

# STRIVE – Neuroimaging Standards for Measuring and Reporting Vascular Changes in Neurodegeneration

Eric Smith

Katthy Taylor Chair in Vascular Dementia Research  
University of Calgary

Dr. Sandra Black

Brill Chair in Neurology, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre  
University of Toronto

CCD, October 5



## **STRIVE standards| Funding**

- **Deutsches Zentrum für Neurodegenerative Erkrankungen (DZNE)**
- **Medical Research Council (MRC)**
- **Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)**
- **Canadian Stroke Network**
  
- **Dr Smith reports funding from CIHR, CSN, HSFC, Alz Society**

## **Workshop| Funding**

- **Unrestricted grant from GE Healthcare**



# Neuroimaging standards for research into small vessel disease and its contribution to ageing and neurodegeneration

*Joanna M Wardlaw, Eric E Smith, Geert J Biessels, Charlotte Cordonnier, Franz Fazekas, Richard Frayne, Richard I Lindley, John T O'Brien, Frederik Barkhof, Oscar R Benavente, Sandra E Black, Carol Brayne, Monique Breteler, Hugues Chabriat, Charles DeCarli, Frank-Erik de Leeuw, Fergus Doubal, Marco Duering, Nick C Fox, Steven Greenberg, Vladimir Hachinski, Ingo Kilimann, Vincent Mok, Robert van Oostenbrugge, Leonardo Pantoni, Oliver Speck, Blossom C M Stephan, Stefan Teipel, Anand Viswanathan, David Werring, Christopher Chen, Colin Smith, Mark van Buchem, Bo Norrving, Philip B Gorelick, Martin Dichgans; Standards for Reporting Vascular changes on nEuroimaging (STRIVE v1)*

*Lancet Neurol* 2013; 12: 822–38 Cerebral small vessel disease (SVD) is a common accompaniment of ageing. Features seen on neuroimaging include

**STRIVE = Standards for Reporting Vascular changes on nEuroimaging**

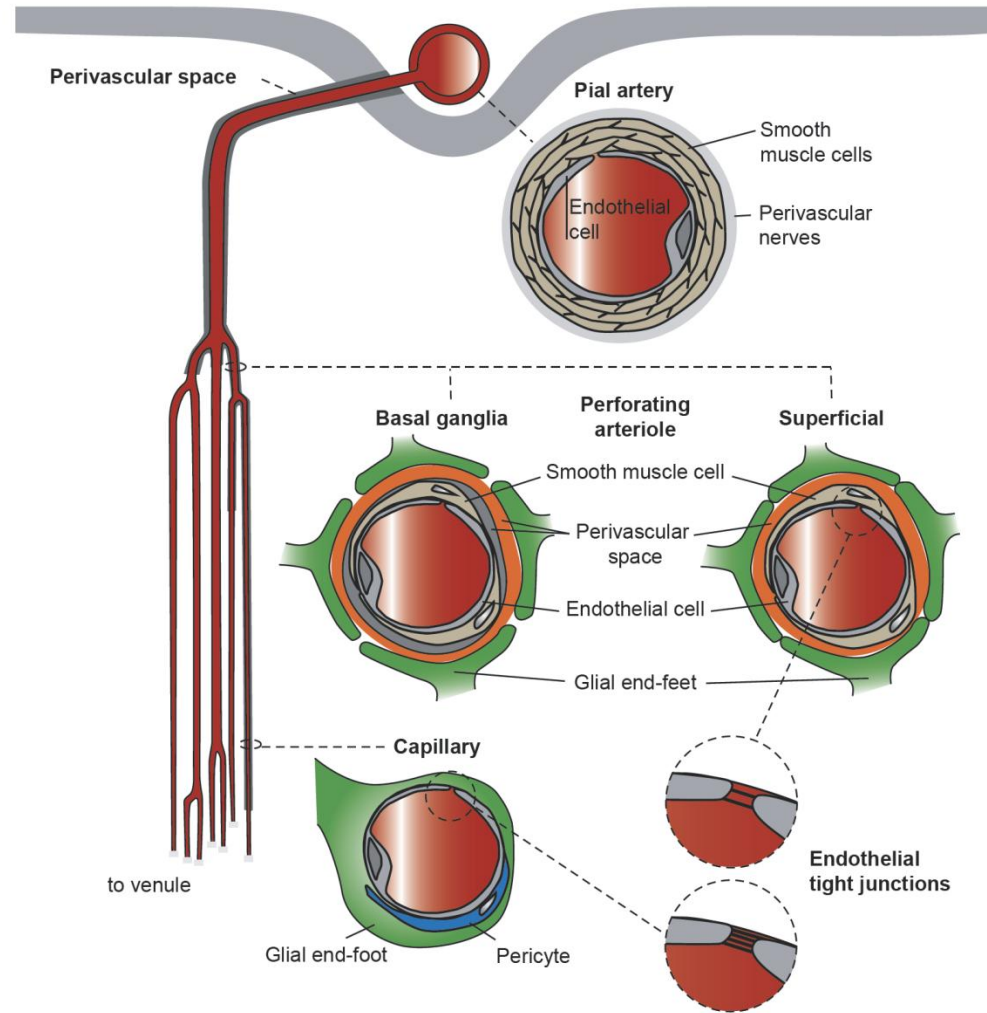
Wardlaw JM, Smith EE, Biessels GJ, et al. Neuroimaging standards for research into small vessel disease and its contribution to ageing and neurodegeneration. *Lancet Neurol* 2013;12:822-838

Email: [eesmith@ucalgary.ca](mailto:eesmith@ucalgary.ca).

# Outline

- Importance of Small Vessel Disease
- STRIVE Methods
- Consensus Recommendations for Terminology and Definitions of Small Vessel Disease
- Case Examples

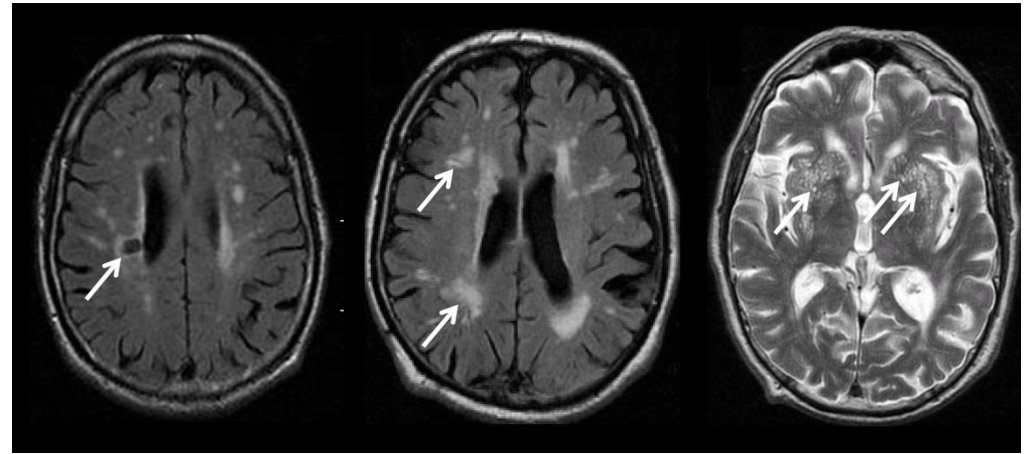
# Cerebral Small Vessel Disease



# Cerebral Small Vessel Disease is common

Common cause of

- lacunar stroke
- ICH
- cognitive impairment
- behavioral deficits
- gait disturbance
- other



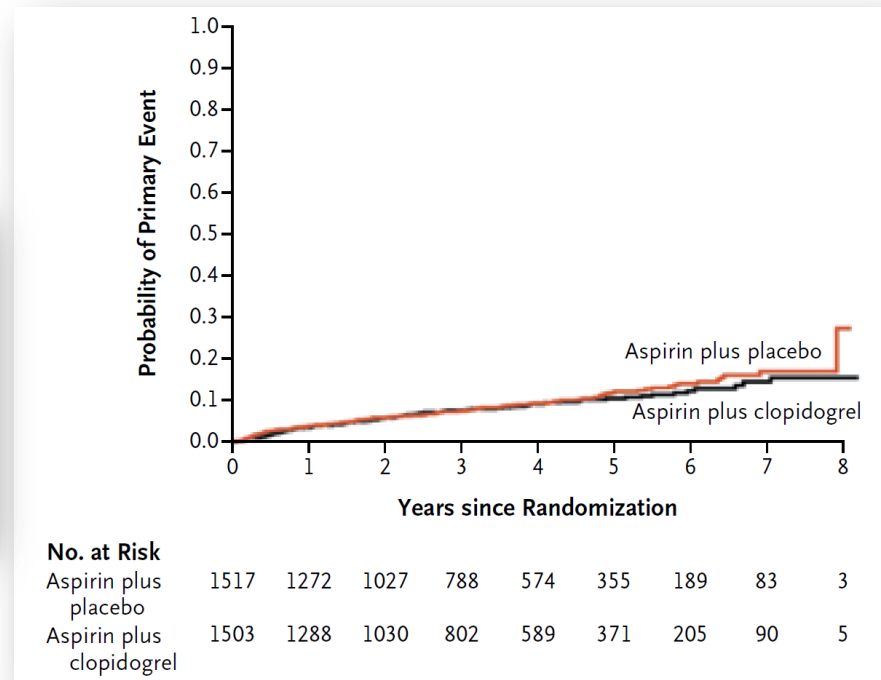
The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

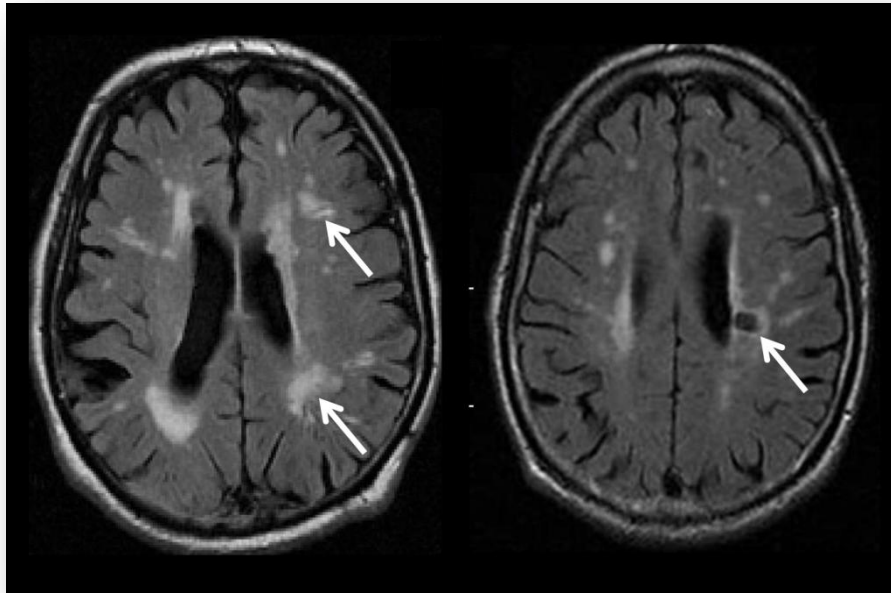
Effects of Clopidogrel Added to Aspirin  
in Patients with Recent Lacunar Stroke

