

# Laboratory of Experimental Stroke Research



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Laboratory of Experimental Stroke Research

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Department of Neurology and Stroke Unit

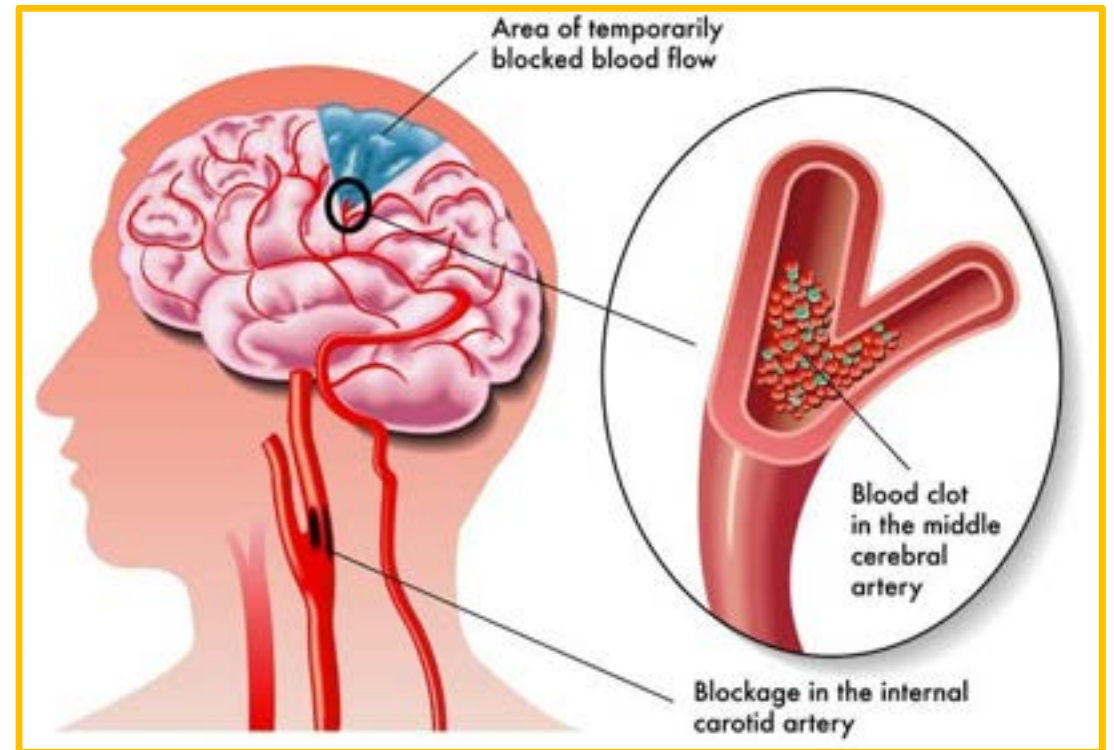
Fondazione IRCCS San Gerardo dei Tintori

Monza

# STROKE

## **Definition (OMS):**

Rapidly developing clinical signs of focal (or global) disturbance of cerebral function, with symptoms lasting 24 hours or longer or leading to death, with no apparent cause other than vascular origin.



# STROKE

## Epidemiology:

- 2° leading cause of DEATH
- 2° leading cause of DEMENTIA
- 3° leading cause of DISABILITY
- 200.000 cases every years
- 80% new event
- Age related incidence

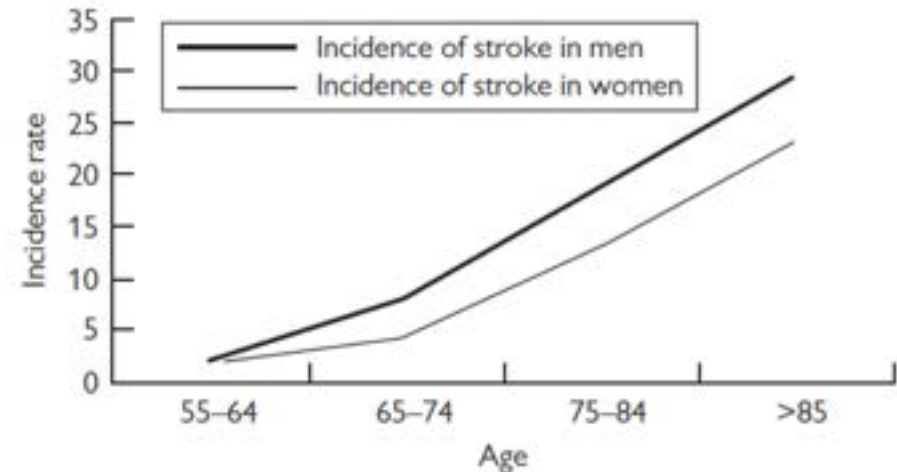


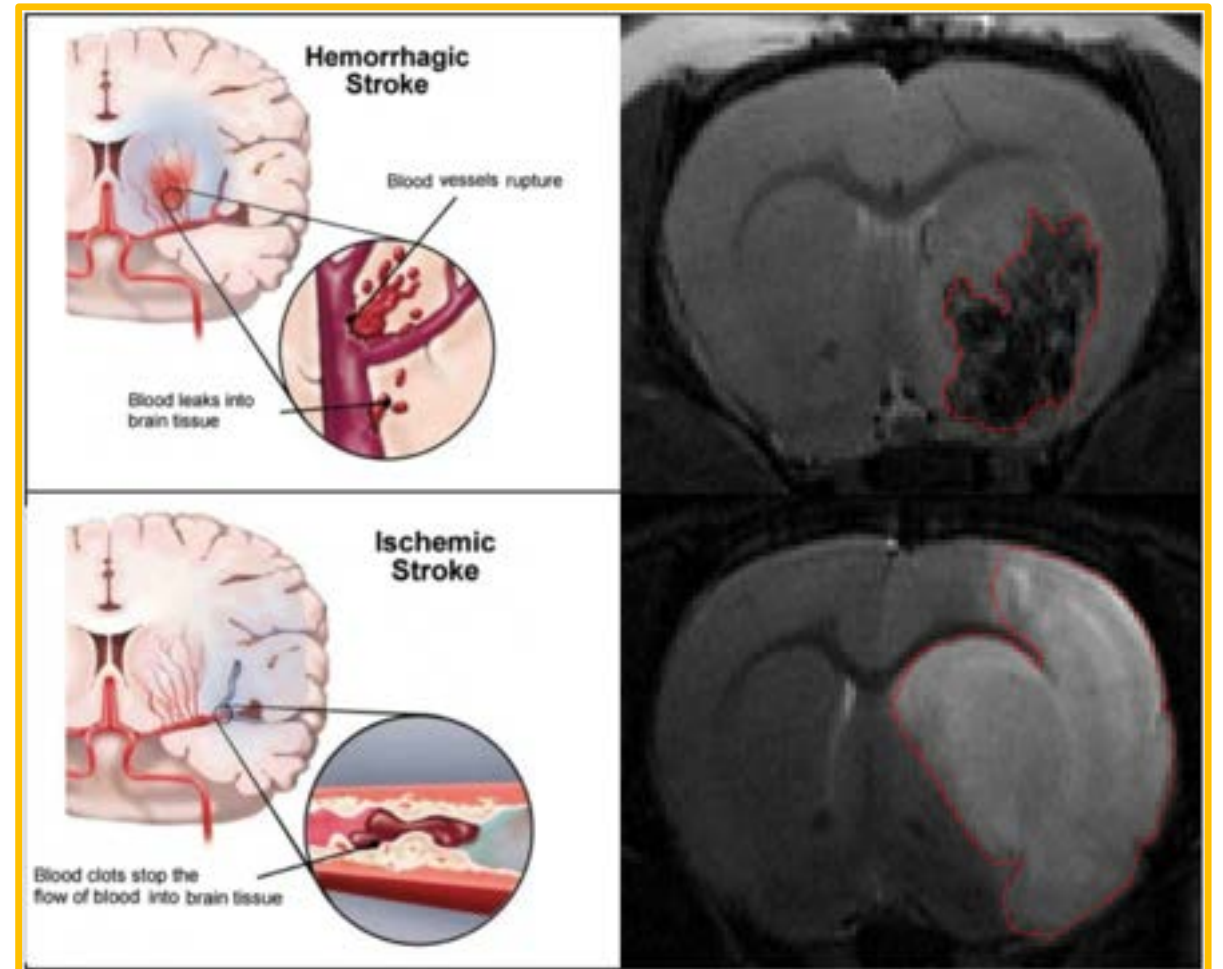
Fig. 1.2 Graph showing incidence rate per 1000 person-years for stroke in relation to age and gender.

Adapted from *J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatry*, 74(3), Hollander M, Koudstaal P J, Bots M L, Grobbee D E, Hofman A, Breteler M M B, Incidence, risk, and case fatality of first ever stroke in the elderly population. The Rotterdam Study, pp. 317-21, Copyright (2003), with permission from BMJ Publishing Group Ltd.

