Associations between Total Cerebral Blood Flow and Age Related Changes of the Brain

Adriaan C. G. M. van Es1*, Jeroen van der Grond1, V. Hester ten Dam2, Anton J. M. de Craen2, Gerard J. Blauw2, Rudi G. J. Westendorp2, Faiza Admiraal-Behloul3, Mark A. van Buchem1, for the PROSPER Study Group

1 Department of Radiology, Leiden University Medical Center, Leiden, The Netherlands, 2 Section of Gerontology and Geriatrics, Department of General Internal Medicine, Leiden University Medical Center, Leiden, The Netherlands, 3 Section of Image Processing (LKEB), Department of Radiology, Leiden University Medical Center, Leiden, The Netherlands

Abstract

Background and Purpose: Although total cerebral blood flow (tCBF) is known to be related to age, less is known regarding the associations between tCBF and the morphologic changes of the brain accompanying cerebral aging. The purpose of this study was to investigate whether total cerebral blood flow (tCBF) is related to white matter hyperintensity (WMH) volume and/or cerebral atrophy. Furthermore, we investigate whether tCBF should be expressed in mL/min, as was done in all previous MR studies, or in mL/100 mL/min, which yielded good results in previous SPECT, PET and perfusion MRI studies investigating regional cerebral blood flow.

Materials and Methods: Patients were included from the nested MRI sub-study of the PROSPER study. Dual fast spin echo and FLAIR images were obtained in all patients. In addition, single slice phase contrast MR angiography was used for flow measurements in the internal carotids and vertebral arteries. tCBF was expressed in both mL/min and mL/100 mL/min.

Results: We found a significant correlation between tCBF in mL/min and both age ($r = -0.124; p = 0.001$) and parenchymal volume ($r = 0.430; p = 0.001$). We found no association between tCBF in mL/min and %-atrophy ($r = -0.077; p = 0.103$) or total WMH volume ($r = -0.069; p = 0.148$). When tCBF was expressed in mL/100 mL/min the correlation between tCBF and age was no longer found ($r = -0.001; p = 0.985$). Multivariate regression analyses corrected for age showed a significant correlation between tCBF in mL/100 mL/min and WMH volume ($r = -0.106; p = 0.044$). No significant association between tCBF in mL/100 mL/min and %-atrophy was found.

Conclusion: From this study we conclude that, when evaluating tCBF alterations due to various pathologies, tCBF should in mL/100 mL/min instead of mL/min. Furthermore, changes or differences in WMH volume should be accounted for.

Introduction

Determination of total cerebral (tCBF) blood flow to the brain, by measuring flow in the internal carotid arteries (ICA) and posterior circulation has been applied in patients with obstructive disease of the ICA or posterior circulation[1,2], arteriovenous malformations[3], acute neurotrauma[4], cerebral ischemia[5], and the evaluation of vascular interventions such as bypass surgery[6] or carotid endarterectomy[7]. In these studies tCBF was expressed in mL/min, regardless of the volume of the supplied brain. However, for interpretation of the data, Buiss et al. have published a flow decrease of 4.8 ml/min per year in a normal population[8]. In addition, Hendrikse and coworkers have shown that the distribution of flow in the brain is strongly influenced by the anatomy of the circle of Willis[9]. Determination of flow to the vessels that supply the brain seems especially useful in subjects in whom it may be expected that the volume flow is getting too low to maintain normal cerebral blood flow and function such as elderly subjects or patients suffering from Alzheimer’s disease, diabetes or atherosclerosis.

White matter hyperintensities (WMHs) and cerebral atrophy are common findings in the aging population and their prevalence increases with age[10–12]. On T2-weighted Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) WMHs are seen as patchy or diffuse areas of hyperintensity. Clinically they have been associated with gait disturbance[13], cognitive impairment[14,15], mood disorder[16] and dementia[17]. Changes in CBF might also reflect cerebral changes such as atrophy. In addition to an increased WMH load, cerebral atrophy is a common finding in the elderly and a manifestation of neuronal degeneration contributing to cognitive decline and dementia[18,19].

