristics).

In subacute stroke (≤ 90 days; n=274), worse post-stroke sensorimotor behavior was significantly associated with smaller volumes of the ipsilesional thalamus (n=274, $d=0.46$, $p=0.002$; Table 2; Figure 1). A secondary analysis in individuals within the first 21 days post-stroke (n=179, $d=0.68$, $p<0.001$) demonstrated the same result (see Supplementary Materials).

In chronic stroke (≥ 180 days; n=404), worse sensorimotor behavior was related to smaller volumes of the ipsilesional putamen ($d=0.52$, $p<0.001$) and ipsilesional nucleus accumbens ($d=0.39$, $p=0.002$), and a larger volume of the ipsilesional lateral ventricle ($d=-0.42$, $p<0.001$; Table 2; Figure 1).

In chronic stroke, we examined brain-behavior relationships using a measure of impairment (the FMA-UE scale; n=256) and two measures of activity limitation (WMFT, ARAT; n=116). Worse sensorimotor impairment was associated with smaller ipsilesional putamen ($d=0.72$, $p=0.001$) and larger ipsilesional lateral ventricle volumes ($d=-0.41$, $p=0.002$; Table 3; Figure 1). We found no significant relationships between subcortical nuclei and measures of activity limitations (Table 3).

In chronic stroke, we further analyzed the differences between individuals with left hemisphere stroke (LHS, n=214) versus right hemisphere stroke (RHS, n=190) by including lesioned hemisphere as an interaction term in the model. There were no significant effects of the side of the lesioned hemisphere on the relationship between sensorimotor behavior and subcortical volumes, and no main effects of the lesioned hemisphere (see Supplementary Materials). Inclusion of the lesioned hemisphere into the model did not change the main effects of sensorimotor behavior. There were no differences in sensorimotor behavior between left and right hemisphere stroke groups (see Supplementary Materials).

Finally, an exploratory analysis of the entire cohort (N=828) demonstrated significant relationships between worse sensorimotor behavior and smaller volumes of the ipsilesional thalamus ($d=0.33$, $p=0.001$), putamen ($d=0.33$, $p<0.001$), and nucleus accumbens ($d=0.23$, $p=0.004$), and a larger lateral ventricle volume ($d=-0.23$, $p=0.001$). See Supplementary Materials for additional details.
DISCUSSION

We report the first international, multi-site pooled analysis with individual patient data using high-resolution structural brain imaging in stroke rehabilitation research and the largest study to date relating subcortical brain measures to post-stroke sensorimotor behavior. We identified novel, significant relationships between post-stroke sensorimotor behavior and the volumes of spared deep gray matter structures including the ipsilesional thalamus, putamen, and nucleus accumbens, as well as atrophy as indexed by enlargement of the ipsilesional lateral ventricle. Notably, all significant relationships were found only in the ipsilesional hemisphere. These findings suggest that, post-stroke, subcortical brain alterations related to sensorimotor behavior occur most prominently in the hemisphere directly affected by the stroke. This was observed despite the fact that, after stroke, atrophy and reorganization has been observed bilaterally (Brodtmann et al., 2020). The identification of sensorimotor relationships with specific ipsilesional subcortical nuclei may provide novel neuromodulatory or pharmacological targets to improve stroke outcomes.

Our results support the hypothesis that non-lesioned deep gray structures serve distinct roles in subacute versus chronic stroke, which is not surprising given the cascade of neurobiological and neuroinflammatory processes that occur early after stroke (Murphy and Corbett, 2009; Ward, 2017). Within 90 days after stroke, only the ipsilesional thalamus showed detectable associations with post-stroke sensorimotor behavior, in line with recent research suggesting a role for the thalamus in subacute recovery (Brodtmann et al., 2020). A smaller thalamic volume could reflect cell loss and thalamic dysfunction, thereby limiting resources critical for early recovery (Fries et al., 1993; Brodtmann et al., 2020). Importantly, this relationship persists, and is stronger, when looking at only the first 21 days post-stroke. As non-lesioned brain volumes within six weeks after stroke are assumed to be similar to those before the stroke (Egorova et al., 2019), this finding suggests that larger thalamic volumes prior to stroke could provide a neuroprotective effect. Thalamic atrophy was recently associated with loss of extrinsic and intrinsic connectivity between the thalamus and the rest of the brain, suggesting that thalamic measures may serve as an index of global brain function (Mahajan et al., 2020). Future research using longitudinal
datasets with greater spatial specificity could relate changes in specific thalamic nuclei to sensorimotor recovery to identify targets for neuroprotective or early stroke therapies.

In chronic stroke, smaller volumes of the ipsilesional putamen and nucleus accumbens were consistently associated with worse sensorimotor behavior. Brain atrophy, as indexed by a larger ipsilesional ventricle volume, was also negatively associated with sensorimotor behavioral measures. This is the first large-scale validation of these specific subcortical volume measures as correlates of sensorimotor behavioral outcomes in chronic stroke. This finding augments existing stroke literature, which has typically examined changes across combined subcortical regions, without differentiating roles of the individual basal ganglia nuclei and thalamus. Direct damage to the putamen has been related to post-stroke gait impairment (Alexander et al., 2009), upper limb impairment (Lee et al., 2015), and spasticity (Cheung et al., 2016), deficits which overlap with the behavioral measures used here. Secondary atrophy of the putamen has been reported after cortical stroke and associated with infarct volume (Baudat et al., 2020) and post-stroke cognitive deficits (Lopes et al., 2012). The relationship between chronic sensorimotor behavioral deficits and the volume of the non-lesioned ipsilesional putamen after stroke, however, has not been reported. The putamen plays a key role in corticostriatal circuits, receiving sensorimotor cortical signals and relaying them to the thalamus. Here we report that secondary atrophy in the putamen relates to sensorimotor behavior generally and impairment specifically, as evidenced by the association with the FMA-UE in chronic stroke. Although further research is needed, given its diverse roles in cognitive and sensorimotor function, the volume of the putamen, when spared by stroke, may represent a global measure of general corticostriatal circuit integrity in chronic stroke survivors.