# STROKE

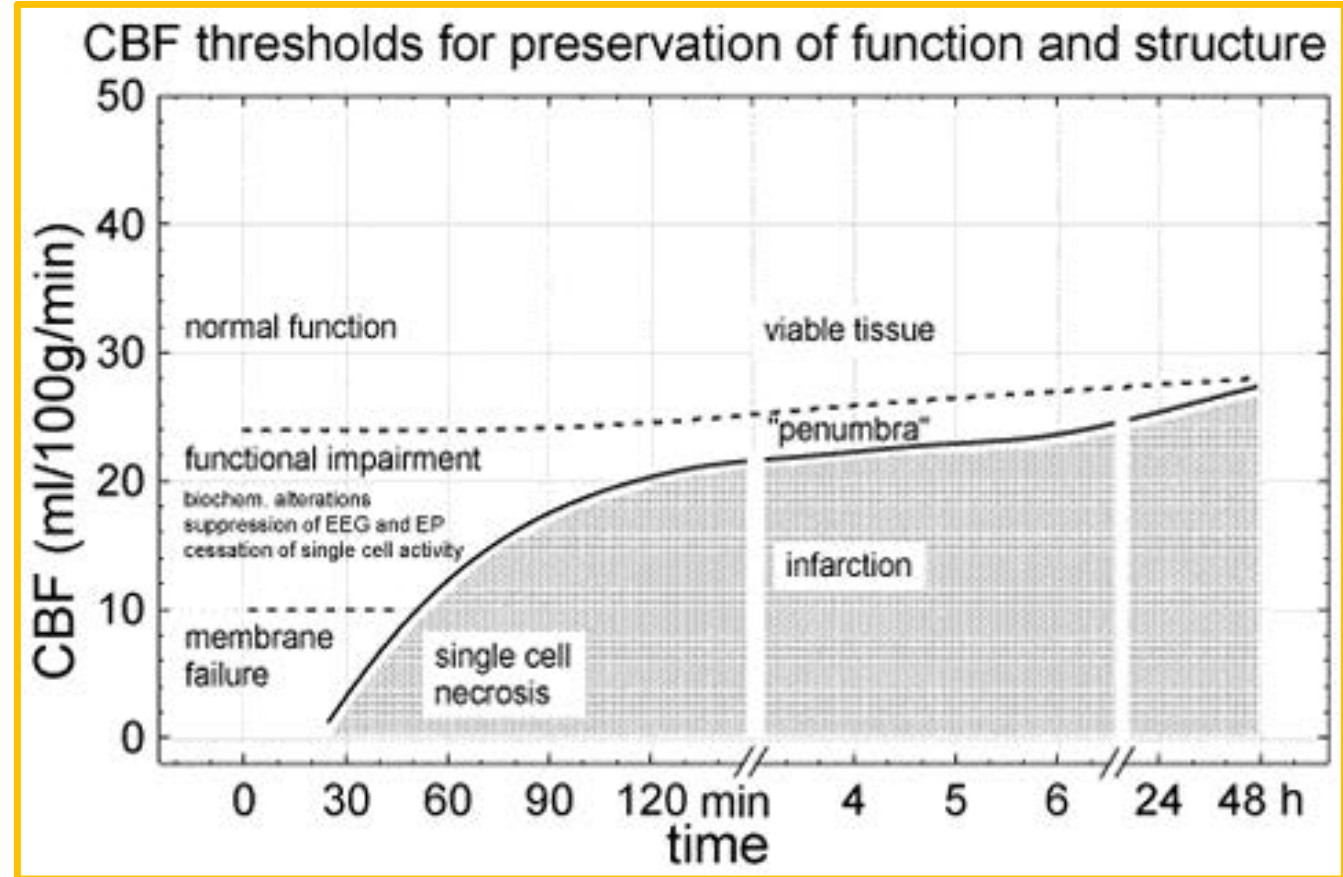
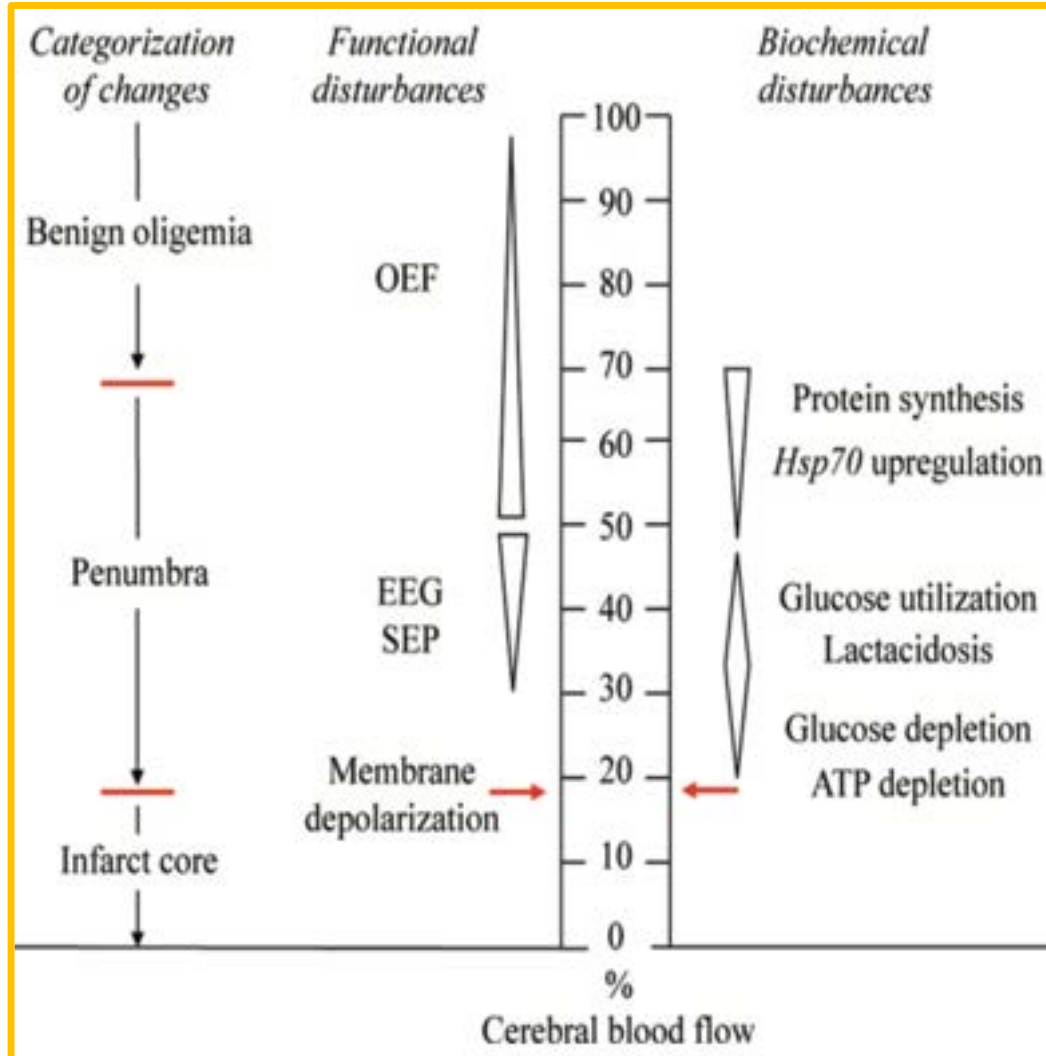
## Eziology

- Ischemic stroke (80-85%)
  - Thrombotic stroke
  - Embolic stroke
- Hemorrhagic stroke (10%)
- Subarachnoid Hemorrhage (5%)