Low regional cerebral blood flow is one of the processes thought to underlie the development of both WMHs and atrophy as strong...
associations with vascular risk factors exist[10,20–24]. Moreover, declining blood pressure has also been associated with global brain atrophy[25]. The associations between flow and WMHs have been investigated in positron emission tomography (PET), single photon emission tomography (SPECT) and perfusion weighted MRI studies, showing a relationship between low regional cerebral blood flow (tCBF) and WMHs in small populations[26–33]. All these studies expressed the tCBF in mL/100mL/min. Therefore, contrary to previous MR studies, these flow measurements are not influenced by potential influence of the volume of the provided (part of the) brain.

Despite this evidence for an important role of the cerebral blood supply in the development of both WMHs and atrophy, only one study has investigated the association between tCBF and WMHs[34]. This study found that patients in the quartile with the highest tCBF had a lower number and severity of WMHs suggesting an association between tCBF and the presence of WMHs. However this study has two major limitations. First, WMHs were scored quantitatively and analyzed in quartiles. Second, similar to previous MR studies, the tCBF was expressed as mL/min and therefore the effect of parenchyma volume was not taken into account.

The aim of this study is two-fold: 1) to investigate whether tCBF is related to WMHs volume and/or cerebral atrophy and 2) whether these associations are influenced by expressing tCBF in mL/100 mL/min instead of mL/min.

Methods

Ethics Statement

The PROSPER study had ethics review board approval of all locations and written informed consent of all participants. In addition, the Leiden University Medical Center institutional ethics review board approved the protocol for the prospective MR study and subsequent retrospective analyses. Moreover, all participants gave written informed consent. Participants of this MR study also agreed with future retrospective analysis of their MR data for research purposes.

Patients

Patients were included from the nested MRI substudy of the PROspective Study of Pravastatin in the Elderly at Risk (PROSPER). Inclusion criteria for this study were: men or women aged 70–82 years; total cholesterol 4.0–9.0 mmol/L; stroke, transient ischemic attack, myocardial infarction, arterial surgery, or amputation for vascular disease >6 months before study entry; ≥1 of the following risk factors for vascular disease: current smoker; hypertension, currently receiving drug treatment; known diabetes mellitus or fasting blood glucose >7 mmol/L. Exclusion criteria have been described in detail elsewhere[35]. All subjects had a history of, or were at increased risk for, vascular disease. In total, 464 subjects underwent MRI including flow measurements. 17 patients dropped out because flow measurements of the ICA s or vertebral arteries or segmentation of the intracranial structures failed because of technical problems. Patient characteristics are shown in Table 1.

MRI

All imaging was performed on an MR system operating at a field strength of 1.5 Tesla (Philips Medical Systems, Best, The Netherlands). Dual fast spin echo (TE = 27/120 msec; TR = 3000 msec; flip angle = 90°; section thickness = 3 mm; number of sections = 48; no section gap; whole brain coverage; FOV = 220; scan matrix = 256 × 204; nsa = 1) and fluid-attenuated inversion recovery (FLAIR) (TE = 100 msec; TR = 8000 msec; flip angle = 90°; section thickness = 3 mm; sections = 48; no section gap; whole brain coverage; FOV = 220; scan matrix = 256 × 204, nsa = 1) images were obtained from all subjects. In addition, single slice phase contrast MR angiography (TR/TE = 16/9 msec; flip angle = 7.5°; slice thickness = 5 mm; FOV = 250; RFOV = 75%; scan percentage = 80%; matrix = 256; 8 signal averages) with a velocity encoding of 100 cm/second was used for flow measurements[36]. The scans were performed in a plane perpendicular to the left and right internal carotid artery and the vertebral arteries, at the level of the vertical segment of the petrous portion of the internal carotid artery (Figure 1).