While the ipsilesional nucleus accumbens was significantly related to chronic sensorimotor behavior in general, it was not related to sensorimotor impairment (FMA-UE) alone, nor was it associated with activity limitations (e.g., ARAT, WMFT), as hypothesized. However, the analyses on impairment and activity limitations had less statistical power to detect relationships. As the nucleus accumbens is a key component of the ventral striatum and implicated in dopaminergic modulation of reward-based behaviors (Robbins and Everitt, 1992), this region may impact more complex aspects of motor performance, such as motivation and participation, compared to impairment or activity. A number of studies show decreases in ventral striatal processes such as reward sensitivity, motivation, and apathy after stroke (Rochat et al., 2013),
and post-stroke hypoactivity in the nucleus accumbens has been identified during reward-based decision-making tasks (Widmer et al., 2019). This effect was observed despite no direct lesions in the nucleus accumbens, suggesting that secondary dysfunction of this network can impact behavior after stroke. It is likely that the nucleus accumbens impacts sensorimotor behavior by influencing reward and motivation (Sawada et al., 2015), which could influence use of the affected limb in daily tasks. Although pharmacological methods to modulate the dopaminergic system and promote motor recovery following stroke have been widely studied, there are large individual differences in outcomes (Gower and Tiberi, 2018). Future research may investigate whether individual differences in the volume and connectivity of the nucleus accumbens predict who may benefit from dopaminergic treatment.

The third important finding in chronic stroke is the association between an enlarged ipsilesional lateral ventricle and poor sensorimotor behavior. This relationship was only significant at the chronic stage and was exclusive to the ipsilesional lateral ventricle, which may be due to hydrocephalus ex vacuo. Ventricular enlargement post-stroke may also be influenced by small vessel disease (i.e., leukoaraiosis), although this is typically observed bilaterally (Hijdra and Verbeeten Jr, 1991). Enlargement of the bilateral lateral ventricles has also been associated with generalized brain atrophy that occurs during aging and with impaired cognitive function (Lenzi et al., 1994; Förstl et al., 1995). The contrast between ipsilesional and contralesional ventricles may provide unique insight into the specific impact of the stroke versus general aging on chronic stroke sensorimotor outcomes.

Our results also suggest that there are distinct brain-behavior relationships for different ICF dimensions of sensorimotor behavior. Chronic motor impairment, as measured by the FMA-UE, was associated with a smaller ipsilesional putamen and larger ipsilesional ventricle, which may provide an indication of corticostriatal circuit functions as well as overall brain health essential for sensorimotor control. In contrast, there were no subcortical associations with activity limitations in the current study. This could be related to the smaller sample size (n=116 versus n=256 for sensorimotor impairment). Alternatively, activity limitations may be more strongly related to the integrity or function of distributed regions across whole brain networks rather than subcortical structures (Dong et al., 2006; Van Meer et al., 2010), given that functional performance can be influenced by psychosocial factors to a greater degree than impairment measures.
Finally, findings did not indicate a significant effect of lesioned hemisphere on the relationship between chronic sensorimotor behavior and spared subcortical volumes. These results are surprising, given that the large majority of patients were likely left hemisphere dominant for motor control (Kim et al., 1993), and previous research has identified post-stroke hemispheric specializations and roles in sensorimotor control (Schaefer et al., 2007; Mani et al., 2013; Sainburg et al., 2016). However, previous research has primarily focused on cortical regions and functional activity, rather than subcortical structures. Side of stroke injury may not directly impact sensorimotor relationships with spared subcortical volumes.

**Limitations and Future Directions**

A key limitation of pooling multi-site individual patient data is inconsistent variables across cohorts, limiting subgroup analyses and reducing the number of included covariates. Models only included the covariates age, sex, and intracranial volume; however, many additional demographic variables, such as duration and type of rehabilitation received, handedness, race, educational level, and comorbidities, may influence these relationships. In addition, larger sample sizes for specific behavioral measures would provide greater support for the current findings. Related, small samples (n < 50) at earlier time points of stroke (i.e., ≤ 7 days, defined as acute (Bernhardt et al., 2017)) with sensorimotor behavioral outcomes limited our ability to specifically examine acute brain-behavior relationships or subacute relationships with impairment versus activity limitations in the current analysis. Therefore, the ENIGMA Stroke Recovery Working Group recommends following consensus guidelines for greater harmonization of prospectively-collected data to facilitate more precise pooled analyses across all times after stroke in the future (Kwakkel et al., 2017).

Lesion overlap with subcortical regions, and poor segmentation of subcortical regions due to lesion-induced distortions, resulted in a variable sample size for each ROI, potentially limiting the power to detect relationships in regions with smaller samples. Furthermore, excluding individuals with lesioned or incorrectly segmented ROIs may disproportionately exclude individuals with larger lesions, who may be more severely affected. This could have biased the sample towards more mild-to-moderately impaired patients. Future studies using lesion masks for each observation could address these issues and also provide additional information about lesion location and volume and as well as direct lesion overlap with each subcortical region.
Finally, many of these subcortical regions are also critical for and related to post-stroke cognition, mood, sleep, learning and other traits of interest. While this analysis was limited to sensorimotor behavioral measures to maximize available data for analysis, these findings may not be unique to sensorimotor behavior. Future studies should assess the relationship between these subcortical volumes and additional stroke outcome measures.