The SPS3 Investigators\*

Benavenet et al New Engl J Med 2012



# Multiple Manifestations of SVD on Neuroimaging



recent

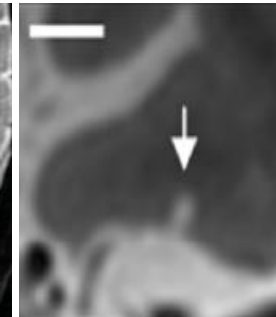
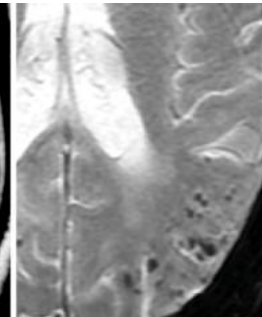
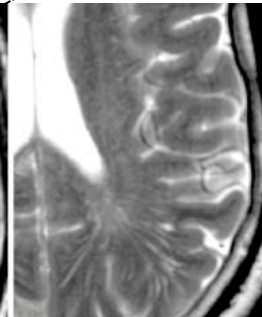
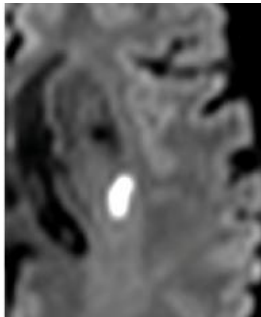
**WMH**

**lacunes**

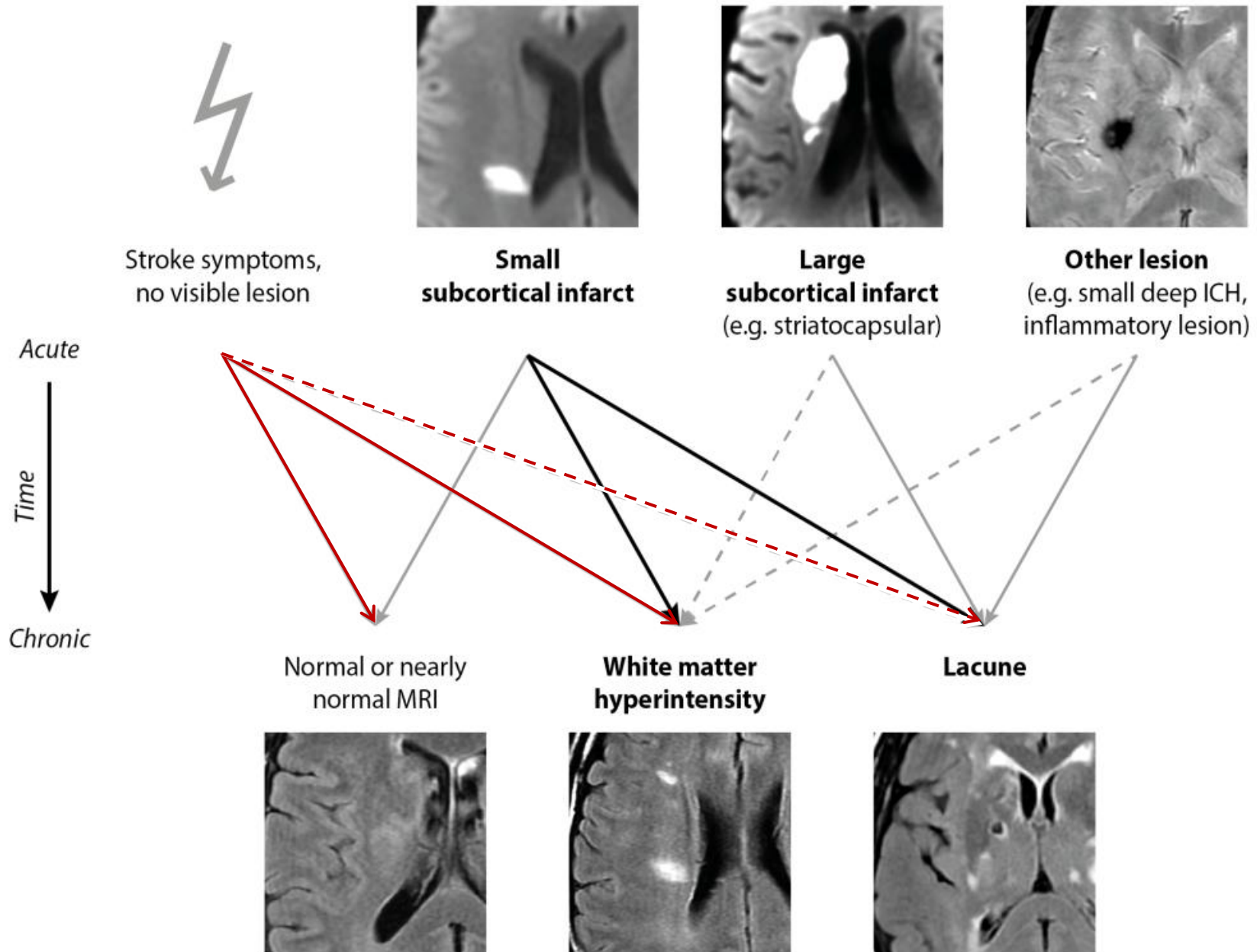
PVS

microbleed

microinfarct

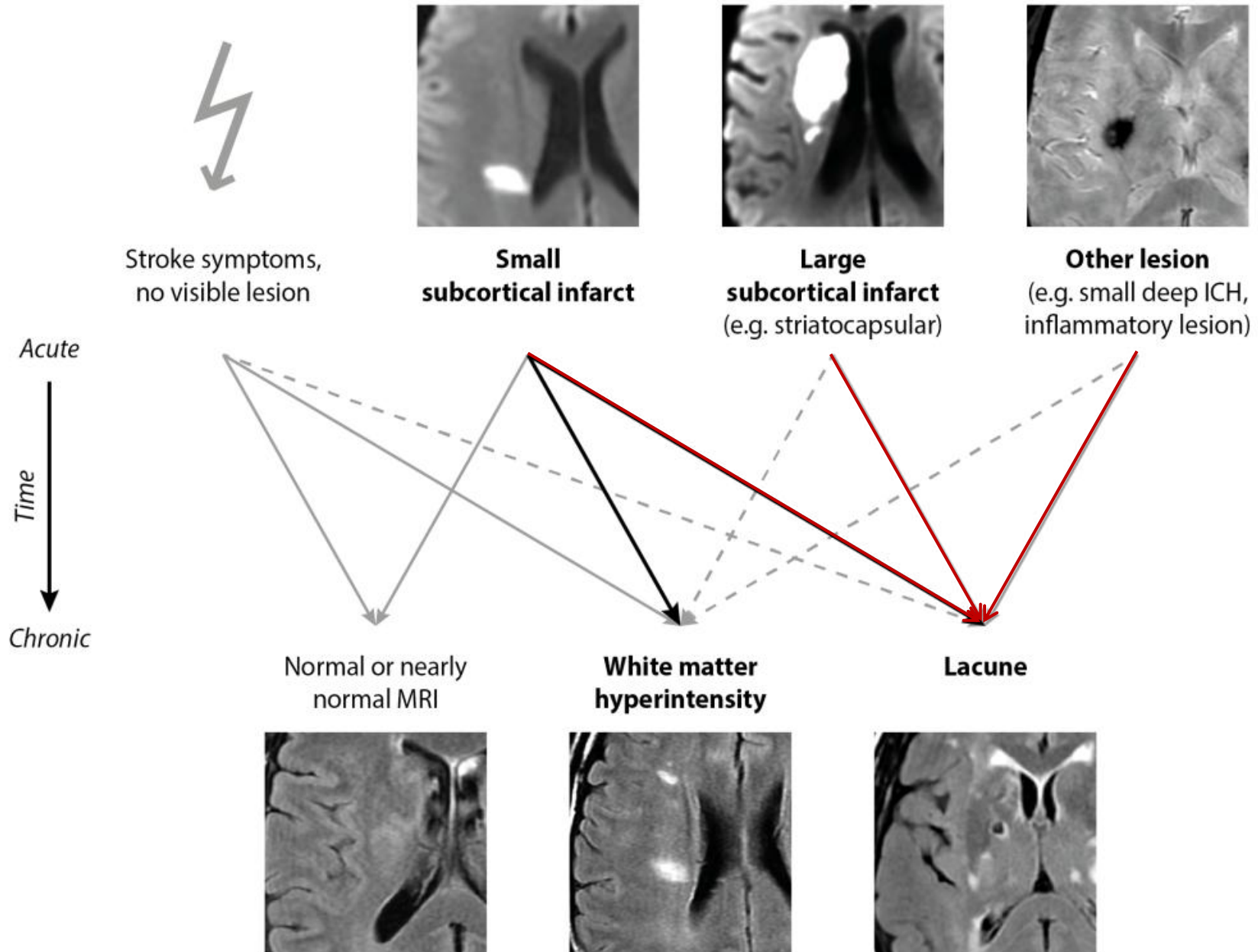


# Variable Fate of Lesions





# Variable Fate of Lesions

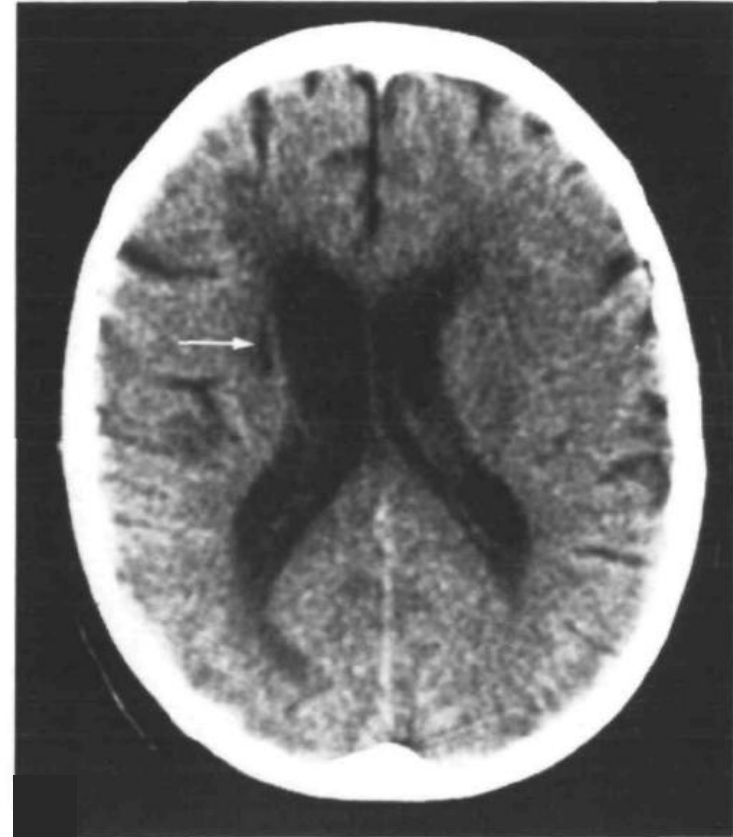
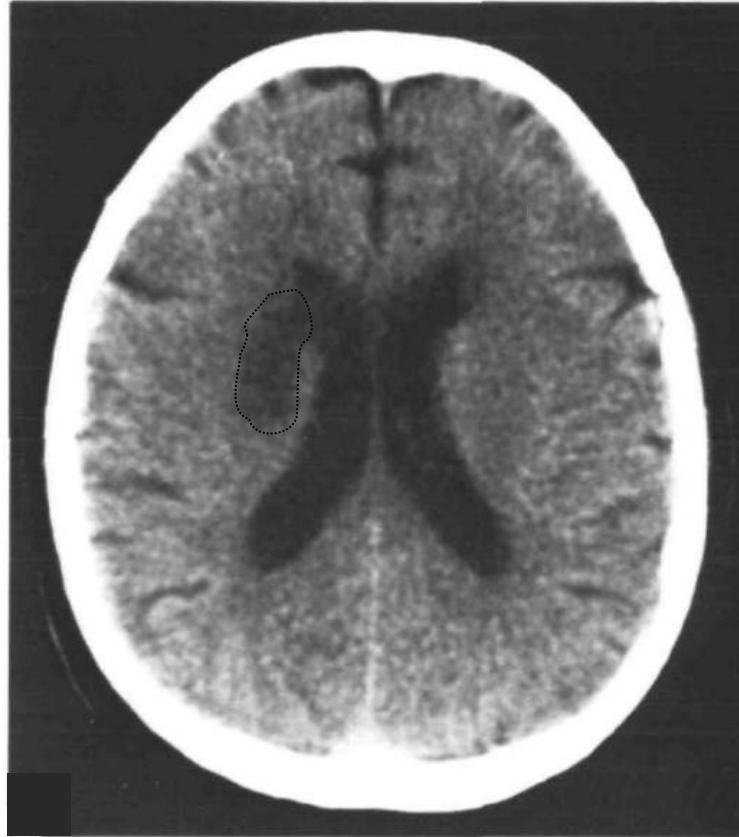