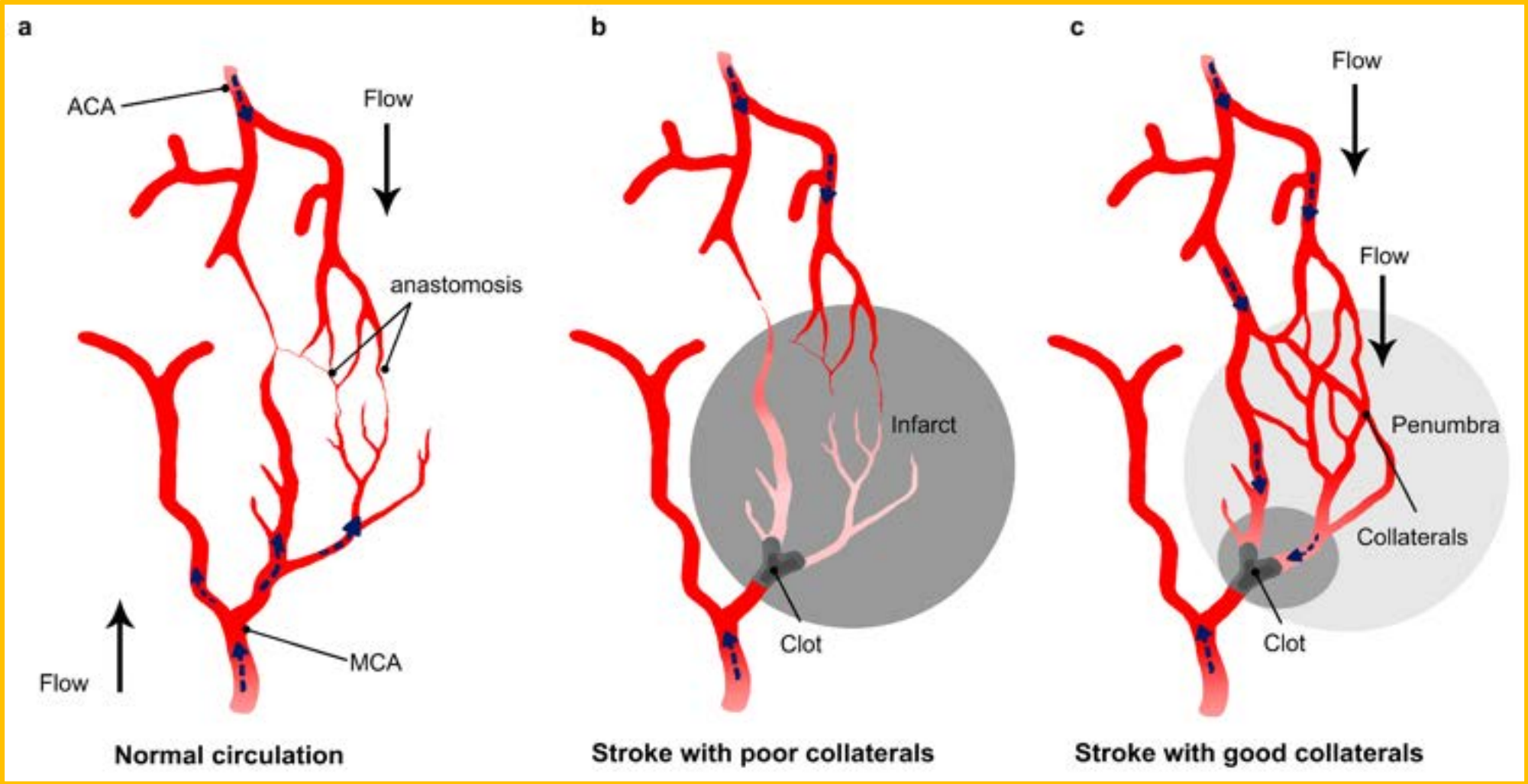




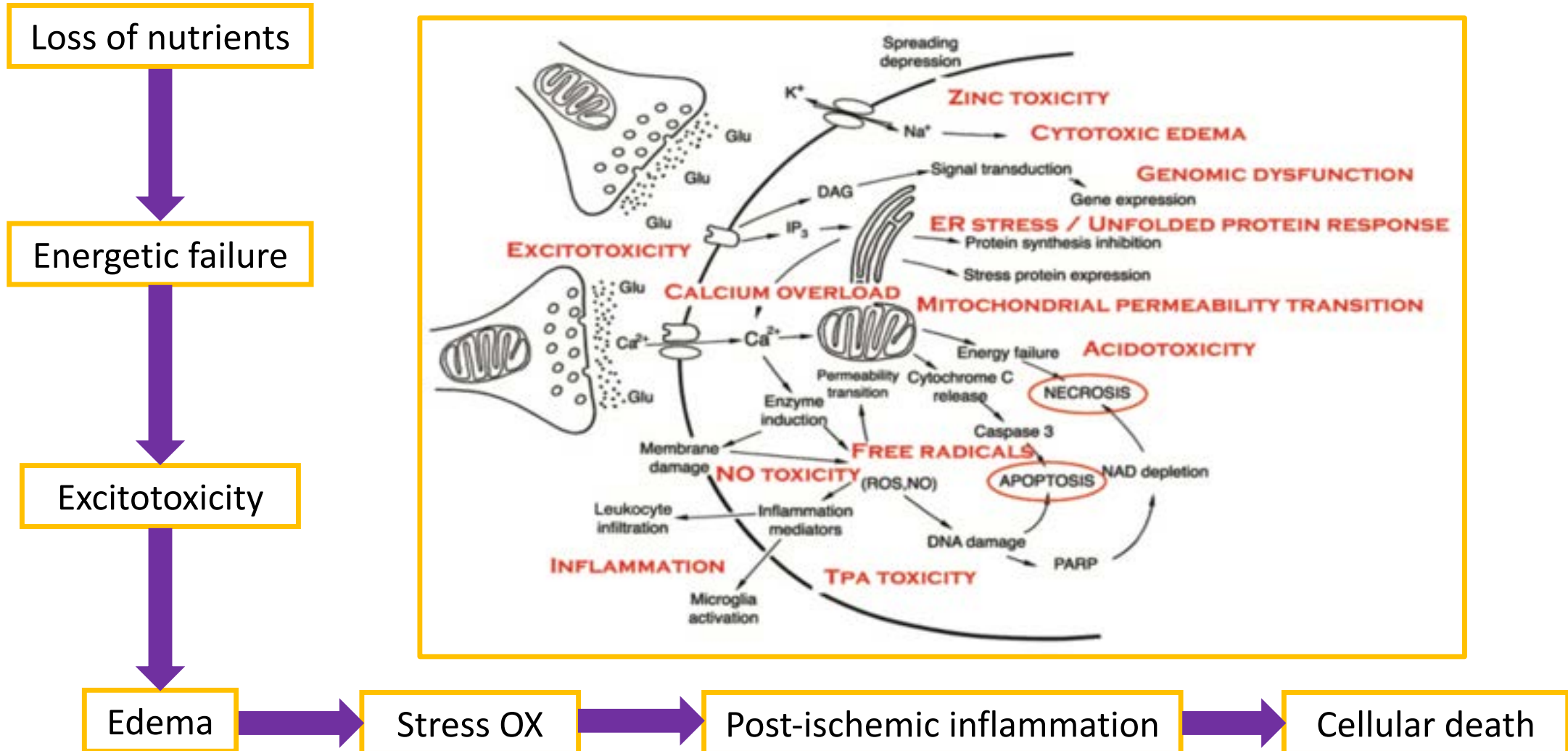
# ISCHEMIC CORE AND PENUMBRA



# CEREBRAL COLLATERALS




# PATHWAYS INVOLVED



# TIME IS BRAIN


**STROKE WARNING SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS**




**F**ACE DROOPING



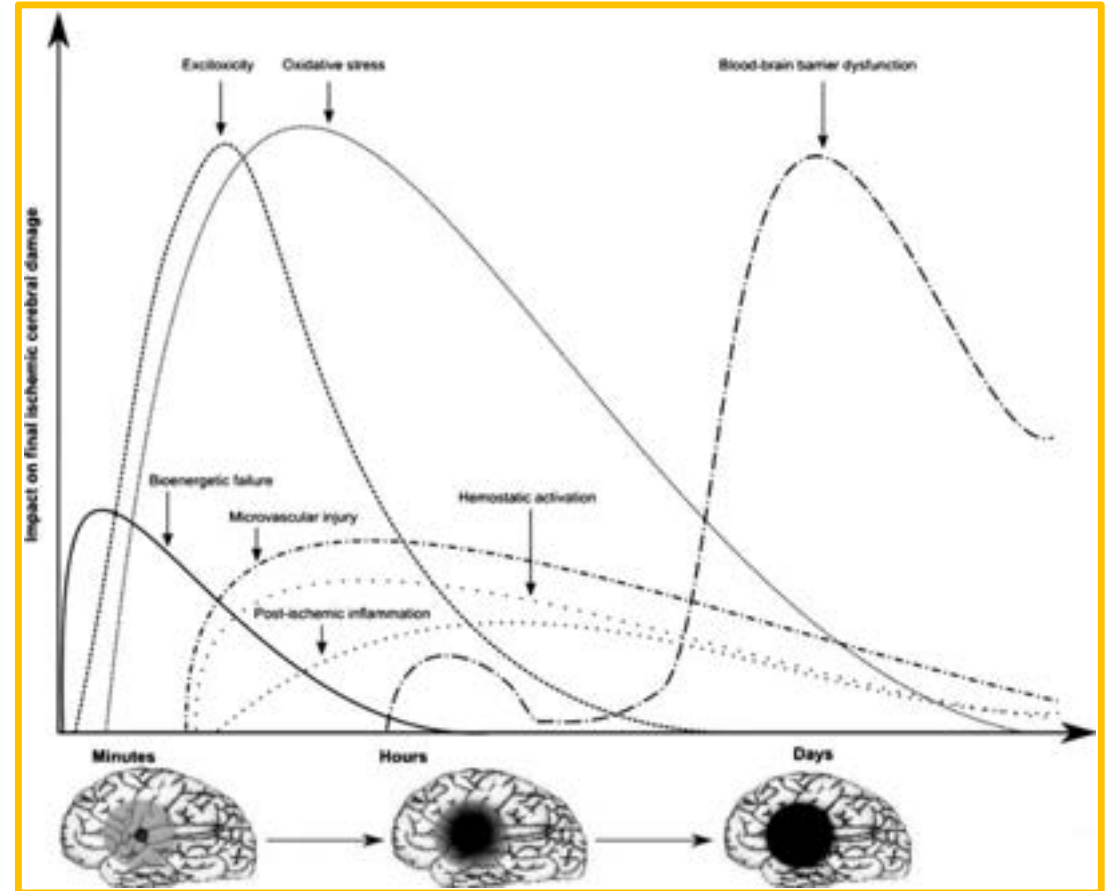
**A**RM WEAKNESS



**S**PEECH DIFFICULTY

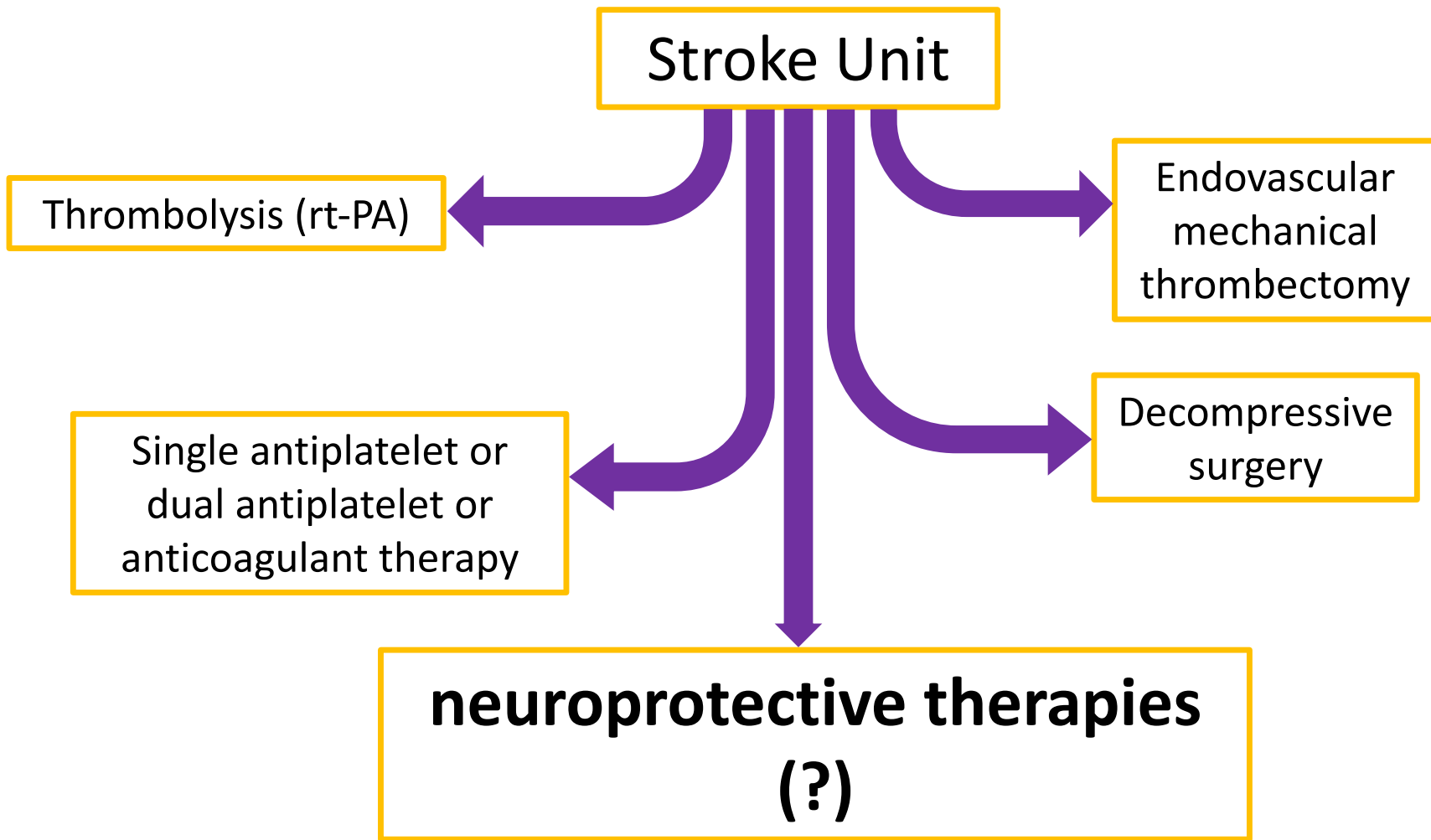


**T**IME TO CALL





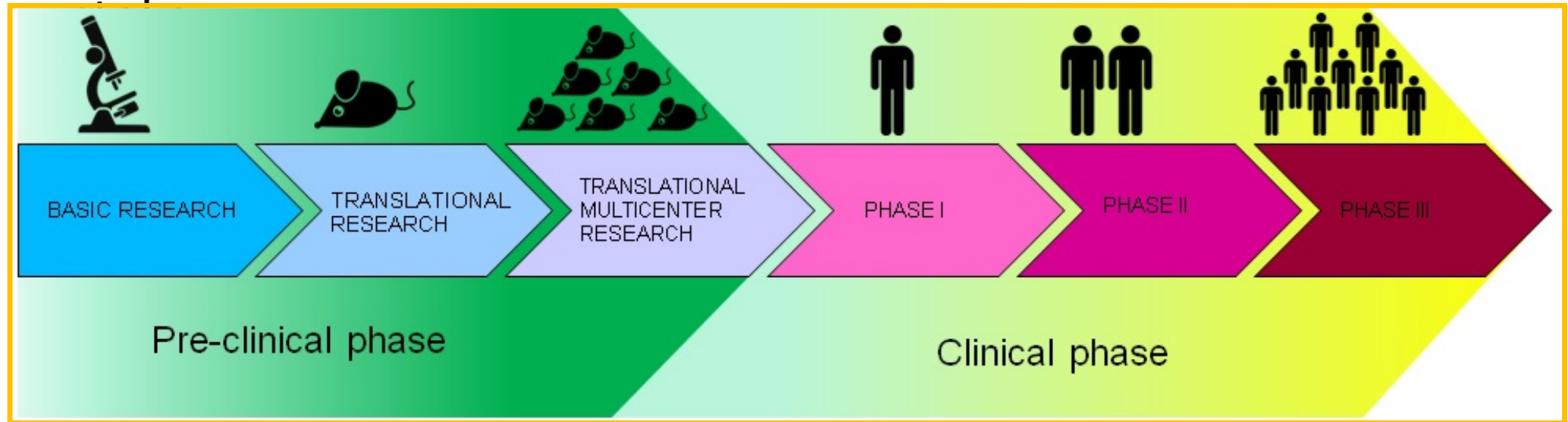
# TREATMENT



# Our aim

Develop new  
therapeutics strategy to  
treat acute ischemic

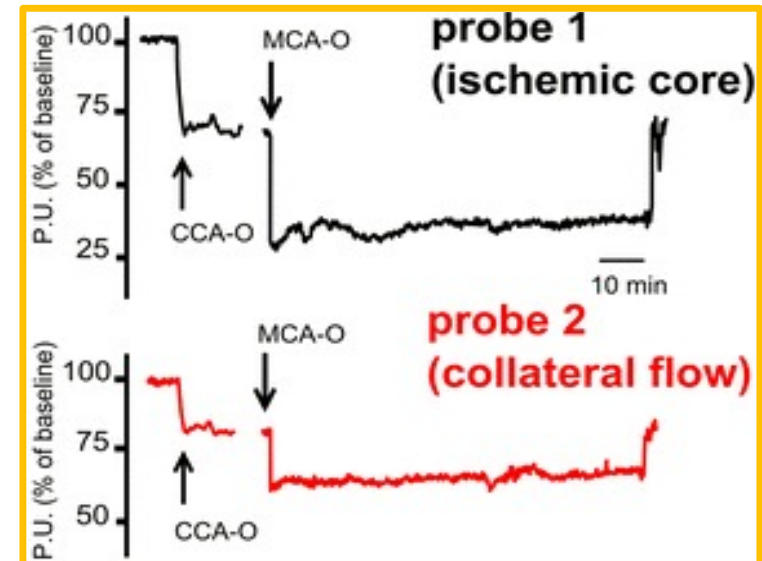
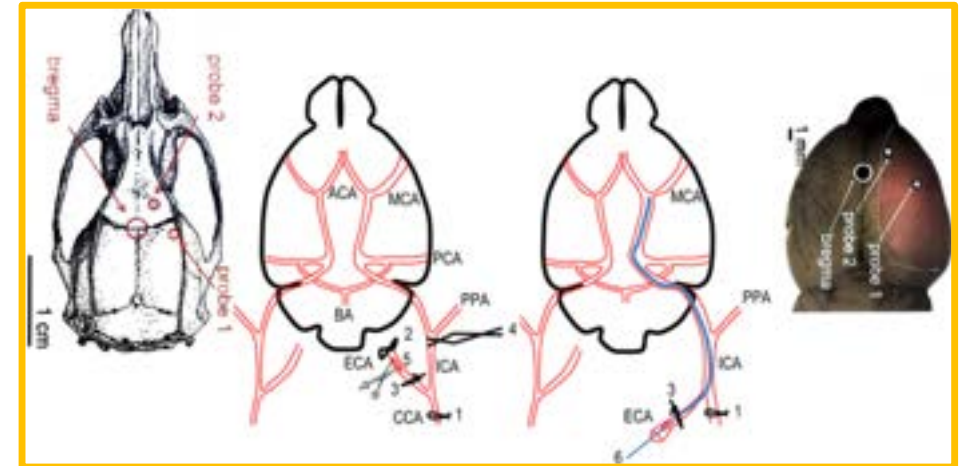
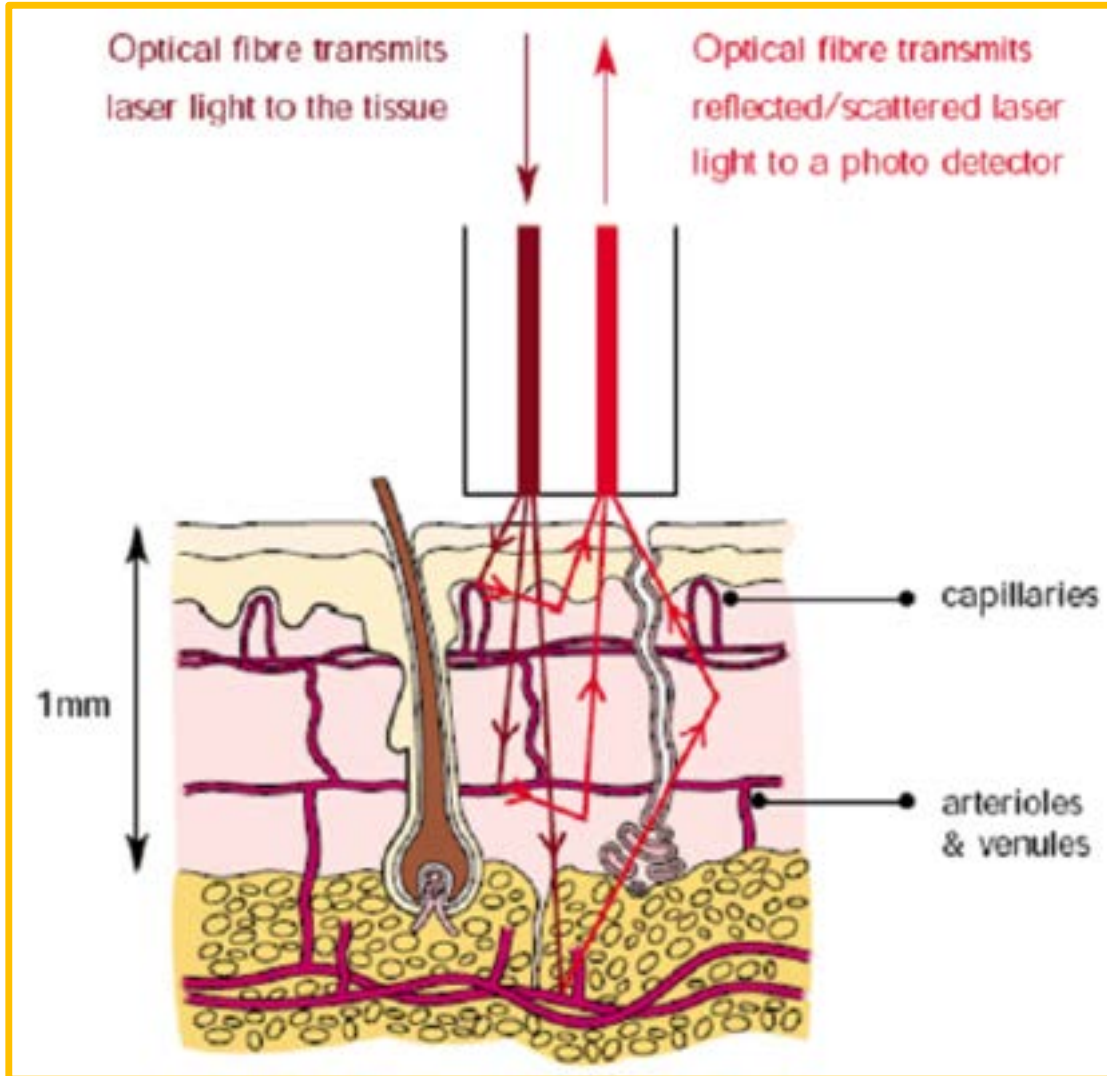
Create new multicenter  
translational project.



# **Transient endovascular middle cerebral artery occlusion in the rat tMCAO**

video of MCAO surgery

# MOOR LASER DOPPLER





# Neurobehavioural tests

Garcia Test



Corner Turning test