**Conclusion**

This international collaborative analysis revealed significant relationships between post-stroke sensorimotor behavior and volumetric measures of the non-lesioned ipsilesional thalamus, putamen, nucleus accumbens, and lateral ventricle at different times after stroke – brain metrics that may reflect overall brain health and network integrity and could lead to the identification of novel neural targets for pharmacological or behavioral modulation in stroke rehabilitation.
Figure 1. Relationship between post-stroke sensorimotor behavior and non-lesioned subcortical volumes. Non-lesioned subcortical regions (1D, bottom right) that relate to sensorimotor behavior from linear mixed-effects models of people with subacute (1A, top left) and chronic (1B, bottom left) stroke. Non-lesioned subcortical volume relationships with chronic sensorimotor impairment is shown in 1C (top right). There were no significant volume relationships with chronic activity limitations. Colors represent the beta estimate ($\beta$) for sensorimotor behavior from each model, with warmer colors representing more positive beta estimates and cooler colors representing more negative beta estimates.
## Tables

| Cohort ID | n   | Females / Males | Median Age (IQR, min-max) | Median Sensorimotor Score (IQR, min-max) |
|-----------|-----|----------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| 1         | 39  | 10 / 29        | 61 (17, 31-80)            | 0.65 (0.23, 0.0-0.9)                   |
| 2         | 12  | 06 / 06        | 70 (12, 39-85)            | 0.50 (0.41, 0.2-0.7)                   |
| 3         | 14  | 06 / 08        | 60 (15, 33-85)            | 0.25 (0.22, 0.1-0.6)                   |
| 4         | 19  | 06 / 13        | 44 (15, 30-68)            | 0.14 (0.17, 0.0-0.5)                   |
| 7         | 42  | 14 / 28        | 56 (14, 18-80)            | 0.82 (0.35, 0.4-1.0)                   |
| 8         | 8   | 02 / 06        | 62 (10, 39-75)            | 0.55 (0.35, 0.0-1.0)                   |
| 9         | 93  | 29 / 64        | 70 (16, 24-88)            | 1.00 (0.07, 0.0-1.0)                   |
| 10        | 24  | 05 / 19        | 59 (13, 42-74)            | 1.00 (0.02, 0.7-1.0)                   |
| 11        | 29  | 10 / 19        | 57 (11, 44-71)            | 1.00 (0.05, 0.1-1.0)                   |
| 12        | 57  | 31 / 26        | 71 (17, 31-97)            | 0.65 (0.71, 0.0-1.0)                   |
| 13        | 44  | 22 / 22        | 72 (18, 33-91)            | 0.12 (0.32, 0.0-1.0)                   |
| 15        | 14  | 06 / 08        | 57 (11, 45-74)            | 0.72 (0.25, 0.4-0.8)                   |
| 17        | 16  | 05 / 11        | 59 (04, 45-68)            | 0.55 (0.23, 0.2-0.7)                   |
| 18        | 11  | 05 / 06        | 59 (07, 46-73)            | 0.65 (0.22, 0.5-0.9)                   |
| 19        | 13  | 03 / 10        | 62 (21, 33-74)            | 0.84 (0.08, 0.8-0.9)                   |
| 20        | 22  | 08 / 14        | 70 (13, 49-79)            | 0.91 (0.14, 0.3-1.0)                   |
| 22        | 17  | 04 / 13        | 59 (30, 25-72)            | 0.63 (0.50, 0.0-0.8)                   |
| 23        | 13  | 07 / 06        | 58 (08, 31-90)            | 0.42 (0.17, 0.3-0.8)                   |
| 24        | 21  | 11 / 10        | 63 (13, 32-78)            | 0.95 (0.00, 0.6-1.0)                   |
| 25        | 26  | 10 / 16        | 65 (18, 37-88)            | 0.97 (0.20, 0.0-1.0)                   |
| 26        | 24  | 14 / 10        | 49 (20, 25-71)            | 0.64 (0.14, 0.3-0.8)                   |
| 28        | 26  | 07 / 19        | 62 (11, 23-75)            | 0.75 (0.25, 0.3-1.0)                   |
| 31        | 35  | 09 / 26        | 58 (12, 21-86)            | 0.52 (0.31, 0.2-0.9)                   |
| 32        | 7   | 03 / 04        | 62 (16, 38-72)            | 0.95 (0.44, 0.2-1.0)                   |
| 34        | 15  | 06 / 09        | 58 (11, 32-80)            | 0.82 (0.20, 0.6-1.0)                   |
| 35        | 15  | 06 / 09        | 64 (18, 31-83)            | 0.64 (0.52, 0.2-0.9)                   |
| 38        | 81  | 34 / 47        | 66 (19, 30-89)            | 0.85 (0.60, 0.0-1.0)                   |
| 41        | 91  | 33 / 58        | 70 (15, 32-89)            | 1.00 (0.02, 0.8-1.0)                   |
| **TOTAL** | 828 | 312 / 516      | **63 (19, 18-97)**        | **0.82 (0.48, 0-1)**                   |

**Table 1. Summary of research cohort characteristics.** Age and sensorimotor behavioral score data are shown as median (interquartile range (IQR), minimum-maximum values)
### SUBACUTE AND CHRONIC STROKE