# Striatocapsular Infarcts



# Striatocapsular Infarcts

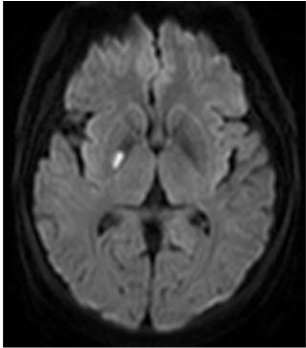
... typically collapse



follow-up

# Assumptions rather than Evidence

## SVD Mimics on Neuroimaging



# Largely Variable Terminology

CoEN

Centers of Excellence  
in Neurodegeneration

acute cerebral lacunar infarction  
acute ischemic lacunar stroke  
acute lacunar infarct(s)  
acute lacunar infarction  
acute lacunar motor syndrome  
acute lacunar stroke  
acute small deep brain infarcts  
Acute small subcortical infarctions  
acute subcortical infarct(s)  
acute subcortical infarction(s)  
acute subcortical ischemia  
acute subcortical stroke  
arteriolar lesions  
asymptomatic lacunar lesions  
asymptomatic lacunar stroke  
brain lacunae  
brain lacunar infarction  
cerebral infarct  
cerebral infarct of lacunar type  
cerebral lacunar infarction  
cerebral lacunar lesions  
chronic cerebral lacunar infarction  
covert brain infarcts  
covert infarcts  
chronic striatocapsular infarction

chronic striatocapsular infarction  
clinical lacunar syndrome  
deep infarct  
deep lacunar lesions  
etat crible  
hyperacute lacunar infarct  
hyperintense lacune  
incidental silent infarcts  
incidental silent strokes  
infarcts of lacunar or larger size  
infarct with lacunar characteristics  
isolated lacunar infarct  
lacuna  
lacunae  
lacunar acute stroke  
syndrome  
lacunar area  
lacunar arteriopathy  
lacunar brain infarcts  
lacunar brain infarction  
lacunar cerebral infarction  
lacunar clinical syndrome  
lacunar infarct(s)  
lacunar infarction(s)  
lacunar ischaemic stroke  
lacunar lesion(s)  
lacunar motor syndrome  
lacunar pattern of infarction  
lacunar pontine infarct  
lacunar recurrence  
lacunar sized infarcts

lacunar small deep infarcts  
lacunar state  
lacunar stroke(s)  
lacunar stroke subtype  
lacunar syndrome  
lacunar syndrome of presumed ischemic origin  
lacunar syndrome stroke  
lacunar syndrome with infarction  
lacunar type infarcts  
lacunar volume(s)  
lacunar white matter infarcts  
lacunas  
lacune(s)  
medial pontine lacune(s)  
microinfarct(s)  
microinfarction  
microscopic infarct  
Non-embolic, lacunary infarctions  
old lacunar infarctions  
old lacunar infarcts  
old lacunes  
perforator territory infarction  
pontine infarction(s)  
pontine lacunar syndromes  
silent brain infarct(s)  
silent brain infarction(s)  
silent brain lesion(s)  
silent cerebral infarct(s)  
silent cerebral infarction  
silent cerebral lacunar infarcts  
silent cerebral lesions

infarcts  
silent cerebral lesions  
"silent" ischaemic brain lesions  
silent ischaemic lesions  
silent infarct  
silent lacunar infarct(s)  
silent lacunar infarction  
silent lacune(s)  
silent lesions  
silent stroke  
silent subcortical infarct  
single small subcortical infarction(s)  
small-deep asymptomatic infarction  
small deep brain infarcts  
small deep infarct(s)  
small deep infarction(s)  
small deep (lacunar) infarcts  
small, deeply located brain infarcts  
small, deep subcortical infarct  
small, deep subcortical ischaemic stroke  
small hyperacute infarcts  
small scattered infarcts  
<1cm  
small subcortical index lesions  
small subcortical infarct(s)  
small subcortical infarction

small subcortical ischaemic stroke  
small subcortical lesions  
small subcortical stroke(s)  
small vessel disease stroke  
small vessel stroke  
striatocapsular infarct  
striatocapsular infarction  
subclinical brain infarct(s)  
subclinical brain infarction  
subclinical cerebral lacunar infarction  
subclinical lacunar infarct(s)  
subclinical lacunar infarction  
subclinical magnetic resonance imaging brain infarct  
subcortical brain infarcts  
subcortical cerebral infarcts  
subcortical cerebral infarction  
subcortical cystic infarctions  
subcortical infarct(s)  
subcortical infarction  
subcortical ischaemic infarct(s)  
subcortical ischaemic infarction(s)  
subcortical ischaemic lesion  
subcortical ischaemic stroke(s)  
subcortical lacunar infarct(s)  
subcortical lacunar-type infarction  
subcortical lacunar lesions

# Largely Variable Terminology

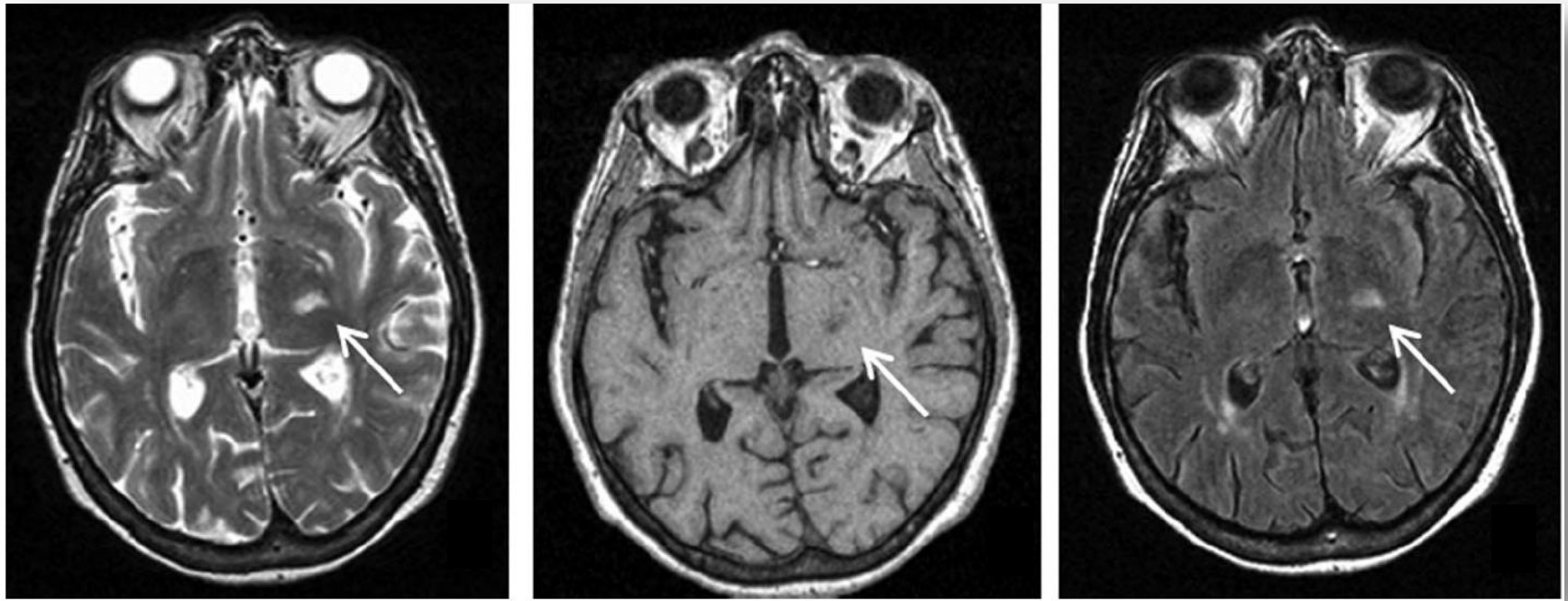
Terms used previously to describe WMH of presumed vascular origin

Term	Variants of use of term	Use of term in titles and abstracts	
		Total No.*	%
leukoaraiosis	ischemic leukoaraiosis, subcortical leukoaraiosis	350	31
white matter lesions	MRI white matter lesions (WML), cerebral WML, T2 WML/WMLs, cerebrovascular WML, subcortical WML, WML of Binswanger's disease, cerebral WML of Binswanger's disease, confluent WML, intracranial WML	275	24
white matter hyperintensity	cerebral WMH, age-related WMH, brain WMH, MRI WMH	217	19
white matter changes	age-related cerebral white matter changes (WMC); age-related WMC, cerebral WMC, changes in white matter, age-related changes in WM	136	12
leukoencephalopathy	subcortical ischemic leukoencephalopathy	76	7
white matter disease	age-related white matter disease (WMD), cerebral WMD, subcortical WMD	45	4
white matter damage	age-related WMD,	5	0
ischemic/ ischaemic white matter disease	ischemic subcortical WMD, chronic ischemic cerebral WMD, subcortical ischemic WMD	4	0
other terms (N=9)		17	1

# How would you call this lesion?

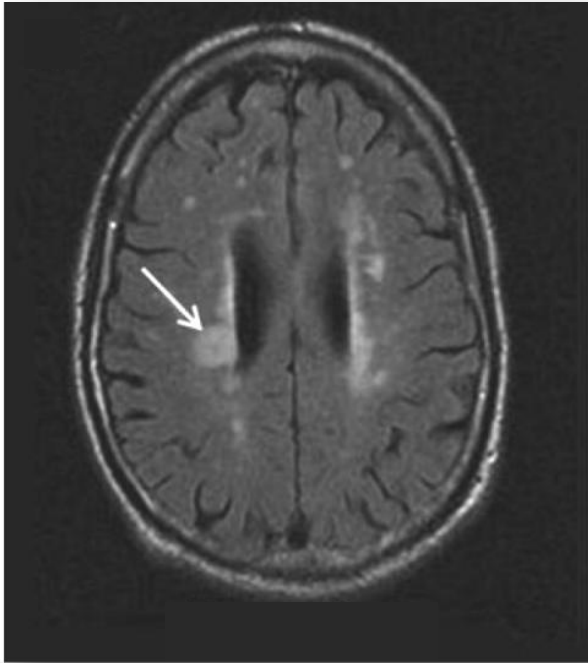
CoEN

Centers of Excellence  
in Neurodegeneration



- A) lacunar infarct
- B) white matter lesion
- C) lacunar lesion
- D) basal ganglia infarct
- E) other suggestion