## GARCIA NEUROSCORE

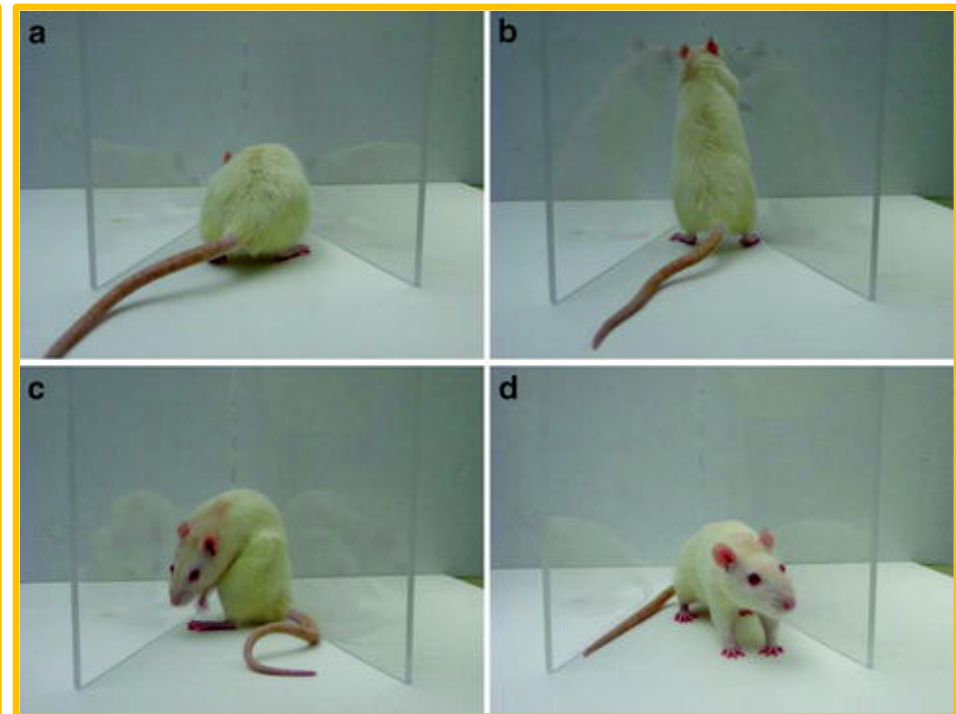
La somma dei punteggi determina il grado di deficit dell'animale sottoposto al test. Il valore 3 corrisponde ad un deficit severo, mentre il 18 a nessun deficit.

DATA: \_\_\_\_\_

RATTO: \_\_\_\_\_

|                                |                     | 0                              | 1                                 | 2                                | 3                            | SCORE |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|-------|
| Attività Spontanea             |                     | Nessun movimento               | Movimento lieve                   | Si muove ma non approccia 3 lati | Si muove ed approccia 3 lati |       |
| Reazione al Contatto           | Vibrisse            |                                | Risposta assente                  | Risposta lieve                   | Risposta simmetrica          |       |
|                                | Tronco              |                                | Risposta assente                  | Risposta lieve                   | Risposta simmetrica          |       |
| Simmetria Pattern di Movimento | Zampe Anteriori     | Pattern gravemente asimmetrico | Pattern moderatamente asimmetrico | Pattern lievemente asimmetrico   | Pattern simmetrico           |       |
|                                | Sospensione da Coda | Pattern gravemente asimmetrico | Pattern moderatamente asimmetrico | Pattern lievemente asimmetrico   | Pattern simmetrico           |       |
| Grip                           |                     |                                | Nulla                             | Lieve                            | Normale                      |       |
|                                |                     |                                |                                   |                                  | <b>TOTALE</b>                |       |