#### SUBACUTE STROKE (≤ 90 days)

| Brain Region | n   | beta (CI)     | SE  | df  | t-value | p-value | d    | Significant covariates |
|--------------|-----|---------------|-----|-----|---------|---------|------|------------------------|
| Ipsilesional |     |               |     |     |         |         |      |                        |
| Caudate      | 194 | -0.01 (-0.51-0.48) | 0.25 | 180 | -0.06   | 0.954   | -0.01 | ICV                    |
| Lateral ventricle | 274 | 0.18 (-0.14-0.51) | 0.16 | 259 | 1.13    | 0.258   | 0.14  | Age, ICV               |
| Nucleus accumbens | 245 | 0.24 (-0.14-0.62) | 0.19 | 231 | 1.26    | 0.210   | 0.17  | Age                    |
| Pallidum     | 223 | 0.21 (-0.26-0.67) | 0.24 | 209 | 0.87    | 0.387   | 0.12  | ICV                    |
| Putamen      | 201 | 0.39 (-0.09-0.88) | 0.25 | 187 | 1.61    | 0.109   | 0.24  | Age, ICV               |
| Thalamus     | 210 | 0.69 (0.27-1.11)  | 0.21 | 197 | 3.21    | 0.002   | 0.46  | Age, ICV               |
| Contralesional |     |               |     |     |         |         |      |                        |
| Caudate      | 219 | 0.22 (-0.20-0.64) | 0.21 | 205 | 1.04    | 0.298   | 0.15  | ICV                    |
| Lateral ventricle | 274 | 0.15 (-0.18-0.49) | 0.17 | 259 | 0.92    | 0.361   | 0.11  | Age, ICV               |
| Nucleus accumbens | 253 | 0.15 (-0.23-0.52) | 0.19 | 239 | 0.77    | 0.443   | 0.10  | Age, ICV               |
| Pallidum     | 250 | 0.50 (0.07-0.92)  | 0.22 | 236 | 2.30    | 0.022   | 0.30  | ICV                    |
| Putamen      | 229 | 0.37 (-0.05-0.79) | 0.21 | 215 | 1.75    | 0.081   | 0.24  | Age, ICV               |
| Thalamus     | 217 | 0.09 (-0.33-0.50) | 0.21 | 204 | 0.41    | 0.679   | 0.06  | Age, ICV               |

#### CHRONIC STROKE (≥ 180 days)

| Brain Region | n   | beta (CI)     | SE  | df  | t-value | p-value | d    | Significant covariates |
|--------------|-----|---------------|-----|-----|---------|---------|------|------------------------|
| Ipsilesional |     |               |     |     |         |         |      |                        |
| Caudate      | 193 | 0.27 (-0.28-0.82) | 0.28 | 169 | 0.98    | 0.330   | 0.15 | ICV                    |
| Lateral ventricle | 404 | -0.70 (-1.04-0.36) | 0.17 | 378 | -4.04   | <0.001  | -0.42 | Age, ICV               |
| Nucleus accumbens | 289 | 0.72 (0.27-1.18)  | 0.23 | 264 | 3.15    | 0.002   | 0.39 | Age                    |
| Pallidum     | 225 | 0.30 (-0.23-0.84) | 0.27 | 200 | 1.11    | 0.267   | 0.16 | ICV                    |
| Putamen      | 207 | 1.01 (0.45-1.57)  | 0.28 | 183 | 3.54    | <0.001  | 0.52 | Age                    |
| Thalamus     | 169 | 0.08 (-0.60-0.75) | 0.34 | 146 | 0.22    | 0.827   | 0.04 | Age                    |
| Contralesional |     |               |     |     |         |         |      |                        |
| Caudate      | 345 | 0.08 (-0.31-0.48) | 0.20 | 320 | 0.41    | 0.679   | 0.05 | ICV                    |
| Lateral ventricle | 404 | -0.39 (-0.70-0.07) | 0.16 | 378 | -2.42   | 0.016   | -0.25 | Age, ICV               |
| Nucleus accumbens | 344 | 0.21 (-0.22-0.65) | 0.22 | 319 | 0.96    | 0.339   | 0.11 | Age                    |
| Pallidum     | 359 | 0.20 (-0.20-0.60) | 0.20 | 334 | 0.97    | 0.332   | 0.11 | Sex, ICV               |
| Putamen      | 355 | 0.21 (-0.18-0.60) | 0.20 | 330 | 1.06    | 0.291   | 0.12 | Age, ICV               |
| Thalamus     | 329 | -0.24 (-0.60-0.12) | 0.18 | 304 | -1.29   | 0.196   | -0.15 | Age, ICV               |

Table 2. Relationships between non-lesioned subcortical volumes and sensorimotor behavior in subacute and chronic stroke. Results from linear mixed-effects models of individuals with subacute stroke (top) and chronic stroke (bottom). Results in bold indicate significance with a Bonferroni correction for multiple comparisons (p<0.004). The beta coefficient for sensorimotor behavior (beta) with 95% confidence interval (CI), along with the sample size (n), standard error (SE), degrees of freedom (df), standardized effect size (d), t-value, and uncorrected p-value are reported, in addition to significant fixed covariates including age, sex, and intracranial volume (ICV).
CHRONIC SENSORIMOTOR IMPAIRMENT AND ACTIVITY LIMITATIONS

### SENSORIMOTOR IMPAIRMENT IN CHRONIC STROKE

| Brain Region   | n   | beta (CI)       | SE  | df  | t-value | p-value | d      | Significant covariates |
|----------------|-----|-----------------|-----|-----|---------|---------|--------|------------------------|
| **Ipsilesional** |     |                 |     |     |         |         |        |                        |
| Caudate        | 94  | 0.92 (-0.06-1.89) | 0.49 | 77  | 1.87    | 0.065   | 0.43   | Age, ICV               |
| Lateral ventricle | 256 | -0.74 (-1.20-0.27) | 0.24 | 237 | -3.13   | 0.002   | -0.41 | Age, ICV               |
| Nucleus accumbens | 171 | 0.58 (0.01-1.15)  | 0.29 | 153 | 2.02    | 0.045   | 0.33   | Age                   |
| Pallidum       | 120 | 0.76 (0.01-1.51)  | 0.38 | 102 | 2.02    | 0.046   | 0.40   | -                      |
| **Putamen**    | **104** | **1.50 (0.61-2.39)** | **0.45** | **87** | **3.34** | **0.001** | **0.72** | -                      |
| Thalamus       | 84  | 0.33 (-0.72-1.38)  | 0.53 | 68  | 0.62    | 0.537   | 0.15   | -                      |

| **Contralesional** |     |                 |     |     |         |         |        |                        |
| Caudate         | 222 | 0.06 (-0.44-0.57)  | 0.26 | 204 | 0.25    | 0.806   | 0.03   | ICV                    |
| Lateral ventricle | 256 | -0.51 (-0.88-0.14) | 0.19 | 237 | -2.70   | 0.007   | -0.35 | Age, ICV               |
| Nucleus accumbens | 222 | 0.21 (-0.31-0.73)  | 0.26 | 204 | 0.80    | 0.425   | 0.11   | Age                   |
| Pallidum        | 231 | 0.20 (-0.33-0.73)  | 0.27 | 213 | 0.74    | 0.459   | 0.10   | Sex                    |
| Putamen         | 229 | -0.38 (-0.88-0.58)  | 0.24 | 211 | 0.41    | 0.681   | 0.06   | Age, ICV               |
| Thalamus        | 211 | -0.40 (-0.88-0.07)  | 0.24 | 193 | -1.67   | 0.096   | -0.24 | Age, ICV               |