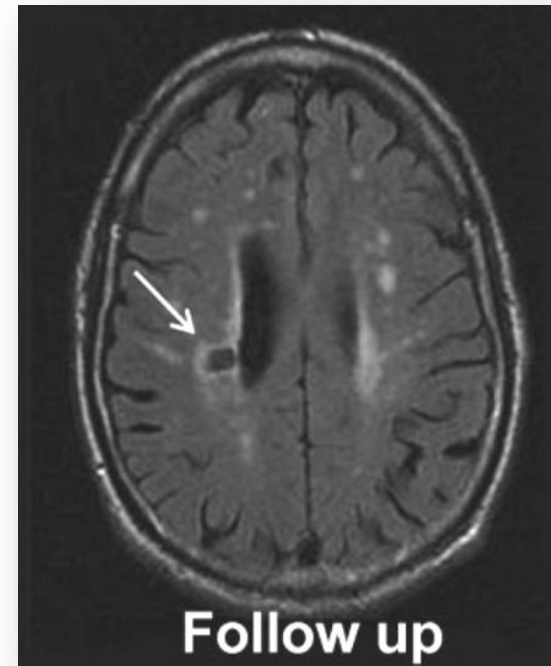
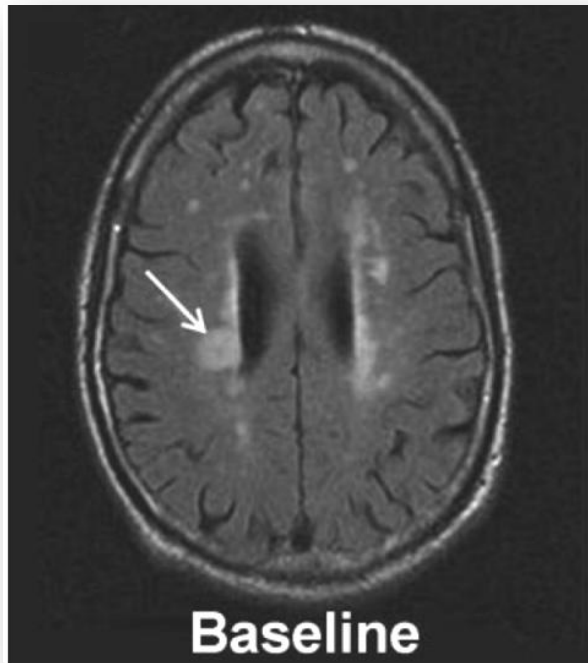
# How would you call this lesion?



- A) stroke
- B) lacunar infarct
- C) white matter lesion
- D) lacunar lesion
- E) other



# How would you call this lesion now?



- A) stroke
- B) lacunar infarct
- C) white matter lesion
- D) lacunar lesion
- E) other

- A) stroke
- B) lacunar infarct
- C) white matter lesion
- D) lacunar lesion
- E) other

# Different Terminologies Impede Scientific Progress

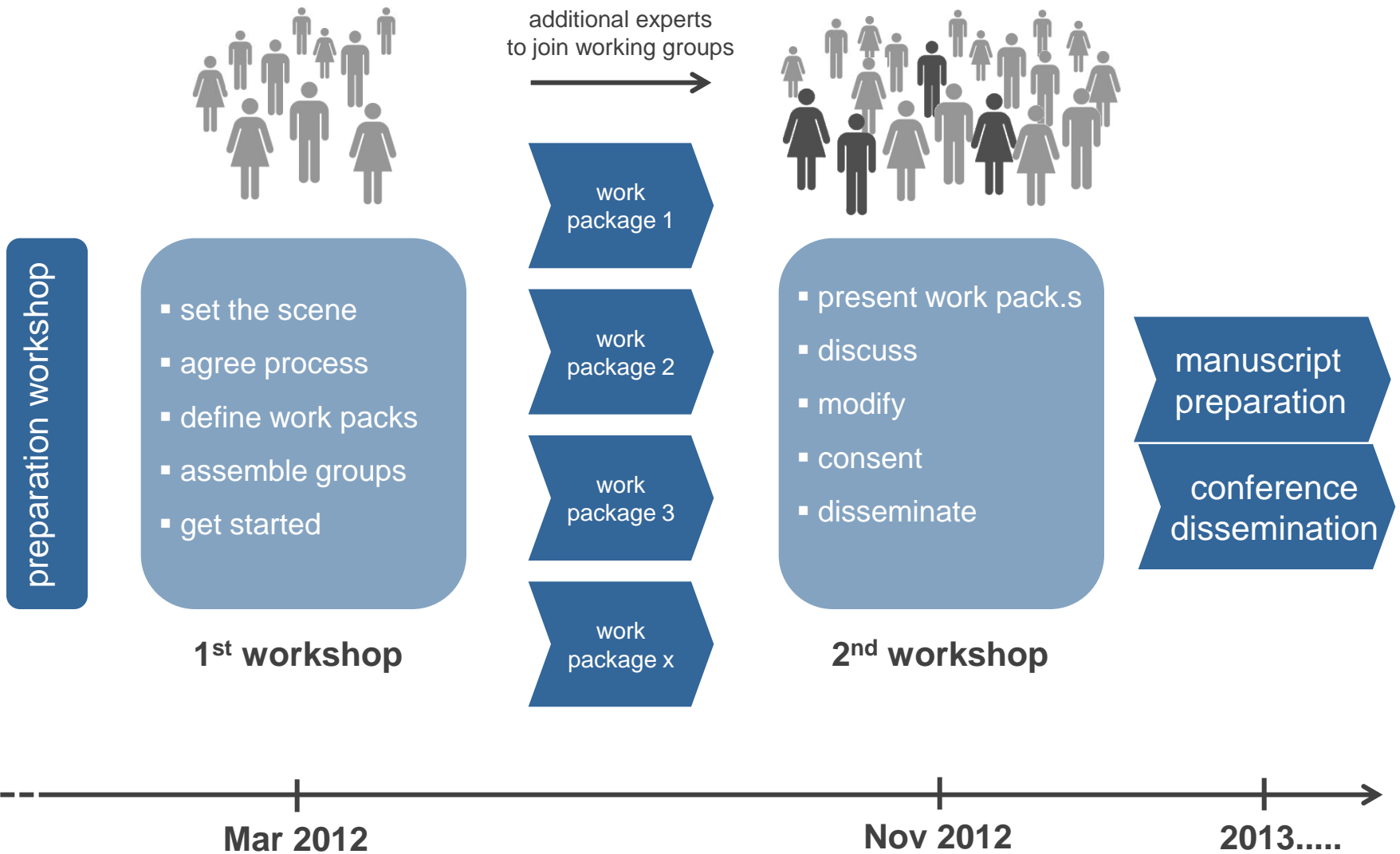
- cross-study comparisons
- meta-analyses
- research on risk factors
- pathophysiology,
- pathological correlations
- clinical consequences
  
- therapeutic progress

- U.S. National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) and Canadian Stroke Network (CSN)  
***Vascular Cognitive Impairment Harmonization Standards***  
(Hachinski et al. Stroke 2006)
  - Scientific Statement for Health Care Professionals from AHA / ASA on  
**Vascular Contributions to Cognitive Impairment**  
(Gorelick et al. Stroke 2011)
- > **class II recommendation** for neuroimaging as part of work-up for VCI

# Why Standards for Imaging of SVD and Why Now?

- **MR has become imaging standard** in most research settings
- **advances in image acquisition**
- major **progress in image post-processing**
- recognition that harmonizing imaging and analytical protocols will facilitate **pooling of data**, performing **meta-analyses**, and **cross-study comparisons**
- **growing appreciation** of the impact **of vascular factors** in neurodegeneration but also in other conditions

# CoEN Process & Milestones



# CoEN Process | Participants

## Working Groups:

J. Wardlaw (MRC)	V. Hachinski (CSN)
M. Dichgans (DZNE)	S. Greenberg (AHA / ASA)
E. Smith (CSN)	E. De Leeuw
H. Chabriat	G.J. Biessels
N. Fox (MRC)	P. Gorelick (AHA / ASA)
J. O'Brien (MRC)	C. Cordonnier
D. Werring (MRC)	L. Pantoni
C. Brayne (MRC)	R. Lindley
M. Breteler (DZNE)	A. Viswanathan
S. Teipel (DZNE)	R. Van Oostenbrugge
S. Black (CSN)	F. Barkhof
O. Benavente (CSN)	F. Fazekas
R. Frayne (CSN)	O. Speck (DZNE)
B. Stephen (MRC)	V. Mok

## Observers:

P. Gorelick (AHA / ASA)  
B. Norrving (ESO / WSO)  
D. Leys (ESO)  
C. DeCarli (AA)  
C. Chen  
M. Van Buchem  
A. Hakim (CSN)  
C. Smith (MRC)

## Others:

I. Kiliman (DZNE)  
M. Düring (ISD/DZNE)  
M. Ewers (ISD)



# COEN | Working principles

Terminology – intuitive,

Avoid - new terms (where possible; terms that imply specific presumed (yet unknown) pathology; ambiguous terms

Harmonisation, reduce to common denominator

Is there a reason for multiple terms that we should observe?

Consensus – has to be the widest possible

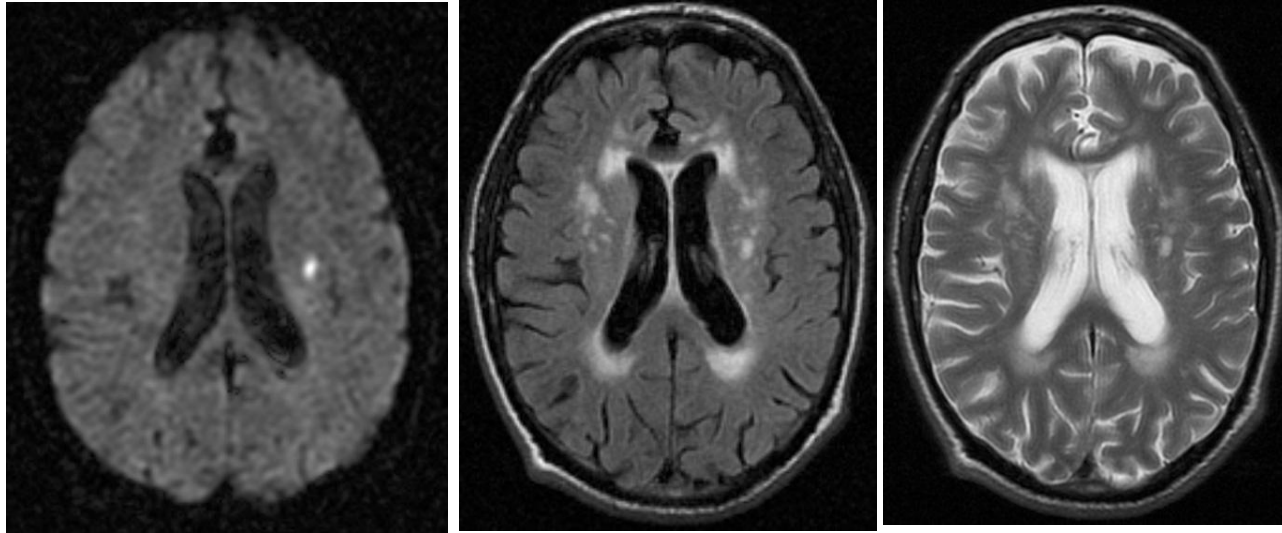
Nuances count – disciplinary, cultural and language barriers

Keep it simple

Can't fit a square peg in a round hole!