Image Analysis

WMHs, intracranial volume, and brain parenchyma were assessed semiautomatically. That is, segmentations of WMHs, intracranial volume, and brain parenchyma were generated automatically using Software for Neuro-Image Processing in Experimental Research (SNIPER), an in-house developed program for image processing (Figure 2). The WMH volume was calculated automatically[37]. Infarcted areas were counted being CSF. All measurements were performed blinded to subject identity, age and sex. Atrophy was calculated using the formula: atrophy (%) = (intracranial volume – parenchymal volume)/intracranial volume) ×100%. For tCBF assessment, images were analyzed using the software package FLOW®[38]. For this analysis a region of interest (ROI) was manually drawn around the left and right internal carotid and the right and left vertebral arteries in the magnitude image by one observer (ACGMvE). The flow in these four vessels was summed giving the tCBF in mL/min. TCBF was also expressed in mL blood per 100 mL of brain parenchyma per min (mL/100 mL/min).

| Table 1. Demographic and clinical characteristics. |
|-----------------------------------------------|
| **Continuous variates** | **means (SD)** |
| Age, y | 75 (3) |
| Systolic blood pressure, mm Hg | 158 (23) |
| Diastolic blood pressure, mm Hg | 86 (11) |
| Total cholesterol, mmol/L | 5.8 (0.8) |
| LDL cholesterol mmol/L | 3.9 (0.7) |
| HDL cholesterol, mmol/L | 1.2 (0.3) |
| Triglycerides, mmol/L | 1.5 (0.7) |
| Total WMH volume, ml | 5.2 (9.6) |
| **Categorical variates** | n (%) |
| Male gender | 262 (56) |
| Current smoker | 96 (21) |
| History of diabetes | 76 (16) |
| History of hypertension | 293 (63) |
| History of myocard infarction | 56 (12) |
| History of stroke or TIA | 75 (16) |
| History of any vascular disease | 202 (44) |
| MRI stroke | 178 (38) |

LDL = Low-density lipoprotein.  
HDL = High-density lipoprotein.  
WMH = White matter hyperintensity.  
n = number of patients.  
% = percentage of patients.  
[do:10.1371/journal.pone.0009825.t001]
Statistical analysis

SPSS for Windows (release 12.0; SPSS, Chicago, IL) was used for data analysis. Linear regression analysis was used to investigate correlations between parameters. Age was entered as an independent variable as previous studies have reported an inverse correlation between tCBF and age[8,9]. The level of significance was set at \( p < 0.05 \).

Results

The MRI characteristics of the subjects included in this study are shown in Table 2. In this study an inverse correlation between age and tCBF in mL/min was found (\( r = -0.124; \ p = 0.008 \); Figure 3a). This corresponds with an annual flow decrease of 6.2 mL. Figure 3b shows the association between tCBF in mL/min and parenchymal volume, indicating a significant correlation (\( r = 0.430; \ p \leq 0.001 \)) between the two. When tCBF was expressed in mL/100 mL/min the correlation between tCBF and age was no longer found (\( r = -0.001; \ p = 0.985 \); Figure 3c). The volume flow (mL/min) in the individual vessels contributing to the tCBF did not show an association with age. However, significant correlations with parenchymal volume were found for both left (\( r = 0.114; \ p = 0.016 \)) and right (\( r = 0.119; \ p = 0.012 \)) vertebral artery and both left (\( r = 0.293; \ p < 0.001 \)) and right (\( r = 0.284; \ p < 0.001 \)) internal carotid artery.

We found no association between tCBF in mL/min and \%-atrophy (\( r = -0.077; \ p = 0.103 \)) or total WMH volume (\( r = -0.069; \ p = 0.148 \); Figure 4a & 4b). TCBF in mL/100 mL/min was associated with WMH volume (\( r = -0.106; \ p = 0.044 \); Figure 5). No significant association between tCBF in mL/100 mL/min and \%-atrophy was found. Furthermore, no association between parenchyma volume and WMH volume existed (\( r = 0.05; \ p = 0.317 \)).

Discussion

The findings of the present study are fourfold. First, the most important finding is the strong correlation between tCBF in mL/min and both age and parenchymal volume. However, the association between tCBF and age was no longer found when flow was expressed in mL/100 mL/min. Second, when analysed separately, the flow in mL/min over each individual vessels contributing to the cerebral blood flow was associated with parenchymal volume as well. Third, when expressing tCBF in mL/100 mL/min a correlation between tCBF and total WMH volume was found. Fourth, no association was found between tCBF in mL/100 mL/min and atrophy.