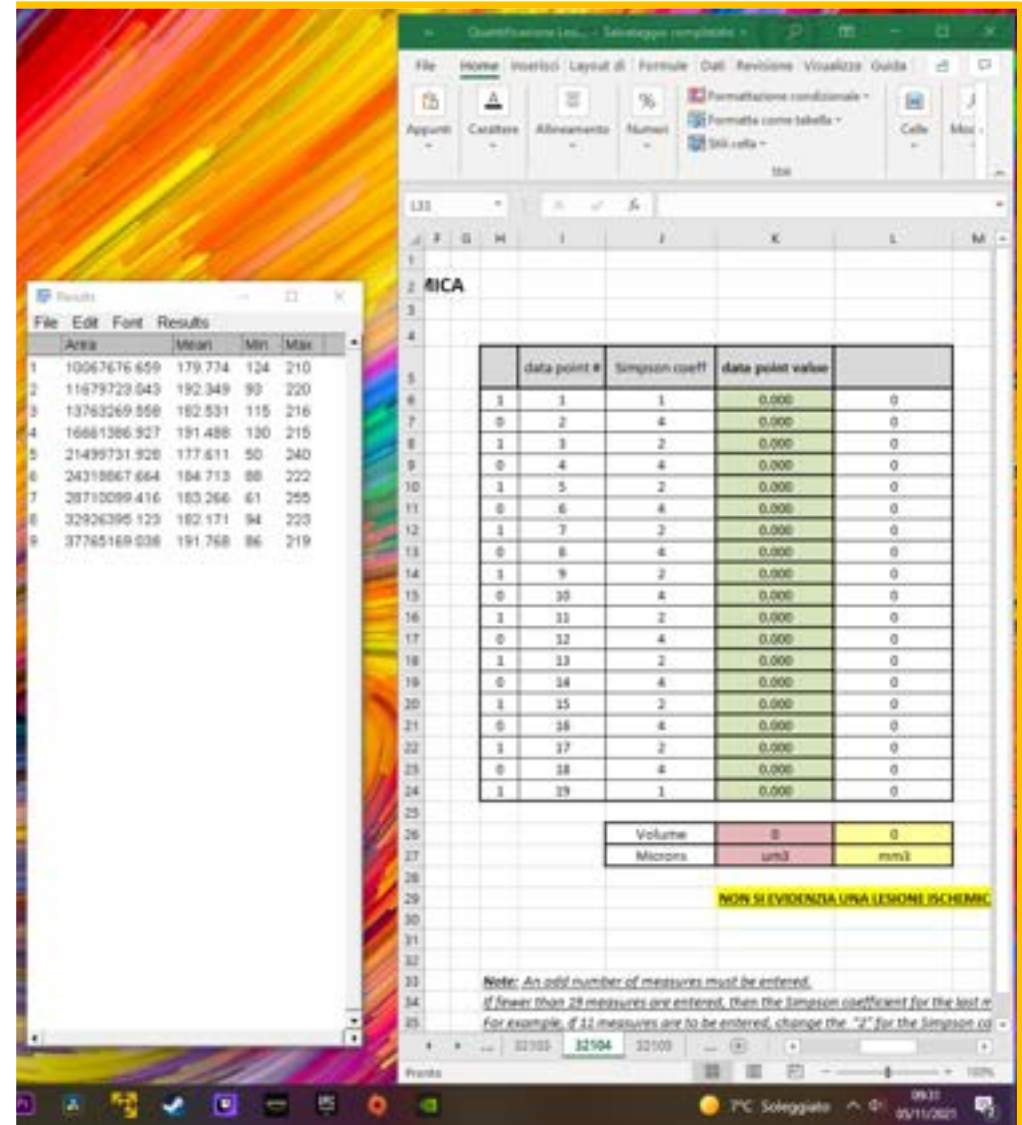
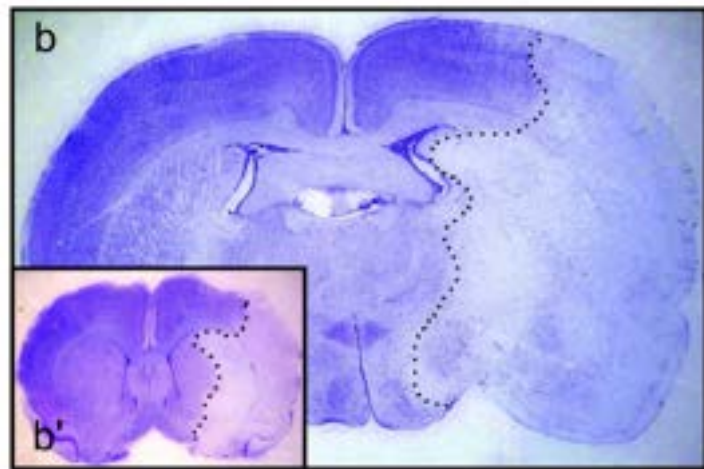
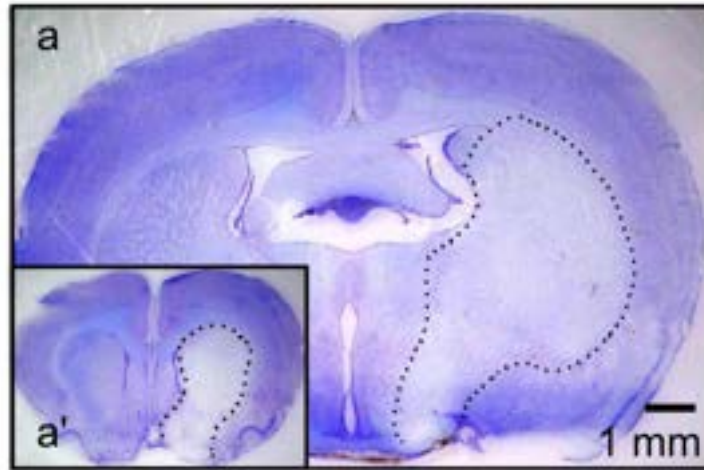
NOTE:



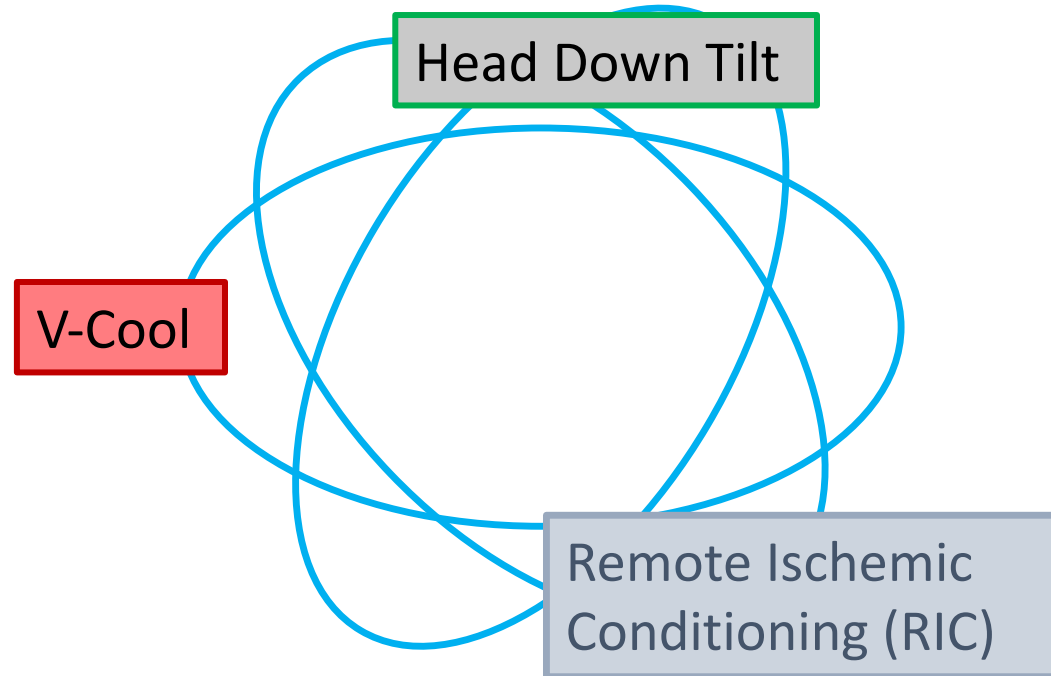
# Hystology analysys



# Quantification of ischemic lesion



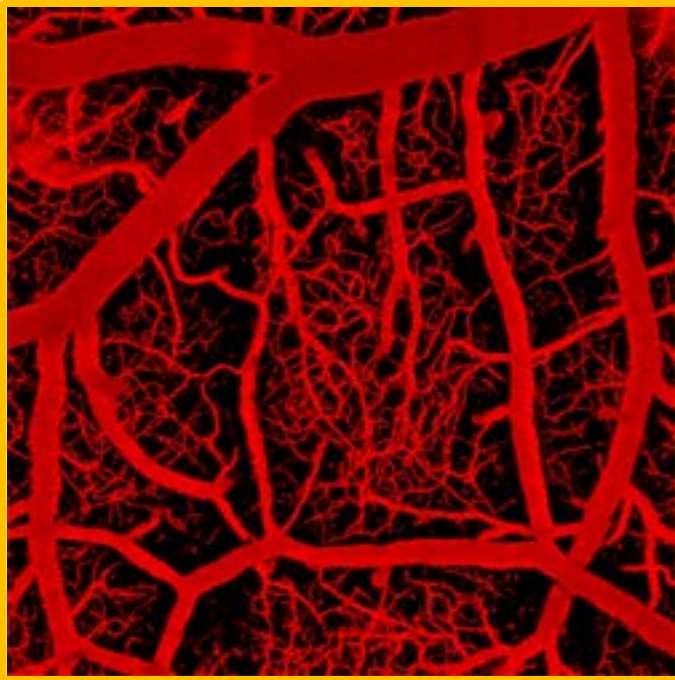
# Research projects





# HEAD DOWN TILT 15

HDT15° is simple, safe and non pharmacological treatment to increase collateral flow



+ 30°

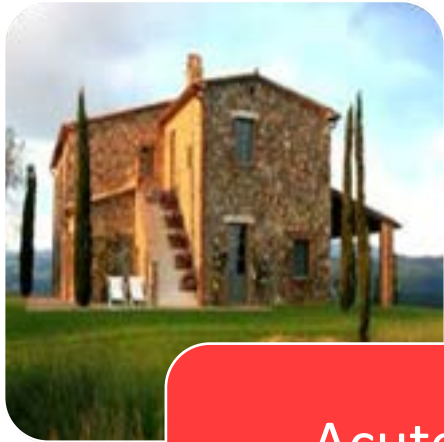


0°

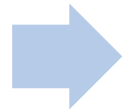


- 15°

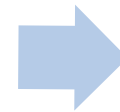




Acute  
Ischemic  
Stroke  
(suspected)