## recent small subcortical infarcts

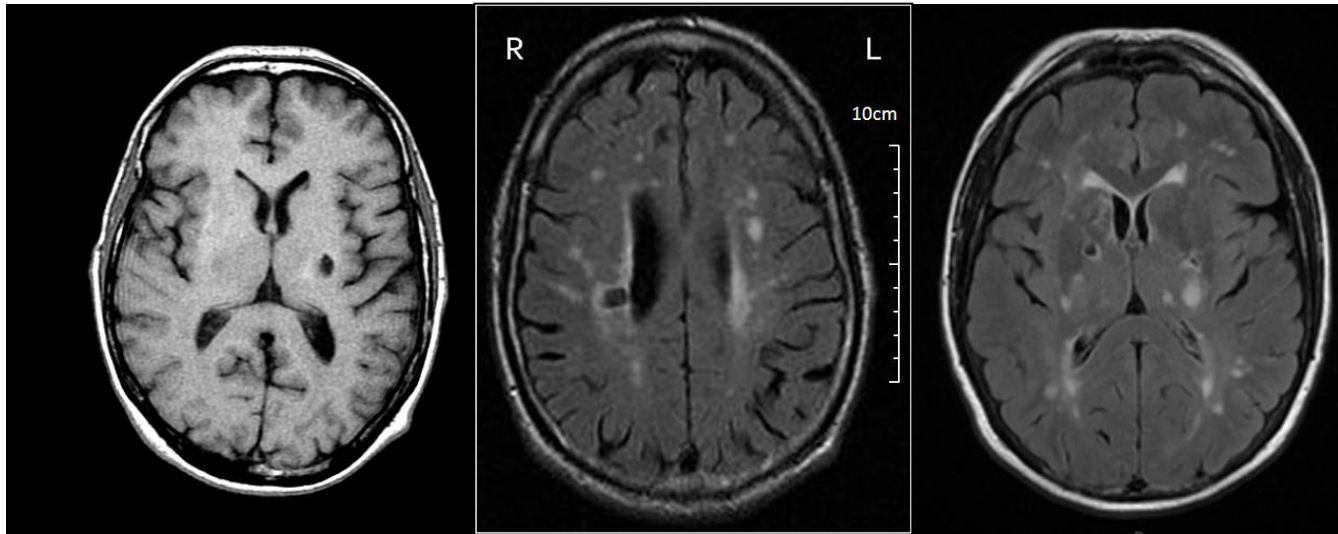


### Working Group:

- JM Wardlaw
- R. van Oostenbrugge
- V. Hachinski
- B. Stephan
- V. Mok
- L. Pantoni
- F Doubal

***“Recent small subcortical infarct : neuroimaging evidence of recent infarction in the territory of a single perforating arteriole, with imaging features or correlating clinical features consistent with a lesion occurring in the last few weeks.”***

# Lacunae of Presumed Vascular Origin

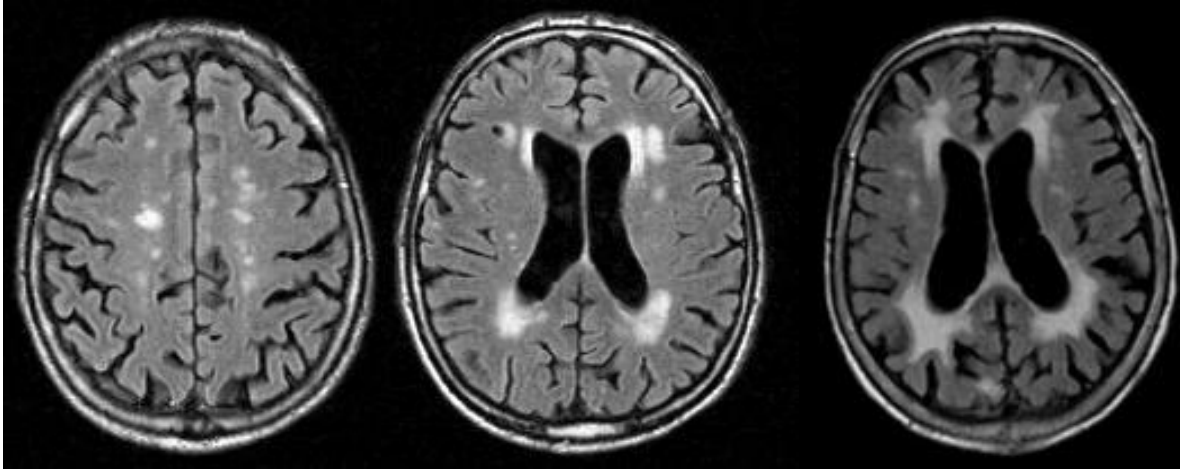


Working Group:

- Richard Lindley
- Hugues Chabriat
- Monique Breteler
- Carol Brayne
- Vincent Mok
- Oscar Benavente

*“Round or ovoid, subcortical, fluid filled (similar signal to CSF) cavity between 3 and about 15 mm in diameter, compatible with a previous acute small deep brain infarct or haemorrhage, in the territory of one perforating arteriole.”*

# White Matter Hyperintensities of Presumed Vascular Origin



Working Group:

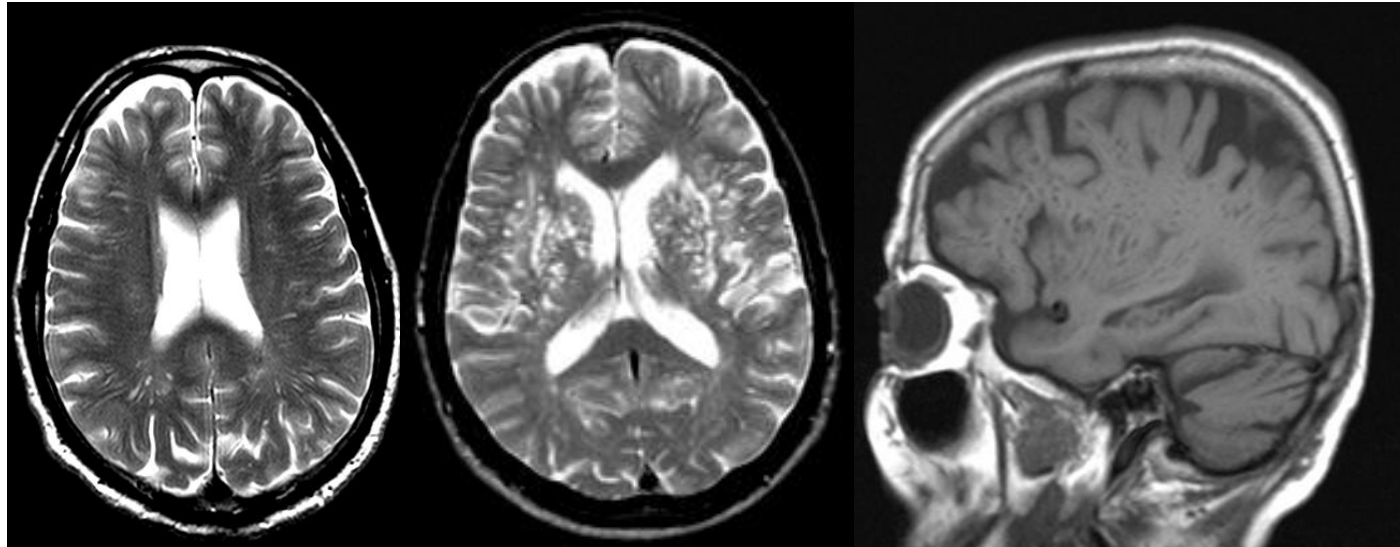
- Charlotte Cordonnier
- Frank-Erik de Leeuw
- Charles DeCarli
- Franz Fazekas
- John O'Brien
- Sandra Black
- Leonardo Pantoni

*“Signal abnormality of variable size in the white matter showing the following characteristics:*

*Hyperintense on FLAIR and T2/PD-weighted images without cavitation (signal different from CSF).*

*Lesions in the subcortical gray matter or brain stem are not included into this category unless explicitly stated. ”*

# Perivascular Spaces (PVS)

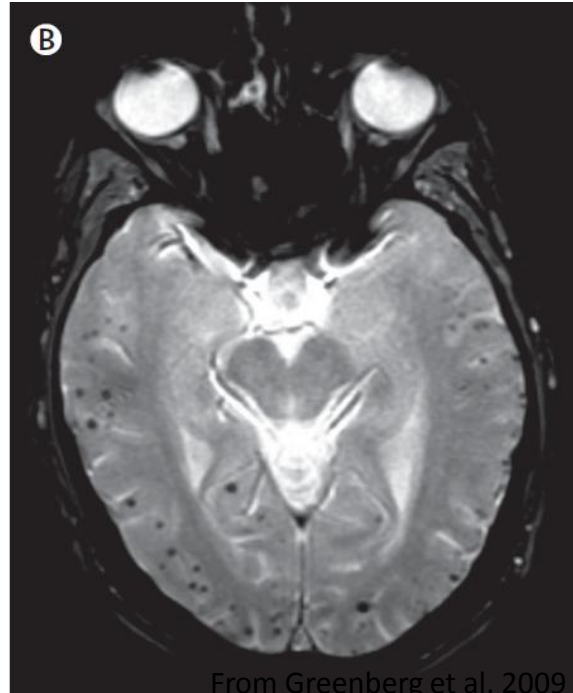
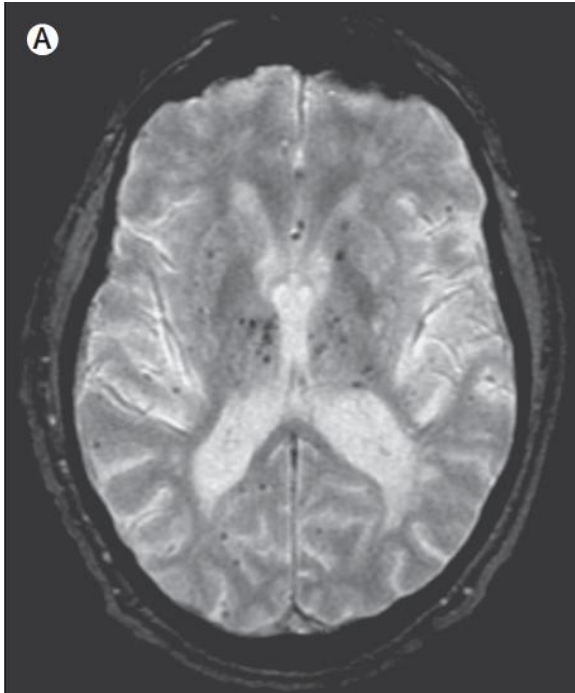


Working Group:

- F. Fazekas
- A. Viswanathan
- R. Oostenbrugge
- G.J. Biessels
- V. Hachinski
- F. Barkhof

*“Fluid filled space that follow the typical course of a vessel as it goes through grey or white matter. The spaces have signal intensity similar to CSF on all sequences. Because they follow the course of penetrating vessels, they appear linear when imaged parallel to the course of the vessel, and round or ovoid, with a diameter generally smaller than 3 mm, when imaged perpendicular to the course of the vessel.”*

# Cerebral Microbleeds



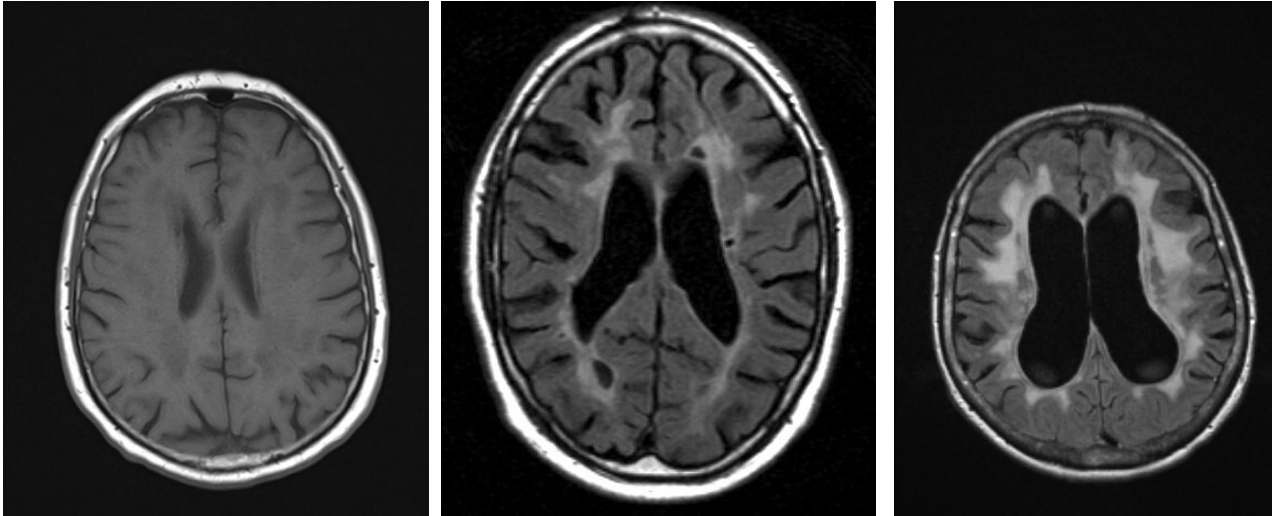
From Greenberg et al, 2009

Working Group:

- John O'Brien
- Monique Breteler
- Charlotte Cordonnier
- Richard Frayne
- Richard Lindley
- David Werring

*Small (generally 2-5 mm, but sometimes up to 10 mm) areas of signal void with associated “blooming” seen on T2\*-weighted MRI or other sequences that are sensitive to susceptibility effects.*

# Brain Atrophy



Working Group:

- G-J Biessels
- N Fox
- I Kilimann
- S Greenberg
- S Teipel
- S Black
- F Barkof

*A decreased brain volume that is not related to a specific macroscopic focal injury such as trauma or infarction. Thus, infarction is not included in this measure unless explicitly stated*

# STRIVE: Standards for Reporting and Imaging of Small Vessel Disease

	Recent small subcortical infarct	White matter hyperintensity	Lacune	Perivascular space	Cerebral microbleeds
<b>Example image</b>					
<b>Schematic</b>					
<b>Usual diameter<sup>1</sup></b>	≤ 20 mm	variable	3-15 mm	≤ 2 mm	≤ 10 mm
<b>Comment</b>	best identified on DWI	located in white matter	usually have hyperintense rim	usually linear without hyperintense rim	detected on GRE seq., round or ovoid, blooming
<b>DWI</b>	↑	↔	↔/(↓)	↔	↔
<b>FLAIR</b>	↑	↑	↓	↓	↔
<b>T2</b>	↑	↑	↑	↑	↔
<b>T1</b>	↓	↔/(↓)	↓	↓	↔
<b>T2* / GRE</b>	↔	↑	↔ (↓ if haemorrhage)	↔	↓↓

Additionally, suggestions for:

- Image acquisition **protocols**: brief (10 minutes), standard clinical (30 minutes) and research options
- Principles of MRI image **analysis**
- **Standards for reporting** of studies



**CASES**

## CASE: A FORGETFUL MAN

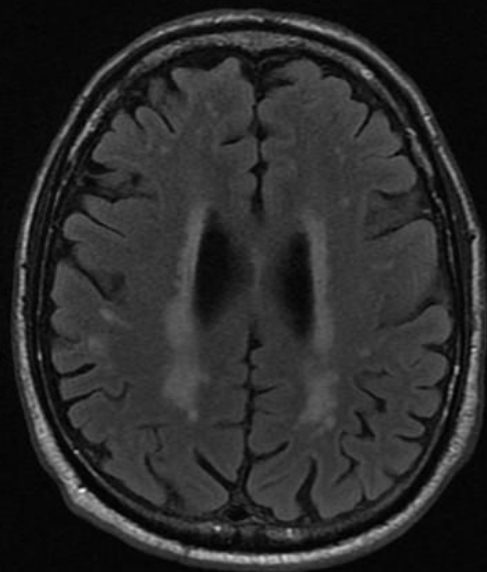
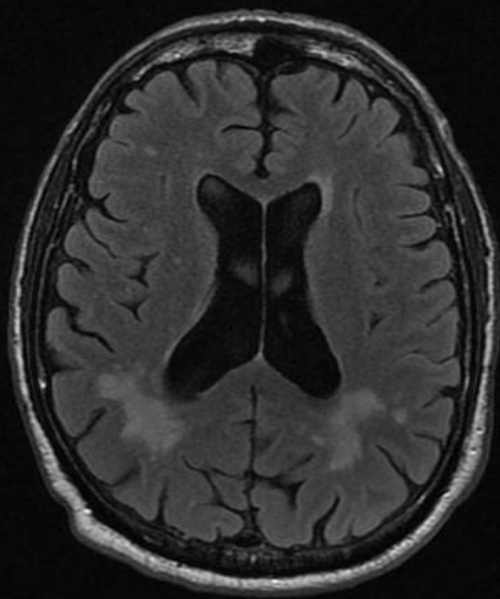
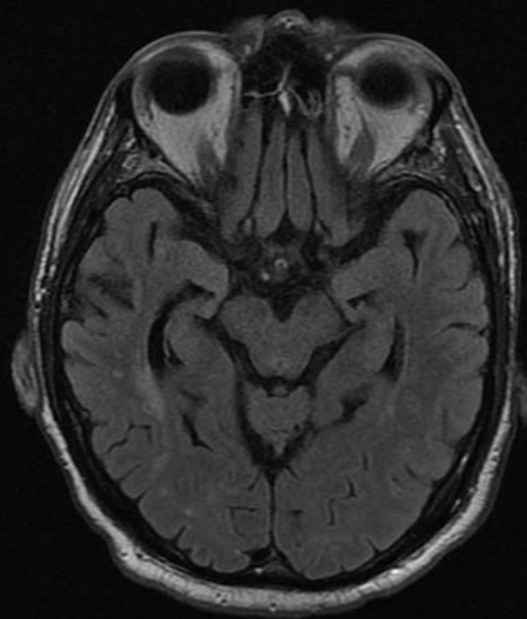
- 73 man.
- First seen in June 2011 with forgetfulness, apathy, decreased motivation.
- Gets grocery items incorrectly (e.g. Lasagna instead of spaghetti noodles).
- Still drives, shops, does personal finances.
- CT report faxed to clinic describes “moderate burden of ischemic white matter disease”.
- PMH: benign prostatic hypertrophy, insomnia.
- Medications: L tryptophan, Flomax, Avodart, and vitamins.
- Normal score on Addenbrooke’s.

# CASE 1: FOLLOW UP JULY 2012

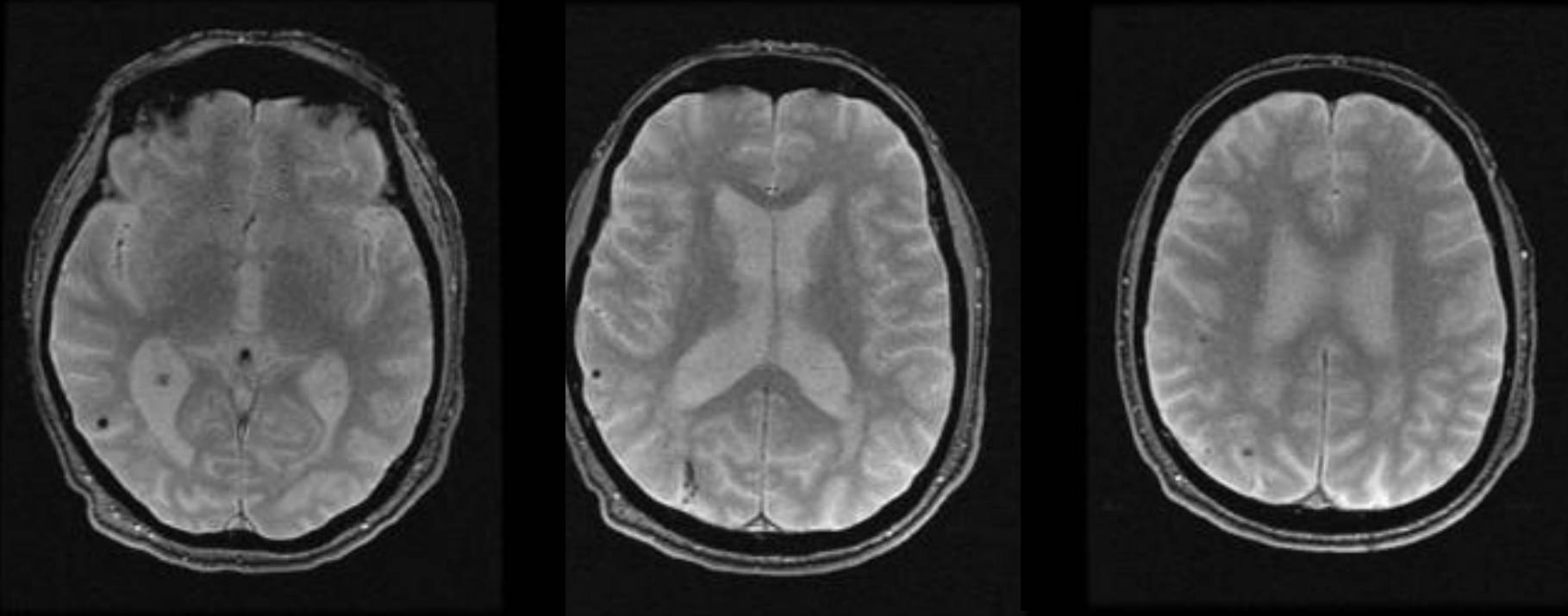
- Patient and wife endorse continued cognitive concerns; wife is very distraught.
- ADL essentially preserved but hired an accountant for the first time to help with taxes.
- MMSE: 30/30.
- MoCA: 24/30.
- Geriatric Depression Scale: 4/15.
- Neuropsych testing:
  - CVLT long delay free recall: -1.0 SD
  - Trails B: -1.0 SD
  - COWAT, Clock drawing, Trails A

Diagnostic impression?

# MRI FLAIR



# MRI T2\*-weighted Gradient-Recalled Echo

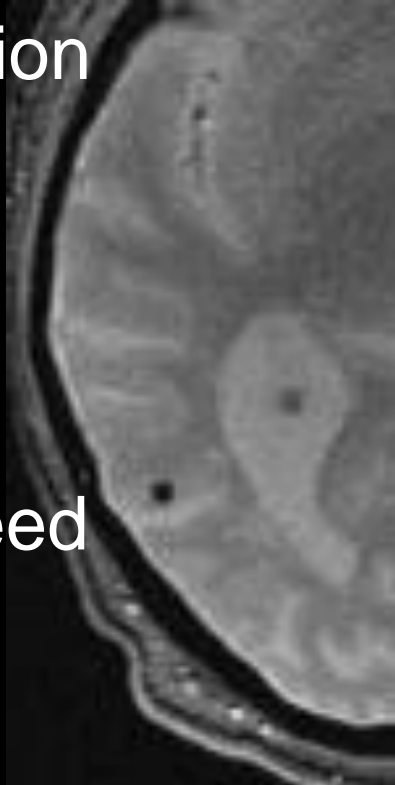


# BEWARE MICROBLEED MIMICS

Blood vessel

in cross-section

Microbleed



Also beware

- Calcification, particularly in basal ganglia.
- Superficial siderosis (pathological).
- Susceptibility artifact at base of brain.