Figure 1. Single slice phase contrast MR angiography. Sagittal MRA scout image of the main brain feeding arteries (a). The white slab represents the position of the transverse angiographic phase image. This image shows the carotid arteries (arrows) and vertebral arteries (arrowheads) over which flow was measured (b).

Figure 2. The segmentation process using SNIPER (Software for Neuro-Image Processing in Experimental Research). T2-weighted image (a) and FLAIR image (b). Result of automated segmentation process based on both sequences (c).
In the present study we found a significant association between tCBF in mL/min and age, corresponding with an annual flow decrease of 6.2 mL. This confirms a previous study by Buijs et al. showing an average flow decrease of 4.8 mL/min per year[8]. The slightly higher decline of tCBF in mL/min with age found in our study is likely due to the fact that we included relatively older subjects and that all subjects had cardiovascular disease or risk factors for developing this condition. A strong association between tCBF in mL/min and parenchymal volume was found and remained after the adjustment for age. However, when the tCBF was expressed in mL/100 mL/min no significant association with age was found. Therefore it seems that parenchymal volume underlies the previous reported associations between age and tCBF mL/min.

In the present study the tCBF is obtained by the summation of the volume flow over the two carotid arteries and the two vertebral arteries. If the blood flow over these individual vessels is analysed separately, no association between the flow volume and age is found. This may be due to variation caused by the different conformations of the Circle of Willis as described by Hendrikse et al.[9] However, an association with parenchymal volume, the most important determinant of cerebral blood flow, was still present. Our data show a much higher association between the volume flow over internal carotid arteries and parenchymal volume than for the flow over the vertebral arteries. Both vertebral arteries contribute to the posterior circulation, which for a large part supplies the cerebellum. In this respect, it could be that parenchymal volume loss due to aging is different in the cerebellum than in the cerebrum.

Atherosclerotic patients have a relative high prevalence of WMHs and atrophy. In our population suffering from vascular pathology and cardiovascular risk factors it was shown that tCBF in mL/100 mL/min was associated with WMH volume. No association was found between tCBF in mL/100 mL/min and atrophy. Although we can not draw a solid conclusion from our cross-sectional study, this finding indirectly suggests that blood flow to the brain probably plays a minor role in the development of atrophy. However, atrophy is best assessed using two time points, therefore the absence of associations between atrophy and tCBF should be replicated in a longitudinal study.

A potential limitation of our study is the small age range of the included patients. All patients in the present study were aged between 72 and 85 years, which makes extrapolation of our results to younger individuals arbitrary. On the other hand, WMHs and atrophy are highly prevalent and are thought to be clinically significant in this specific age span. Furthermore, the cross-sectional design of this study could not elucidate whether decreased tCBF precedes WMH or that reduced brain function due to the presence WMH reduces tCBF flow parameters.

| tCBF and Cerebral Aging |  |
|------------------------|--|
| Table 2. MR characteristics. |  |
| | mean | SD | minimum | maximum |
| tCBF in mL/min | 510 | 87.4 | 315 | 846 |
| tCBF in mL/100 mL/min | 50.4 | 7.8 | 30.9 | 74.3 |
| Parenchymal vol. (mL) | 1016 | 98.7 | 752 | 1259 |
| Atrophy (%) | 27.3 | 3.2 | 15.6 | 38.4 |
| tot. WMH vol. (mL) | 7.1 | 10.6 | 0 | 76.2 |

* tCBF = Total cerebral blood flow.
* WMH = White matter hyperintensity.
* doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0009825.t002

In conclusion, we found that tCBF in mL/min is strongly associated with the parenchymal volume rather than age. Although this finding seems obvious, this is the first study showing this strong association. In addition, we found a much weaker association between tCBF in mL/100 mL/min and the severity of WMHs. These findings have important implications for future studies in which flow measurements are being used as diagnostic tools.
All future volume flow measurements should be expressed in mL/100 mL/min rather than mL/min. Moreover, when studying elderly patients or patients with a pathological increase of WMHs, such as diabetic type II subjects, tCBF measurements should also be corrected for WMH volumes.