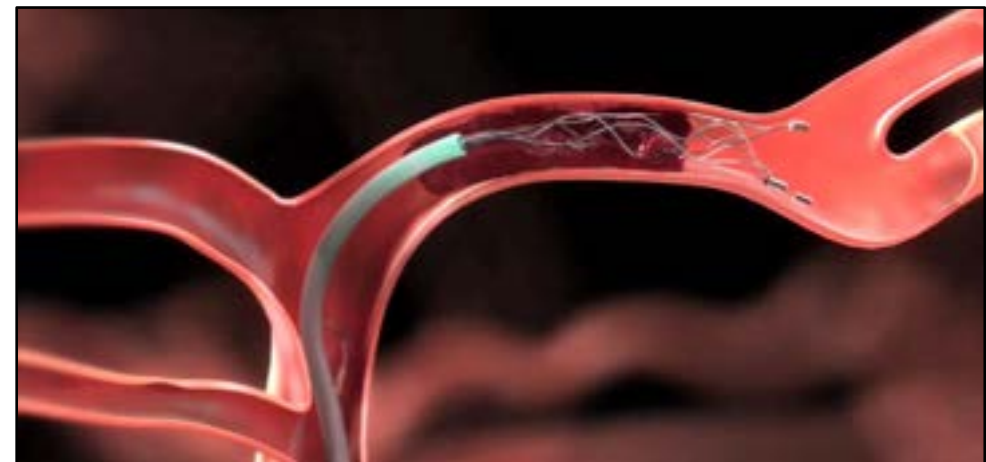
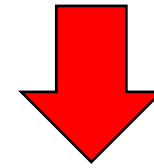
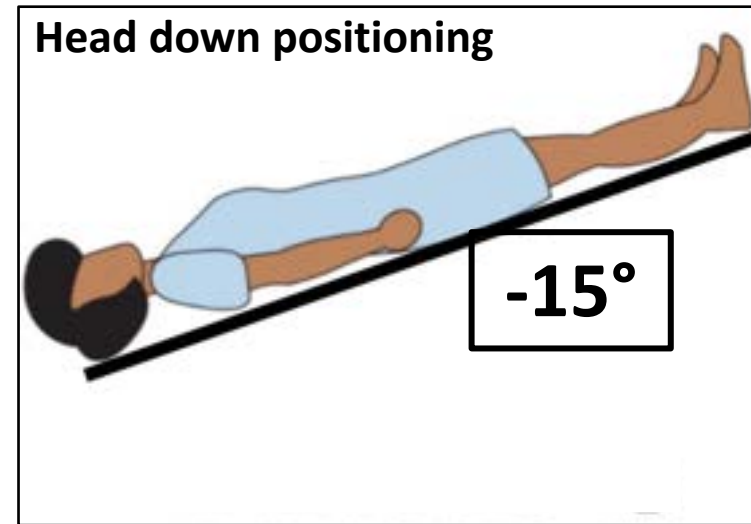
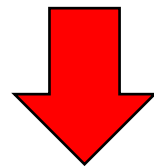
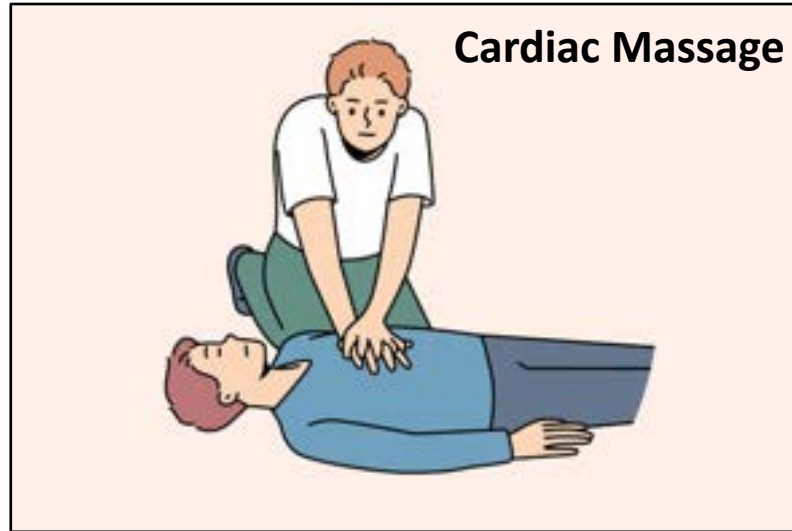


Collateral  
Therapeutics  
(HDT15)

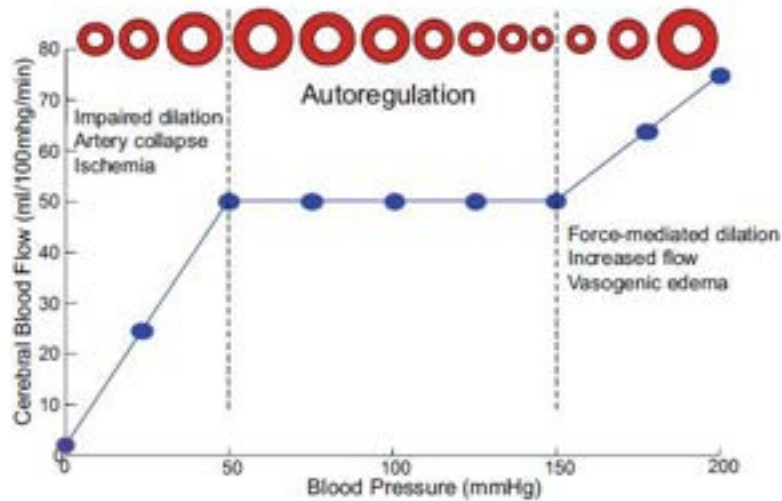
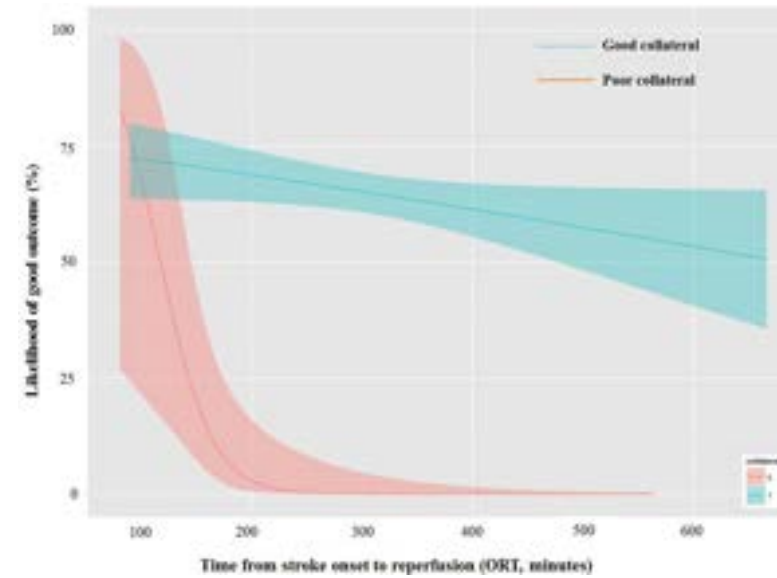
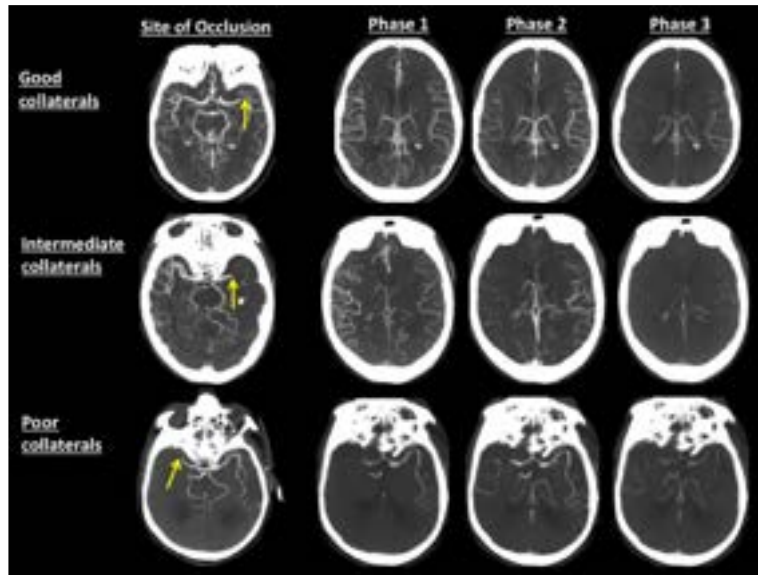


Recanalization  
Therapies

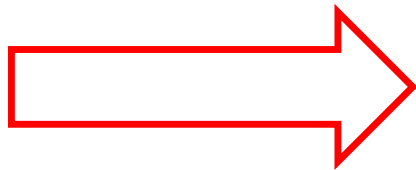
# Inspired by analogies...