### ACTIVITY LIMITATIONS IN CHRONIC STROKE

| Brain Region   | n   | beta (CI)       | SE  | df  | t-value | p-value | d      | Significant covariates |
|----------------|-----|-----------------|-----|-----|---------|---------|--------|------------------------|
| **Ipsilesional** |     |                 |     |     |         |         |        |                        |
| Caudate        | 52  | -0.63 (-1.80-0.53) | 0.58 | 44  | -1.09   | 0.280   | -0.33  | -                      |
| Lateral ventricle | 116 | -0.71 (-1.46-0.04) | 0.38 | 108 | -1.88   | 0.062   | -0.36  | Age, ICV               |
| Nucleus accumbens | 86  | 0.77 (-0.31-1.85)  | 0.54 | 78  | 1.42    | 0.159   | 0.32   | -                      |
| Pallidum       | 64  | 0.71 (-0.25-1.67)  | 0.48 | 56  | 1.47    | 0.146   | 0.39   | -                      |
| Putamen        | 65  | 0.71 (-0.62-2.04)  | 0.67 | 57  | 1.06    | 0.292   | 0.28   | -                      |
| Thalamus       | 56  | 0.94 (-0.36-2.25)  | 0.65 | 48  | 1.45    | 0.153   | 0.42   | -                      |

| **Contralesional** |     |                 |     |     |         |         |        |                        |
| Caudate         | 96  | -0.07 (-0.98-0.84)  | 0.46 | 88  | -0.15   | 0.885   | -0.03  | -                      |
| Lateral ventricle | 116 | -0.72 (-1.44-0.01) | 0.37 | 108 | -1.95   | 0.054   | -0.38  | Age, ICV               |
| Nucleus accumbens | 107 | -0.34 (-1.17-0.49) | 0.42 | 99  | -0.81   | 0.420   | -0.16  | Age                   |
| Pallidum        | 103 | -0.15 (-0.98-0.68)  | 0.42 | 95  | -0.35   | 0.728   | -0.07  | Sex                    |
| Putamen         | 100 | 0.06 (-0.91-1.03)  | 0.49 | 92  | 0.12    | 0.903   | 0.03   | Age                   |
| Thalamus        | 92  | 0.28 (-0.51-1.06)  | 0.39 | 84  | 0.71    | 0.482   | 0.15   | Age, ICV               |

Table 3.  Relationships between non-lesioned subcortical volumes and two measures of sensorimotor behavior (impairment, activity limitations). Results from linear mixed-effects models in individuals with chronic stroke of sensorimotor impairment (top) compared to activity limitations (bottom). Results in bold indicate significance with a Bonferroni correction for multiple comparisons (p<0.004). The beta coefficient for sensorimotor impairment/activity limitations (beta) with 95% confidence interval (CI), along with the sample size (n), standard error (SE), degrees of freedom (df), standardized effect size (d), t-value, and uncorrected p-value are reported, in addition to significant fixed covariates including age, sex, and intracranial volume (ICV).
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### Supplementary Table 1. Additional cohort details.

Research sites (institutions, countries) and primary sensorimotor assessment used are listed for each cohort. FMA-UE = Fugl-Meyer Assessment of Upper Extremities.
## Supplementary Table 2. Relationships between non-lesioned subcortical volumes and sensorimotor behavior in early stroke (≤ 21 days; n=179).

Results from linear mixed-effects models of individuals with early stroke. Uncorrected p-values shown. Results in bold indicate significance with a Bonferroni correction for multiple comparisons (p<0.004). The beta coefficient for sensorimotor behavior (beta) with 95% confidence interval (CI), along with the sample size (n), standard error (SE), degrees of freedom (df), standardized effect size (d), t-value, and uncorrected p-value are reported, in addition to significant fixed covariates including age, sex, and intracranial volume (ICV).