**Diagnosis?**

1. Vascular MCI

2. Caused by CAA?



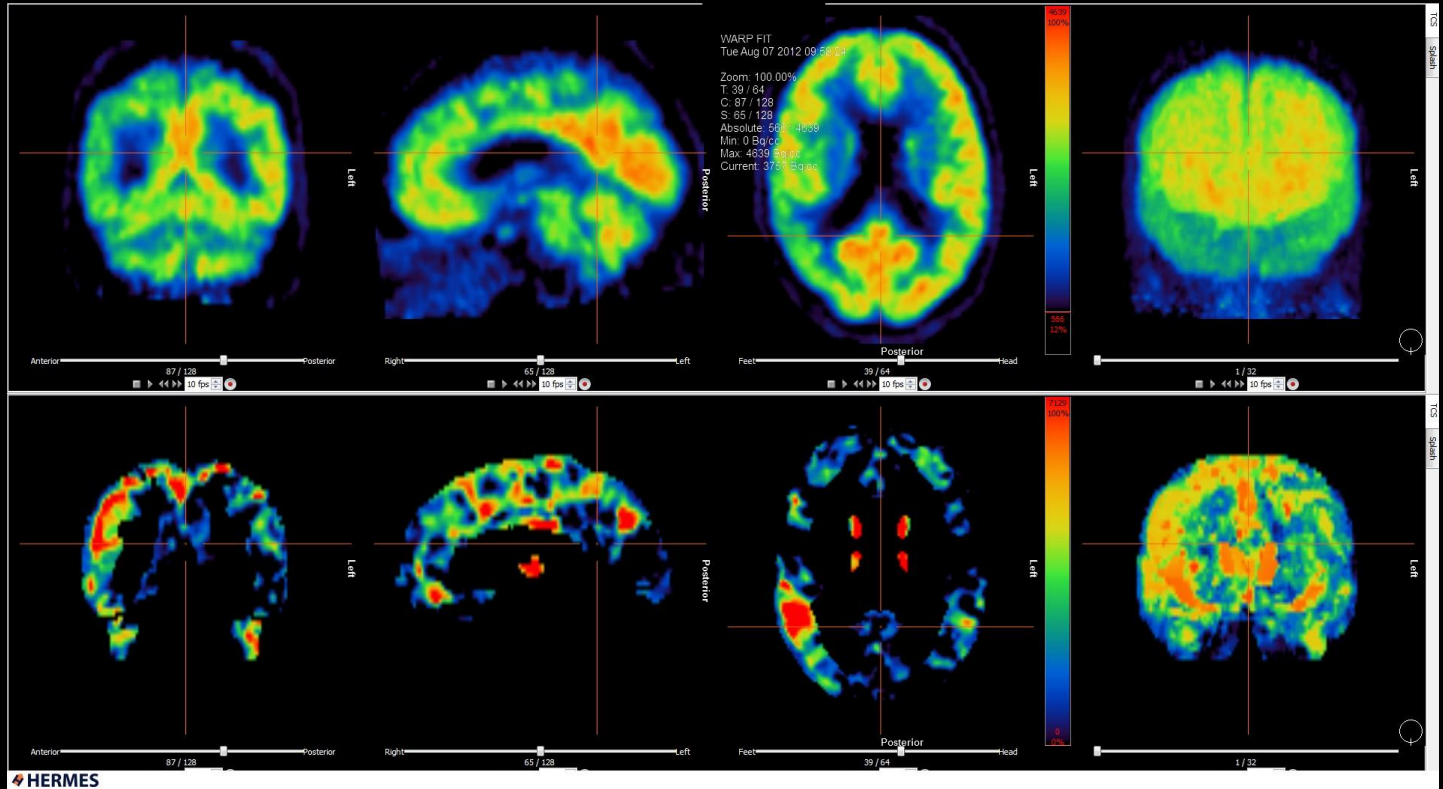
# COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT IN CAA

- Cognitive impairment in CAA could be due to:
  - Effects of stroke.
  - Concomitant AD pathology.
  - Effects of CAA independent of stroke, potentially mediated by WMH, microinfarcts or blood flow dysregulation.

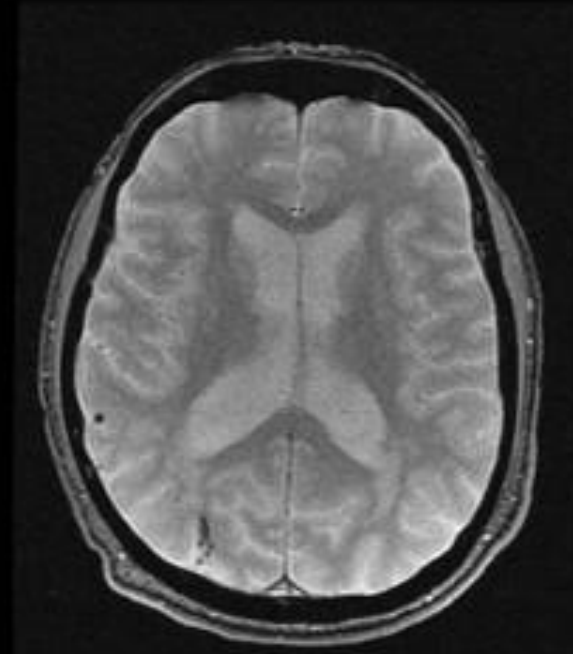
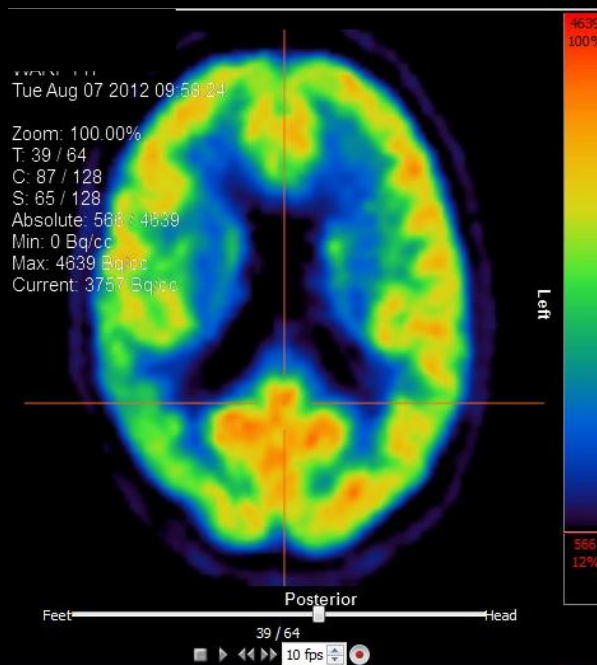
# FDG PET

## FDG

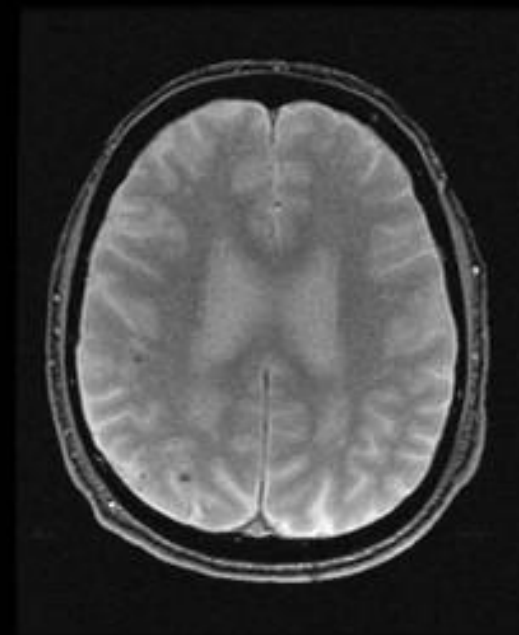
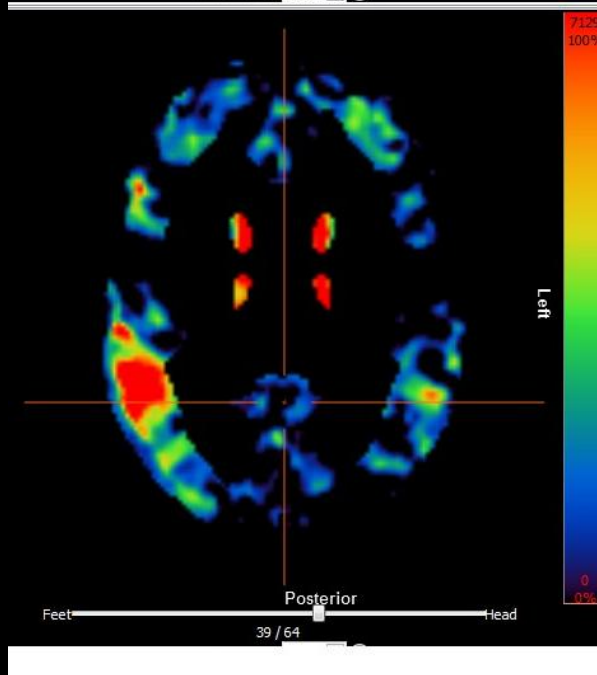
## Difference From Normal



# FDG PET



# FDG



# Difference From Normal

# PET INTERPRETATION

- Hypometabolism in right parietal > frontal lobe.
- Normal metabolism in areas typically affected by AD: temporal lobe, posterior cingulate gyrus.
- Radiological diagnosis: vascular disease, unlikely to be AD.

## FINAL DIAGNOSIS

Vascular MCI probably  
caused by CAA

# CAA

- Caused by beta-amyloid deposition in the medial and adventitia of small arteries of the cortex and leptomeninges.
- Clinical manifestations: lobar intracerebral hemorrhage, sulcal subarachnoid hemorrhage, transient neurological symptoms, cognitive impairment.
- Neuroimaging manifestations: microbleeds, macrobleeds, superficial siderosis, WMH, abnormal DTI, decreased fMRI activity, small infarcts.
- Management:
  - No specific disease modifying therapies.
  - Lowering blood pressure may help prevent recurrent stroke.
  - **Avoid antithrombotics!** Hemorrhagic stroke risk on average is 5-10% per year, up to 15% per year in patients with symptomatic stroke and multiple microbleeds (>5).

# DIAGNOSIS OF CAA (Lin et al, Neurology 2010)

**Table 1** Classic and modified Boston criteria for CAA-related hemorrhage

	Classic Boston criteria <sup>2</sup>	Modified Boston criteria
<b>Definite CAA</b>	Full postmortem examination demonstrating: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lobar, cortical, or corticosubcortical hemorrhage</li> <li>• Severe CAA with vasculopathy</li> <li>• Absence of other diagnostic lesion</li> </ul>	No modification <sup>9</sup>
<b>Probable CAA with supporting pathology</b>	Clinical data and pathologic tissue (evacuated hematoma or cortical biopsy) demonstrating: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lobar, cortical, or corticosubcortical hemorrhage</li> <li>• Some degree of CAA in specimen</li> <li>• Absence of other diagnostic lesion</li> </ul>	No modification <sup>9</sup>
<b>Probable CAA</b>	Clinical data and MRI or CT demonstrating: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multiple hemorrhages restricted to lobar, cortical, or corticosubcortical regions (cerebellar hemorrhage allowed)</li> <li>• Age <math>\geq 55</math> y</li> <li>• Absence of other cause of hemorrhage</li> </ul>	Clinical data and MRI or CT demonstrating: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multiple hemorrhages restricted to lobar, cortical, or corticosubcortical regions (cerebellar hemorrhage allowed) or</li> <li>• Single lobar, cortical, or corticosubcortical hemorrhage and focal<sup>b</sup> or disseminated<sup>c</sup> superficial siderosis</li> <li>• Age <math>\geq 55</math> y</li> <li>• Absence of other cause of hemorrhage or superficial siderosis</li> </ul>
<b>Possible CAA</b>	Clinical data and MRI or CT demonstrating: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Single lobar, cortical, or corticosubcortical hemorrhage</li> <li>• Age <math>\geq 55</math> y</li> <li>• Absence of other cause of hemorrhage</li> </ul>	Clinical data and MRI or CT demonstrating: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Single lobar, cortical, or corticosubcortical hemorrhage or</li> <li>• Focal<sup>b</sup> or disseminated<sup>c</sup> superficial siderosis</li> <li>• Age <math>\geq 55</math> y</li> <li>• Absence of other cause of hemorrhage or superficial siderosis</li> </ul>

Abbreviation: CAA = cerebral amyloid angiopathy.