Acknowledgments

PROSPER Study Group
Executive Committee: (Glasgow) J. Shepherd (chairman and principal investigator), S.M. Cobbe, I. Ford, A. Gaw, P.W. Macfarlane, C.J. Packard, D.J. Stott; (Leiden) G.J. Blauw (principal investigator), E.L.E.M. Bolien, A.M. Kamper, R.G. J. Westendorp; (Cork) M.B. Murphy (principal investigator), B.M. Buckley, M. Hyland, L.J. Perry.
End Point Committee: S.M. Cobbe (chairman), J.W. Jukema, P.W. Macfarlane, A.E. Meinders, D.J. Stott, B.J. Sweeney, C. Twomey.
Data and Safety Monitoring Committee: W.V. Brown (chairman), H.C. Diener, J. Feely, I. Ford (nonvoting), T. Pearson, S. Pocock, P.A. van Zwieten.

Author Contributions
Conceived and designed the experiments: ACGMvE JvdG VHtD AJMdC GJB RGJW FAB MAvB. Performed the experiments: ACGMvE JvdG VHtD FAB. Analyzed the data: ACGMvE JvdG AJMdC GJB RGJW MAvB. Contributed reagents/materials/analysis tools: ACGMvE AJMdC GJB RGJW FAB. Written the paper: ACGMvE JvdG MAvB.

Figure 4. Association of tCBF (in mL/min) with atrophy and WMH volume. Scatterplot of tCBF (mL/sec) versus atrophy (%) (r = –0.077; p = 0.103) (a) and total WMH volume (mL) (r = –0.069; p = 0.148) (b). Atrophy was defined by the following equation: intracranial volume - parenchyma volume/intracranial volume. Therefore, number reflects the percentage of intracranial volume occupied by cerebrospinal fluid. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0009825.g004

Figure 5. Association of tCBF (mL/100 mL/min) with WMH volume. Scatterplot of tCBF (mL/100 mL/min) versus WMH volume (mL). doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0009825.g005

cerebral blood flow measurements should be expressed in mL/100 mL/min rather than mL/min. Moreover, when studying elderly patients or patients with a pathological increase of WMHs, such as diabetic type II subjects, tCBF measurements should also be corrected for WMH volumes.

Acknowledgments

PROSPER Study Group
Executive Committee: (Glasgow) J. Shepherd (chairman and principal investigator), S.M. Cobbe, I. Ford, A. Gaw, P.W. Macfarlane, C.J. Packard, D.J. Stott; (Leiden) G.J. Blauw (principal investigator), E.L.E.M. Bolien, A.M. Kamper, R.G. J. Westendorp; (Cork) M.B. Murphy (principal investigator), B.M. Buckley, M. Hyland, L.J. Perry.
End Point Committee: S.M. Cobbe (chairman), J.W. Jukema, P.W. Macfarlane, A.E. Meinders, D.J. Stott, B.J. Sweeney, C. Twomey.
Data and Safety Monitoring Committee: W.V. Brown (chairman), H.C. Diener, J. Feely, I. Ford (nonvoting), T. Pearson, S. Pocock, P.A. van Zwieten.

Author Contributions
Conceived and designed the experiments: ACGMvE JvdG VHtD AJMdC GJB RGJW FAB. Performed the experiments: ACGMvE JvdG VHtD FAB. Analyzed the data: ACGMvE JvdG AJMdC GJB RGJW MAvB. Contributed reagents/materials/analysis tools: ACGMvE AJMdC GJB RGJW FAB. Wrote the paper: ACGMvE JvdG MAvB.