| Brain Region   | n     | beta (CI)          | SE   | df    | t-value | p-value | d     | Significant covariates |
|----------------|-------|--------------------|------|-------|---------|---------|-------|------------------------|
| **Ipsilesional** |       |                    |      |       |         |         |       |                        |
| Caudate        | 135   | -0.09 (-0.67-0.48) | 0.29 | 125   | -0.32   | 0.749   | -0.06 | ICV                    |
| Lateral ventricle | 182   | 0.25 (-0.11-0.61) | 0.18 | 172   | 1.37    | 0.173   | 0.21  | Age, ICV               |
| Nucleus accumbens | 165   | 0.19 (-0.23-0.60) | 0.21 | 155   | 0.90    | 0.369   | 0.14  | Age                    |
| Pallidum       | 157   | 0.12 (-0.39-0.63) | 0.26 | 147   | 0.46    | 0.644   | 0.08  | ICV                    |
| Putamen        | 143   | 0.25 (-0.28-0.79) | 0.27 | 133   | 0.93    | 0.354   | 0.16  | Age, ICV               |
| Thalamus       | 137   | 0.79 (0.38-1.20) | 0.21 | 128   | 3.82    | <0.001  | 0.68  | Age, ICV               |
| **Contralesional** |     |                    |      |       |         |         |       |                        |
| Caudate        | 147   | 0.17 (-0.29-0.64) | 0.24 | 137   | 0.74    | 0.461   | 0.13  | ICV                    |
| Lateral ventricle | 182   | 0.19 (-0.20-0.57) | 0.19 | 172   | 0.96    | 0.337   | 0.15  | Age, ICV               |
| Nucleus accumbens | 170   | 0.30 (-0.09-0.69) | 0.20 | 160   | 1.53    | 0.127   | 0.24  | Age                    |
| Pallidum       | 171   | 0.65 (0.19-1.11) | 0.23 | 161   | 2.79    | 0.006   | 0.44  | ICV                    |
| Putamen        | 158   | 0.26 (-0.21-0.72) | 0.24 | 148   | 1.10    | 0.274   | 0.18  | Age, ICV               |
| Thalamus       | 150   | 0.20 (-0.28-0.67) | 0.24 | 141   | 0.82    | 0.411   | 0.14  | Age, ICV               |
| Brain Region | n   | df  | Interaction between Sensorimotor Behavior & Lesioned Hemisphere | Main Effect Lesioned Hemisphere | Main Effect Sensorimotor Behavior | Significant Covariates |
|--------------|-----|-----|---------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|
|              |     |     | beta   SE  p-value                                      | beta   SE  p-value                  | beta   SE  p-value                  |                        |
|              |     |     |         |                                                          |                                  |                                  |                        |
|              |     |     | Ipsilesional |                                           |                                   |                                  |                        |
| Caudate      | 193 | 167 | 0.14  0.52  0.789                                      | -0.17  0.44  0.693                    | 0.26  0.28  0.365                    | ICV                    |
| Lateral ventricle | 404 | 376 | 0.21  0.29  0.487                                      | -0.13  0.23  0.572                    | -0.70  0.17  <0.001                   | Age, ICV               |
| Nucleus accumbens | 289 | 262 | 0.21  0.39  0.593                                      | -0.13  0.31  0.684                    | 0.73  0.23  0.002                    | Age                    |
| Pallidum     | 225 | 198 | -0.53  0.48  0.272                                     | 0.52  0.39  0.191                     | 0.35  0.27  0.207                    | ICV                    |
| Putamen      | 207 | 181 | -0.03  0.53  0.953                                     | -0.28  0.44  0.525                    | 0.90  0.29  0.002                    | ICV                    |
| Thalamus     | 169 | 144 | 0.17  0.63  0.792                                     | -0.95  0.51  0.065                    | 0.05  0.32  0.887                    | Age, ICV               |
|              |     |     | Contralesional |                                          |                                   |                                  |                        |
| Caudate      | 345 | 318 | 0.12  0.33  0.731                                     | -0.14  0.26  0.583                    | 0.06  0.21  0.760                    | ICV                    |
| Lateral ventricle | 404 | 376 | 0.27  0.28  0.343                                     | 0.06  0.21  0.789                    | -0.35  0.16  0.030                   | Age, ICV               |
| Nucleus accumbens | 344 | 317 | 0.38  0.35  0.282                                     | -0.32  0.27  0.236                    | 0.18  0.22  0.423                    | Age                    |
| Pallidum     | 359 | 332 | 0.07  0.32  0.819                                     | -0.43  0.25  0.083                    | 0.09  0.20  0.672                    | Sex, ICV               |
| Putamen      | 355 | 328 | -0.08  0.31  0.796                                   | 0.14  0.24  0.553                    | 0.23  0.20  0.243                    | Age, ICV               |
| Thalamus     | 329 | 302 | 0.25  0.30  0.405                                     | 0.47  0.23  0.045                    | -0.17  0.18  0.353                   | Age, ICV               |

**Supplementary Table 3.** Relationships between non-lesioned subcortical volumes, lesioned hemisphere, and sensorimotor behavior in chronic stroke. Results from linear mixed-effects models including an interaction term between lesioned hemisphere and sensorimotor behavior in people with chronic stroke. There were no significant interactions or main effects of lesioned hemisphere. The significant main effects for sensorimotor behavior remained, similar to those shown in Table 2. Results in bold indicate significance with a Bonferroni correction for multiple comparisons (p<0.004). The beta coefficients (beta), standard error (SE), and uncorrected p-value for the interaction between lesioned hemisphere and sensorimotor behavior, as well as main effects for lesioned hemisphere and sensorimotor behavior, are reported, along with the sample size (n), degrees
of freedom (df), standardized effects size (d), and significant fixed covariates including age, sex, and intracranial volume (ICV).
Difference in sensorimotor behavior between chronic left and right hemisphere stroke groups

We examined whether there was a difference in sensorimotor behavior between chronic left hemisphere stroke (LHS; n=214) and right hemisphere stroke (RHS; n=190). The distribution of sensorimotor behavior scores violated the Wilkes-Shapiro test of normality for both groups (LHS: W=0.89, p<0.001, RHS: W=0.89, p<0.001). We therefore used a nonparametric Wilcoxon rank sum test to compare independent group samples. The median sensorimotor behavior score in LHS was 0.80 (IQR=0.39) and in RHS was 0.74 (IQR=0.49). The Wilcoxon test showed no significant effect of lesioned hemisphere (p=0.29, effect size r=0.053).