# CASE: SLOWED COGNITION AND GAIT

- 59 man.
- Cognitive slowing, forgetfulness. Gait slow.
- PMH: previous stroke in 2001 with temporary R weakness, resolved.
- Family hx: father died at 78, mother alive at 85 without dementia.
- Aricept 5 mg/d.
- Mild hyper-reflexia, couple of beats clonus at ankles, unable to tandem walk.
- MMSE 21, MoCA 14.
- BP 124/77. P 82. BMI 20.
- TSH, B12, homocysteine normal.
- LP: no cells, VDRL negative, no oligoclonal bands



# SUBSEQUENT COURSE

2010

- MoCA 14. Takes bus to appointment.

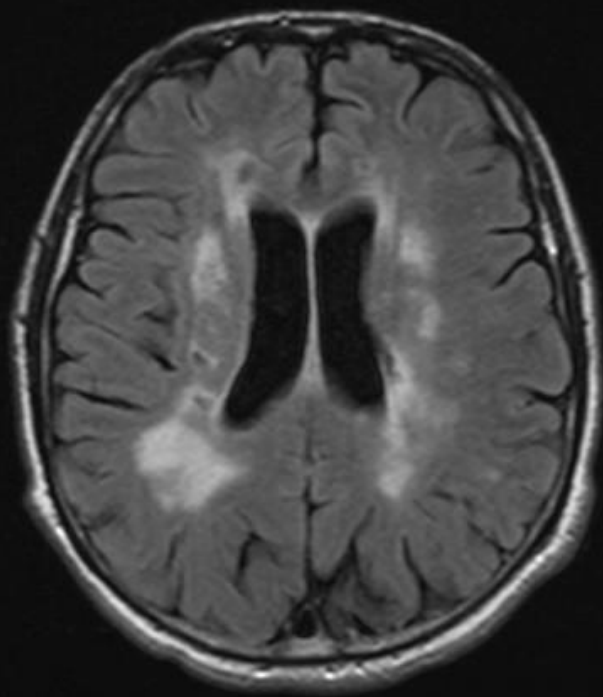
2011

- MoCA 13.
- Worse forgetfulness, weight loss
- Wide-based, unsteady gait, en-bloc turning.
- CADASIL negative.

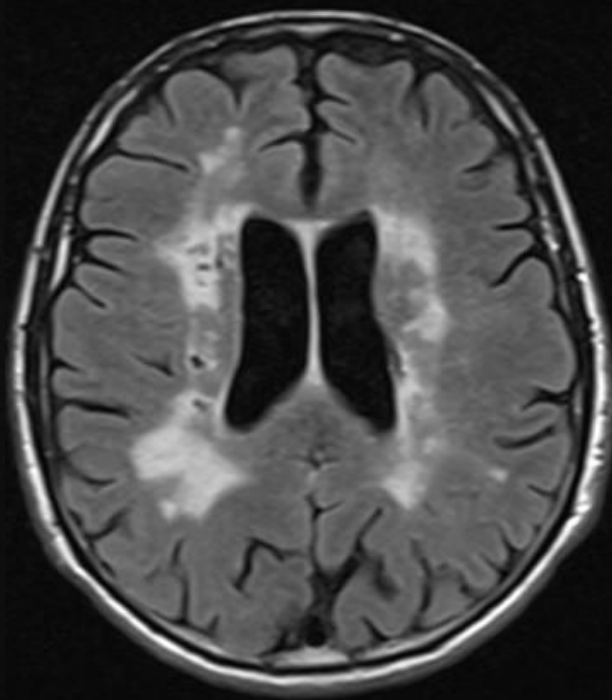
2013

- MMSE 11/30. BP 97/59.
- Worse forgetfulness, mostly confined to wheelchair, urinary urgency.

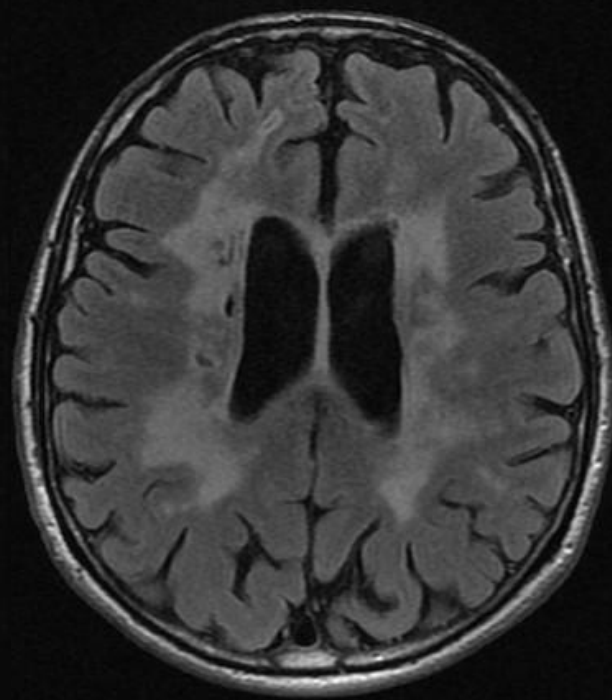
# MRI FLAIR



2007



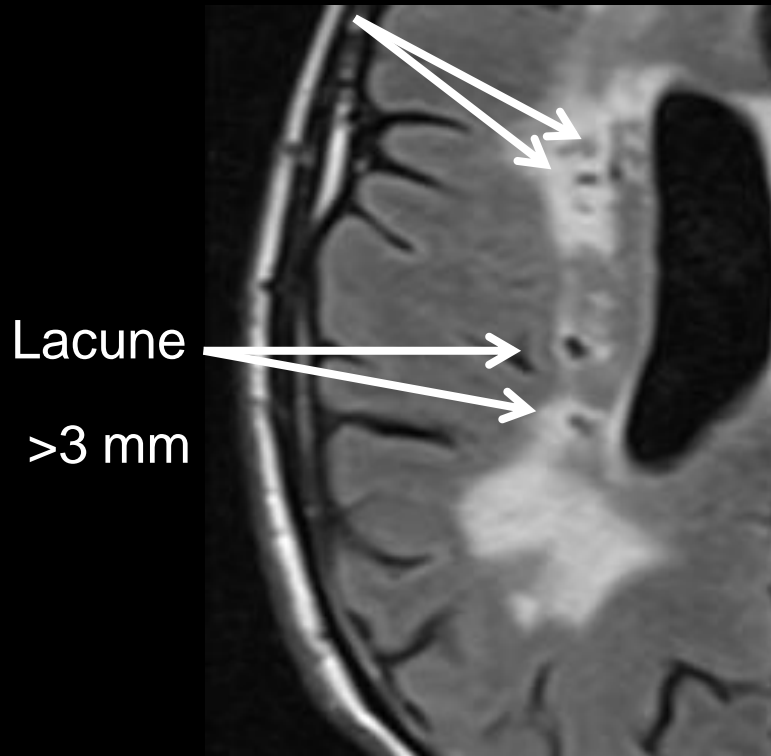
2009



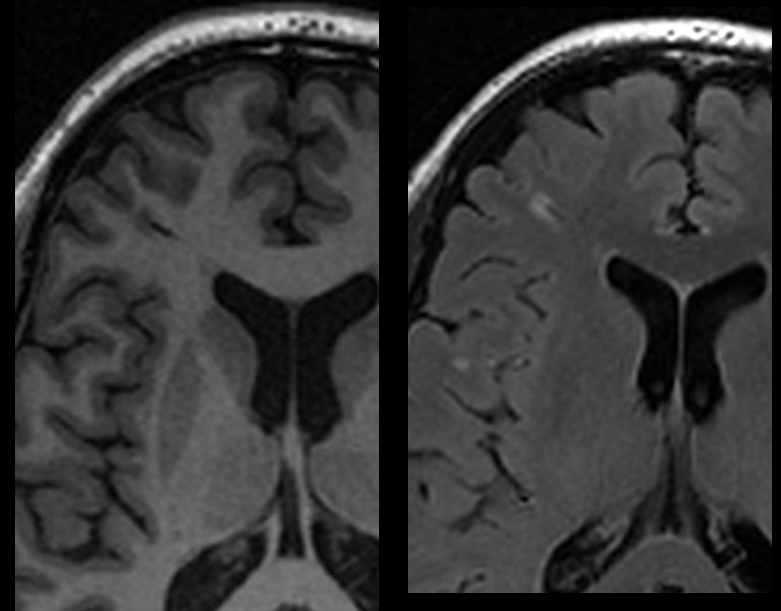
2011

# IS IT A LACUNE?

Perivascular space?



Discriminating lacunes from PVS



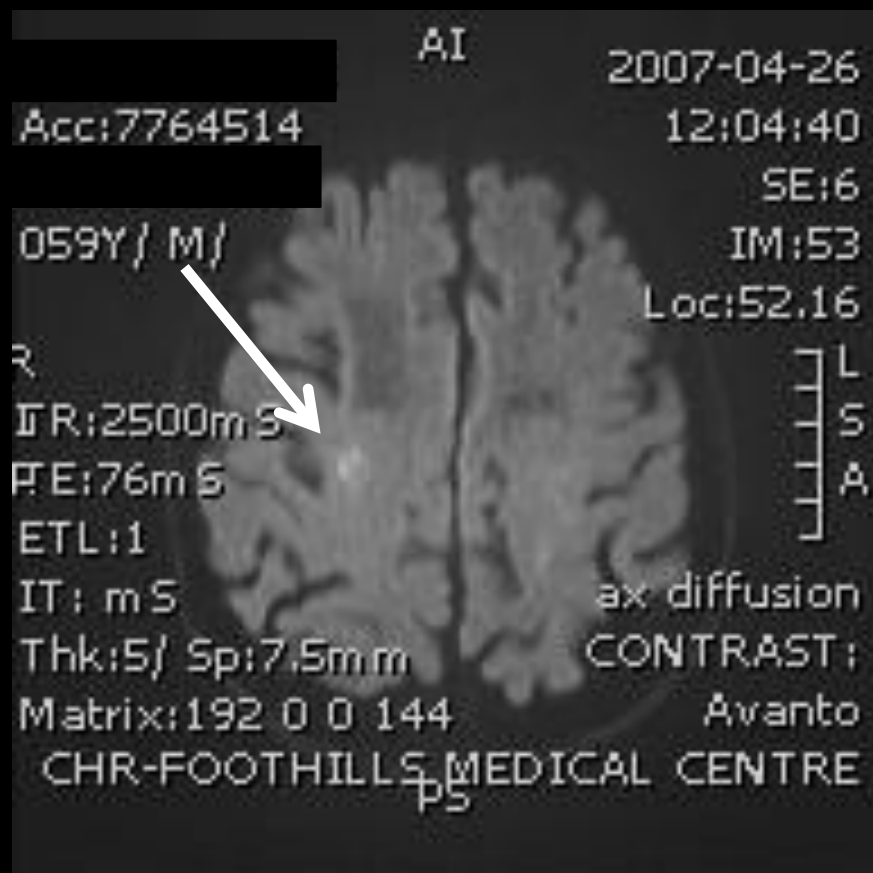
Criteria

-Shape

-Size

-Location

# MRI DWI



Incidental recent small subcortical infarct

**Diagnosis?**

**Probable Vascular  
Dementia, Subcortical Type**

**Not associated with traditional vascular risk  
factors, cause unclear**