References
1. Kato T, Indo T, Yoshida E, Iwasaki Y, Sone M, et al. (2002) Contrast-enhanced 2D cine phase MR angiography for measurement of basilar artery blood flow in posterior circulation ischemia. AJNR Am J Neuroradiol 23: 1346–1351.
2. Rutgers DR, Blankenstein JQ, van der Linden I (2000) Preoperative MRA flow quantification in CEA patients: flow differences between patients who develop cerebral ischemia and patients who do not develop cerebral ischemia during cross-clamping of the carotid artery. Stroke 31: 3021–3028.
3. Wasserman BA, Lin W, Tarr RW, Haacke EM, Muller E (1995) Cerebral arteriovenous malformations: flow quantitation by means of two-dimensional cardiac-gated phase-contrast MR imaging. Radiology 194: 681–686.
4. Soundal JF, Glens TC, Vospe P, Rinsky B, Hainson C, et al. (2003) Assessment of cerebral blood flow by means of blood-flow-volume measurement in the internal carotid artery: comparative study with a 133xenon clearance technique. Stroke 34: 1876–1880.
5. Ho SS, Metreweli C (2000) Preferred technique for blood flow volume measurement in cerebrovascular disease. Stroke 31: 1342–1345.
6. Hendriks J, van der Zwan A, Ramos LM, Tulleken CA, van der Grond J (2003) Hemodynamic compensation via an excimer laser-assisted, high-flow bypass before and after therapeutical occlusion of the internal carotid artery. Neurosurgery 53: 858–863.
7. Ascher E, Markevich N, Schutzer RW, Kallakuri S, Jacobs T, et al. (2003) Cerebral hyperperfusion syndrome after carotid endarterectomy: predictive factors and hemodynamic changes. J Vasc Surg 37: 769–777.
8. Buijs PC, Krabbe-Harkamp MJ, Bakker CJ, de Lange IE, Ramos LM, et al. (1998) Effect of age on cerebral blood flow: measurement with ungated two-dimensional phase-contrast MR angiography in 250 adults. Radiology 209: 667–674.
9. Hendriks J, van Raamt AF, van der Graaf Y, Mali WP, van der Grond J (2005) Distribution of cerebral blood flow in the circle of Willis. Radiology 235: 184–189.
10. Longstreth WT, Jr., Manolio TA, Arnold A, Burke GL, Bryan N, et al. (1996) Clinical correlates of white matter findings on cranial magnetic resonance imaging of 3301 elderly people. The Cardiovascular Health Study. Stroke 27: 1274–1282.
11. Sullivan EV, Rosenbloom M, Serventi KL, Pfiefferbaum A (2004) Effects of age and sex on volumes of the thalamus, pons, and cortex. Neurobiol Aging 25: 185–192.
12. Ylikoski A, Erkijuntti T, Raininko R, Sarna S, Sulkava R, et al. (1995) White matter hyperintensities on MRI in the neurologically nondiseased elderly. Analysis of cohorts of consecutive subjects aged 55 to 85 years living at home. Stroke 26: 1171–1177.

13. Sakakibara R, Hatori T, Uchiyama T, Yamanishi T (1999) Urinary function in elderly people with and without leukoaraiosis: relation to cognitive and gait function. J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatry 67: 658–660.

14. Tarvonen-Schroder S, Ropta M, Kaita I, Kurki T, Rajala T, et al. (1996) Clinical features of leukoaraiosis. J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatry 66: 431–436.

15. Ylikoski R, Ylikoski A, Erkijuntti T, Sulkava R, Raininko R, et al. (1995) White matter changes in healthy elderly persons correlate with attention and speed of mental processing. Arch Neurol 52: 510–514.

16. Firbank MJ, Lloyd AJ, Ferrier N, O’Brien JT (2004) A volumetric study of MRI signal hyperintensities in late-life depression. Am J Geriatr Psychiatry 12: 606–612.

17. Van Gijn J (1998) Leukoaraiosis and vascular dementia. Neurology 51: 83–86.

18. Rusinek H, De Santi S, Frid D, Tsui WH, Tarshish CY, et al. (2003) Regional brain atrophy rates predicts future cognitive decline: 6-year longitudinal MR imaging study of normal aging. Radiology 229: 691–696.

19. Wegiel J, Wizniewski HM, Dzwierzakowski J, Badmajew E, Tarnawski M, et al. (1995) Cerebral white matter lesions and atherosclerosis in the Rotterdam Study. Lancet 341: 1237–1237.