### ALL STROKE

| Brain Region     | n   | beta (CI)         | SE  | df   | t-value | p-value | d   | Significant covariates       |
|------------------|-----|-------------------|-----|------|---------|---------|-----|-----------------------------|
|                  |     |                   |     |      |         |         |     | Ipsilesional                |
| Caudate          | 482 | 0.15 (-0.18-0.48) | 0.17| 451  | 0.89    | 0.375   | 0.08| Sex, ICV                    |
| Lateral ventricle| 828 | -0.39 (-0.63-0.16)| 0.12| 796  | -3.26   | 0.001   | -0.23| Age, ICV                    |
| Nucleus accumbens| 655 | 0.41 (0.13-0.68)  | 0.14| 624  | 2.91    | 0.004   | 0.23| Age                         |
| Pallidum         | 546 | 0.29 (-0.04-0.61) | 0.16| 515  | 1.75    | 0.081   | 0.15| ICV                         |
| Putamen          | 490 | 0.64 (0.28-1.00)  | 0.18| 459  | 3.53    | <0.001  | 0.33| Age, ICV                    |
| Thalamus         | 462 | 0.58 (0.25-0.91)  | 0.17| 433  | 3.47    | 0.001   | 0.33| Age, ICV                    |
|                  |     |                   |     |      |         |         |     | Contralesional               |
| Caudate          | 689 | 0.01 (-0.26-0.28) | 0.14| 658  | 0.08    | 0.939   | 0.01| ICV                         |
| Lateral ventricle| 828 | -0.26 (-0.49-0.03)| 0.11| 796  | -2.27   | 0.024   | -0.16| Age, ICV                    |
| Nucleus accumbens| 727 | 0.10 (-0.15-0.36) | 0.13| 696  | 0.78    | 0.436   | 0.06| Age, ICV                    |
| Pallidum         | 743 | 0.28 (0.02-0.54)  | 0.13| 712  | 2.08    | 0.038   | 0.16| Age, ICV                    |
| Putamen          | 704 | 0.19 (-0.07-0.45) | 0.13| 673  | 1.45    | 0.147   | 0.11| Age, ICV                    |
| Thalamus         | 663 | -0.02 (-0.28-0.24)| 0.13| 633  | -0.13   | 0.898   | -0.01| Age, ICV                    |

Supplementary Table 4. Relationships between non-lesioned subcortical volumes and sensorimotor behavior post-stroke across all times after stroke (N=828). Results from linear mixed-effects models of individuals across all times after stroke. Uncorrected p-values shown. Results in bold indicate significance with a Bonferroni correction for multiple comparisons (p<0.004). The beta coefficient for sensorimotor behavior (beta) with 95% confidence interval (CI), along with the sample size (n), standard error (SE), degrees of freedom (df), standardized effect size (d), t-value, and uncorrected p-value are reported, in addition to significant fixed covariates including age, sex, and intracranial volume (ICV).
**ROBUST REGRESSIONS FOR SUBACUTE AND CHRONIC STROKE**

### SUBACUTE STROKE (≤ 90 days)

| Brain Region     | n   | beta (CI)          | SE  | t-value | p-value | Significant covariates |
|------------------|-----|--------------------|-----|---------|---------|------------------------|
| **Ipsilesional** |     |                    |     |         |         |                        |
| Caudate          | 194 | 0.07 (-0.37 – 0.51)| 0.22| 0.33    | 0.742   | ICV                    |
| Lateral ventricle| 274 | 0.15 (-0.12 – 0.42)| 0.14| 1.11    | 0.267   | Age, ICV               |
| Nucleus accumbens| 245 | 0.18 (-0.21 – 0.57)| 0.20| 0.90    | 0.366   | Age                    |
| Pallidum         | 223 | 0.17 (-0.22 – 0.57)| 0.20| 0.87    | 0.387   | ICV                    |
| Putamen          | 201 | 0.40 (-0.06 – 0.86)| 0.23| 1.72    | 0.086   | Age, ICV               |
| **Thalamus**     | 210 | **0.69 (0.26 – 1.11)**| 0.22| **3.17**| **0.002**| Age, ICV               |
| **Contralesional**|    |                    |     |         |         |                        |
| Caudate          | 219 | 0.23 (-0.20 – 0.66)| 0.22| 1.04    | 0.297   | ICV                    |
| Lateral ventricle| 274 | 0.06 (-0.24 – 0.36)| 0.15| 0.37    | 0.714   | Age, ICV               |
| Nucleus accumbens| 253 | 0.19 (-0.17 – 0.55)| 0.18| 1.05    | 0.294   | Age, ICV               |
| Pallidum         | 250 | 0.59 (0.17 – 1.01)| 0.22| 2.73    | 0.006   | ICV                    |
| Putamen          | 229 | 0.31 (-0.08 – 0.70)| 0.20| 1.57    | 0.116   | Age, ICV               |
| Thalamus         | 217 | 0.09 (-0.25 – 0.44)| 0.18| 0.52    | 0.603   | Age, ICV               |

### CHRONIC STROKE (≥ 180 days)

| Brain Region     | n   | beta (CI)          | SE  | t-value | p-value | Significant covariates |
|------------------|-----|--------------------|-----|---------|---------|------------------------|
| **Ipsilesional** |     |                    |     |         |         |                        |
| Caudate          | 193 | 0.31 (-0.21 – 0.83)| 0.26| 1.18    | 0.240   | ICV                    |
| Lateral ventricle| 404 | -0.71 (-1.02 – -0.41)| 0.16| **-4.58**| <0.001  | Age, ICV               |
| Nucleus accumbens| 289 | **0.64 (0.20 – 1.07)**| 0.22| **2.88**| **0.004**| Age                    |
| Pallidum         | 225 | 0.50 (0.04 – 0.97)| 0.24| 2.13    | 0.033   | ICV                    |
| **Putamen**      | 207 | **1.02 (0.48 – 1.55)**| 0.27| **3.72**| <0.001  | Age, ICV               |
| Thalamus         | 169 | 0.11 (-0.53 – 0.75)| 0.33| 0.33    | 0.740   | Age                    |
| **Contralesional**|    |                    |     |         |         |                        |
| Caudate          | 345 | 0.14 (-0.27 – 0.55)| 0.21| 0.67    | 0.501   | ICV                    |
| Lateral ventricle| 404 | -0.36 (-0.63 – -0.09)| 0.14| -2.62   | 0.009   | Age, ICV               |
| Nucleus accumbens| 344 | 0.22 (-0.19 – 0.63)| 0.21| 1.07    | 0.285   | Age                    |
| Pallidum         | 359 | 0.32 (-0.01 – 0.64)| 0.17| 1.91    | 0.056   | Age, ICV               |
| Putamen          | 355 | 0.22 (-0.15 – 0.60)| 0.19| 1.16    | 0.244   | Age, ICV               |
| Thalamus         | 329 | -0.20 (-0.57 – 0.17)| 0.19| -1.06   | 0.288   | Age, ICV               |

Supplementary Table 5. Robust regressions to examine relationships between non-lesioned subcortical volumes and sensorimotor behavior in subacute and chronic stroke. Results from robust linear mixed-effects models of individuals with subacute stroke (top) and chronic stroke (bottom). Results in bold indicate significance with a Bonferroni correction for multiple comparisons (p<0.004). The beta coefficient for sensorimotor behavior (beta) with 95% confidence interval (CI), along with the sample size (n), standard error (SE), t-value, and uncorrected p-value are reported, in addition to significant fixed covariates including age, sex, and intracranial volume (ICV).
**ROBUST REGRESSIONS FOR CHRONIC SENSORIMOTOR IMPAIRMENT AND ACTIVITY LIMITATIONS**

### CHRONIC SENSORIMOTOR IMPAIRMENT

| Brain Region      | n   | beta (CI)        | SE  | t-value | p-value | Significant covariates |
|-------------------|-----|------------------|-----|---------|---------|------------------------|
| **Ipsilesional**  |     |                  |     |         |         |                        |
| Caudate           | 194 | 0.98 (0.08 – 1.88) | 0.46 | 2.14    | 0.032   | ICV                    |
| Lateral ventricle | 274 | -0.70 (-1.13 – -0.27) | **0.22** | **-3.2** | **0.001** | Age, ICV              |
| Nucleus accumbens | 245 | 0.63 (0.08 – 1.18)  | 0.28 | 2.24    | 0.025   | Age                    |
| Pallidum          | 223 | 0.79 (0.07 – 1.51)  | 0.37 | 2.16    | 0.031   | -                      |
| Putamen           | 201 | **1.54 (0.60 – 2.47)** | **0.48** | **3.23** | **0.001** | -                      |
| Thalamus          | 210 | 0.56 (-0.33 – 1.44) | 0.45 | 1.23    | 0.22    | -                      |
| **Contralesional**|     |                  |     |         |         |                        |
| Caudate           | 219 | 0.02 (-0.52 – 0.56) | 0.27 | 0.08    | 0.939   | ICV                    |
| Lateral ventricle | 274 | -0.46 (-0.80 – -0.13) | 0.17 | -2.72   | 0.006   | Age, ICV              |
| Nucleus accumbens | 253 | 0.22 (-0.32 – 0.76) | 0.28 | 0.80    | 0.423   | Age                    |
| Pallidum          | 250 | 0.31 (-0.13 – 0.75) | 0.22 | 1.39    | 0.166   | ICV                    |
| Putamen           | 229 | 0.02 (-0.46 – 0.51) | 0.25 | 0.09    | 0.932   | Age, ICV              |
| Thalamus          | 217 | -0.34 (-0.84 – -0.15) | 0.25 | -1.36   | 0.173   | Age, ICV              |

### ACTIVITY LIMITATIONS

| Brain Region      | n   | beta (CI)        | SE  | t-value | p-value | Significant covariates |
|-------------------|-----|------------------|-----|---------|---------|------------------------|
| **Ipsilesional**  |     |                  |     |         |         |                        |
| Caudate           | 193 | -0.48 (-1.64 – 0.69) | 0.60 | -0.80   | 0.425   | -                      |
| Lateral ventricle | 404 | -0.70 (-1.32 – -0.09) | 0.31 | -2.24   | 0.025   | Age, ICV              |
| Nucleus accumbens | 289 | 0.68 (-0.30 – 1.67) | 0.50 | 1.36    | 0.172   | -                      |
| Pallidum          | 225 | 0.88 (-0.04 – 1.80)  | 0.47 | 1.88    | 0.060   | -                      |
| Putamen           | 207 | 0.87 (-0.32 – 2.05)  | 0.60 | 1.43    | 0.152   | -                      |
| Thalamus          | 169 | 1.19 (-0.08 – 2.46)  | 0.65 | 1.84    | 0.066   | -                      |
| **Contralesional**|     |                  |     |         |         |                        |
| Caudate           | 345 | 0.14 (-0.74 – 1.02)  | 0.45 | 0.32    | 0.750   | ICV                    |
| Lateral ventricle | 404 | -0.72 (-1.31 – -0.13) | 0.30 | -2.38   | 0.017   | Age, ICV              |
| Nucleus accumbens | 344 | -0.33 (-1.13 – 0.46) | 0.41 | -0.82   | 0.413   | Age                    |
| Pallidum          | 359 | -0.07 (-0.93 – -0.79) | 0.44 | -0.16   | 0.874   | Sex                    |
| Putamen           | 355 | 0.33 (-0.54 – 1.20)  | 0.44 | 0.75    | 0.454   | Age                    |
| Thalamus          | 329 | 0.19 (-0.57 – 0.95)  | 0.39 | 0.49    | 0.626   | Age, Sex               |

Supplementary Table 6. Robust regressions to examine relationships between non-lesioned subcortical volumes and two measures of sensorimotor behavior (impairment, activity limitations). Results from robust linear mixed-effects models in individuals with chronic stroke showing sensorimotor impairment (top) compared to activity limitations (bottom). Results in bold indicate significance with a Bonferroni correction for multiple comparisons (p<0.004). The beta coefficient for sensorimotor behavior (beta) with 95% confidence interval (CI), along with the sample size (n), standard error (SE), t-value, and uncorrected p-value are reported, in addition to significant fixed covariates including age, sex, and intracranial volume (ICV).