20. De Leeuw FE, De Groot JC, Oudkerk M, Wittman JC, Hofman A, et al. (1999) A follow-up study of blood pressure and cerebral white matter lesions. Ann Neurol 46: 827–833.

21. De Leeuw FE, De Groot JC, Oudkerk M, Wittman JC, Hofman A, et al. (2000) Aortic atherosclerosis at middle age predicts cerebral white matter lesions in the elderly. Stroke 31: 425–429.

22. De Carlo C, Miller BL, Swan GE, Reed T, Wolf PA, et al. (1999) Predictors of brain morphology for the men of the NHLBI twin study. Stroke 30: 509–513.

23. Swan GE, DeCarli C, Miller BL, Reed T, Wolf PA, et al. (2000) Biobehavioral characteristics of nondemented older adults with subclinical brain atrophy. Neurology 54: 2100–2114.

24. Heijer T, Skoog I, Oudkerk M, De Leeuw FE, De Groot JC, et al. (2003) Association between blood pressure levels over time and brain atrophy in the elderly. Neurobiol Aging 24: 307–313.

25. Hatazawa J, Shimosegawa E, Sash T, Toyoshima H, Okudera T (1997) Subcortical hyperperfusion associated with asymptomatic white matter lesions on magnetic resonance imaging. Stroke 28: 1944–1947.

26. Isaka Y, Okamoto M, Ashida K, Imaizumi M (1994) Decreased cerebrovascular dilatory capacity in subjects with asymptomatic periventricular hyperintensities. Stroke 25: 375–381.

27. Isaka Y, Nagano K, Narita M, Ashida K, Imaizumi M (1997) High signal intensity on T2-weighted magnetic resonance imaging and cerebral hemodynamic reserve in carotid occlusive disease. Stroke 28: 334–337.

28. Kawamura J, Meyer JS, Terayama Y, Weathers S (1991) Leukoaraiosis correlates with cerebral hyperperfusion in vascular dementia. Stroke 22: 609–614.

29. Marmust JD, Garde E, Rostrup E, Ring P, Roosenbaum S, et al. (2002) Cerebral perfusion and cerebrovascular reactivity are reduced in white matter hyperintensities. Stroke 33: 972–976.

30. Meguro K, Hataza J, Yamaguchi T, Inoue M, Matsuwa T, et al. (1999) Cerebral circulation and oxygen metabolism associated with subclinical periventricular hyperintensity as shown by magnetic resonance imaging. Ann Neurol 28: 378–383.

31. O’Sullivan M, Lythgoe DJ, Pereira AC, Summers PE, Jarosz JM, et al. (2002) Patterns of cerebral blood flow reduction in patients with ischemic leukoaraiosis. Neurology 59: 321–326.

32. Yamauchi H, Tsubahara Y, Hasegawa Y, Shiraki T, Nishizawa S, et al. (1999) Brain arteriosclerosis and hemodynamic disturbance may induce leukoaraiosis. Neurology 53: 1033–1038.

33. Bischofs RH, van der Graaf Y, Mali WP, van der Grond J (2004) High total cerebral blood flow is associated with a decrease of white matter lesions. J Neuro 251: 1481–1485.

34. Shepherd J, Blauw GJ, Murphy MB, Cobbe SM, Bollen EL, et al. (1999) The design of a prospective study of Pravastatin in the Elderly at Risk (PROSPER). PROSPER Study Group. PROspective Study of Pravastatin in the Elderly at Risk. Am J Cardiol 84: 1192–1197.

35. Balcer LJ, Kosek ME, Hartkamp MJ, Hoogenveen RM, Mali WP (1995) Accuracy and precision of time-averaged flow as measured by nontriggered 2D phase-contrast MR angiography, a phantom evaluation. Magn Reson Imaging 13: 959–965.

36. van der Flier WM, Oudkerk M, Vermeer CM, van der Grond J, et al. (2002) Interaction of medial temporal lobe atrophy and lesion load in 3 years of follow-up in Alzheimer’s disease. Brain 125: 1481–1485.