# Head Positioning: enhancing collaterals?







**DOWN-PRIME study**  
pre-clinical  
*mechanism: effect on perfusion and tissue at risk*

**AIM**  
HDT efficacy in animal LVO stroke models (rats and macaques)



**DOWN-SUITE trial**  
phase 2a  
*proof-of-concept: HDT increases collateral flow in human stroke*

**AIM**  
HDT feasibility, efficacy and safety in LVO patients (in-hospital)



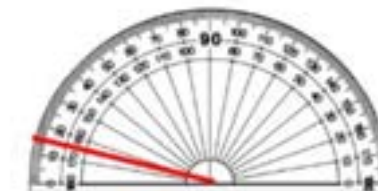
**DOWN-SPOKE trial**  
phase 3  
*clinical benefit: HDT applied during transport from spoke centers*

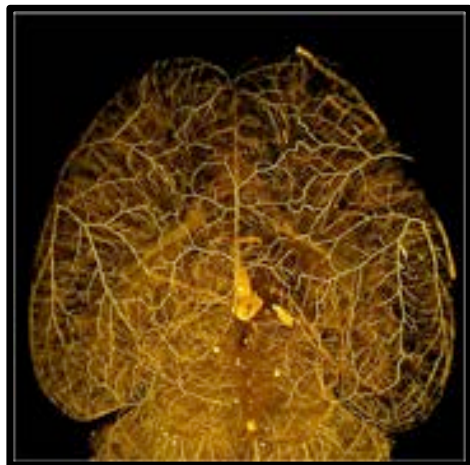
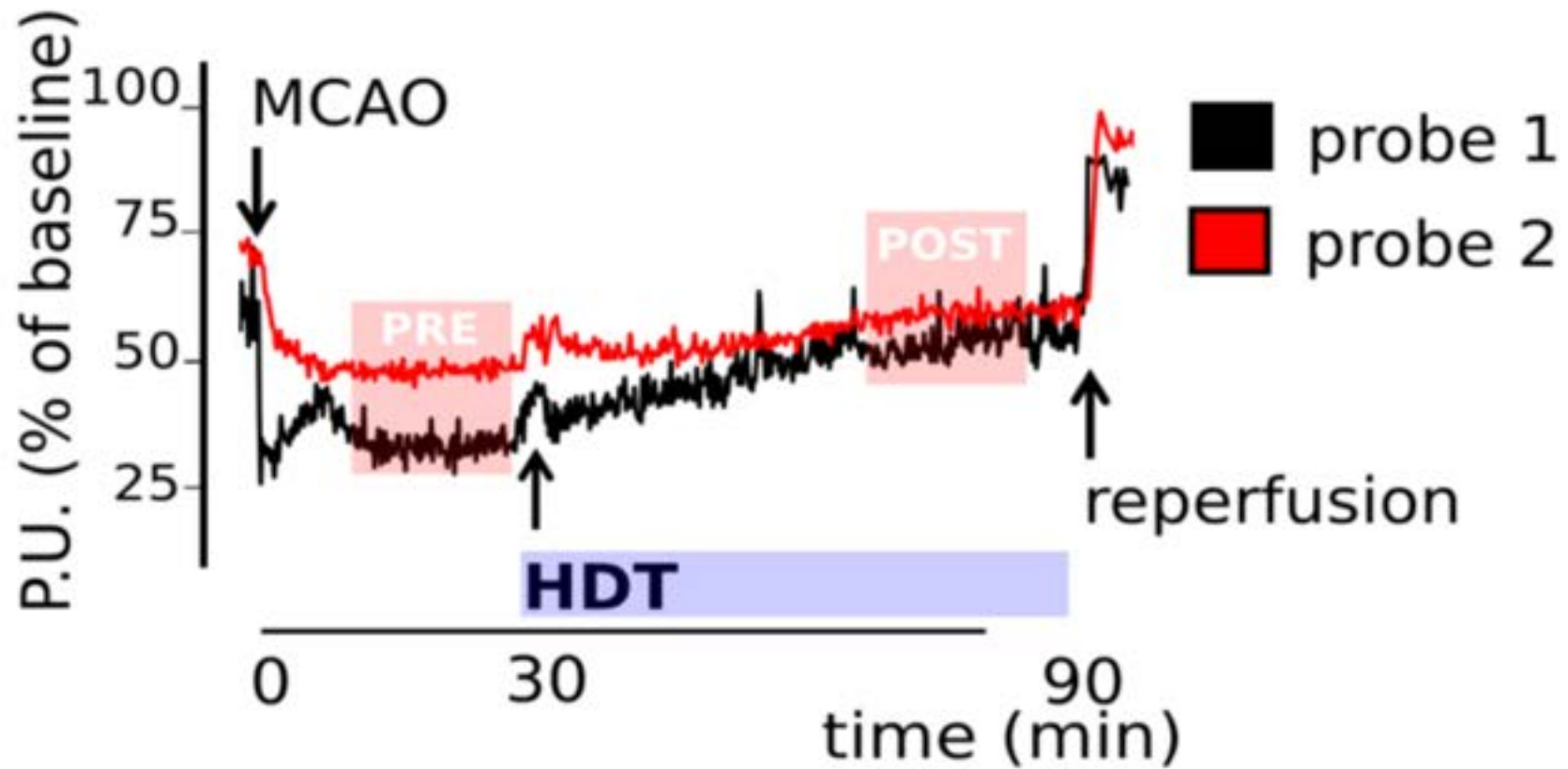
**AIM**  
HDT feasibility, efficacy and safety in LVO stroke patients (spoke-to-hub)



**DOWN-FAST trial**  
phase 3  
*clinical benefit: pre-hospital application to suspected acute stroke patients*

**AIM**  
HDT feasibility, efficacy and safety in unselected stroke patients (pre-hospital)





Original Article

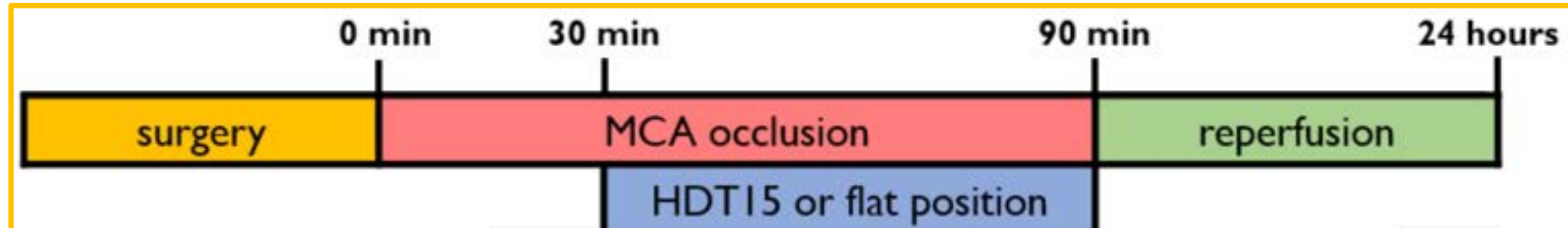
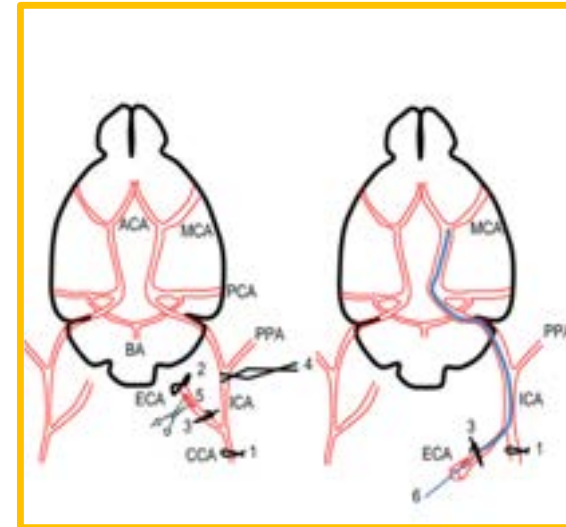
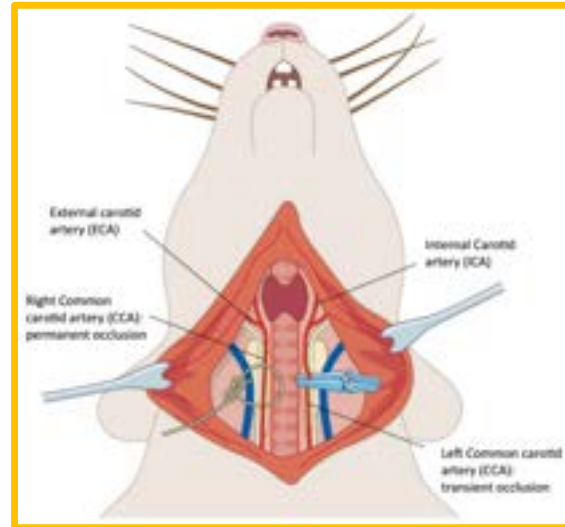
## Cerebral collateral therapeutics in acute ischemic stroke: A randomized preclinical trial of four modulation strategies

Simone Beretta<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Alessandro Versace<sup>1</sup>, Davide Carone<sup>1,2</sup>, Matteo Riva<sup>1</sup>, Valentina Dell'Era<sup>1</sup>, Elisa Cuccione<sup>1</sup>, Ruiyao Cai<sup>1</sup>, Laura Monza<sup>1</sup>, Silvia Pirovano<sup>1</sup>, Giada Padovano<sup>1</sup>, Fabio Stiro<sup>1</sup>, Luca Presotto<sup>4,5</sup>, Giovanni Paternò<sup>1</sup>, Emanuela Rossi<sup>6</sup>, Carlo Giussani<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Erik P Sganzerla<sup>1,2,3</sup> and Carlo Ferrarese<sup>1,2,3</sup>

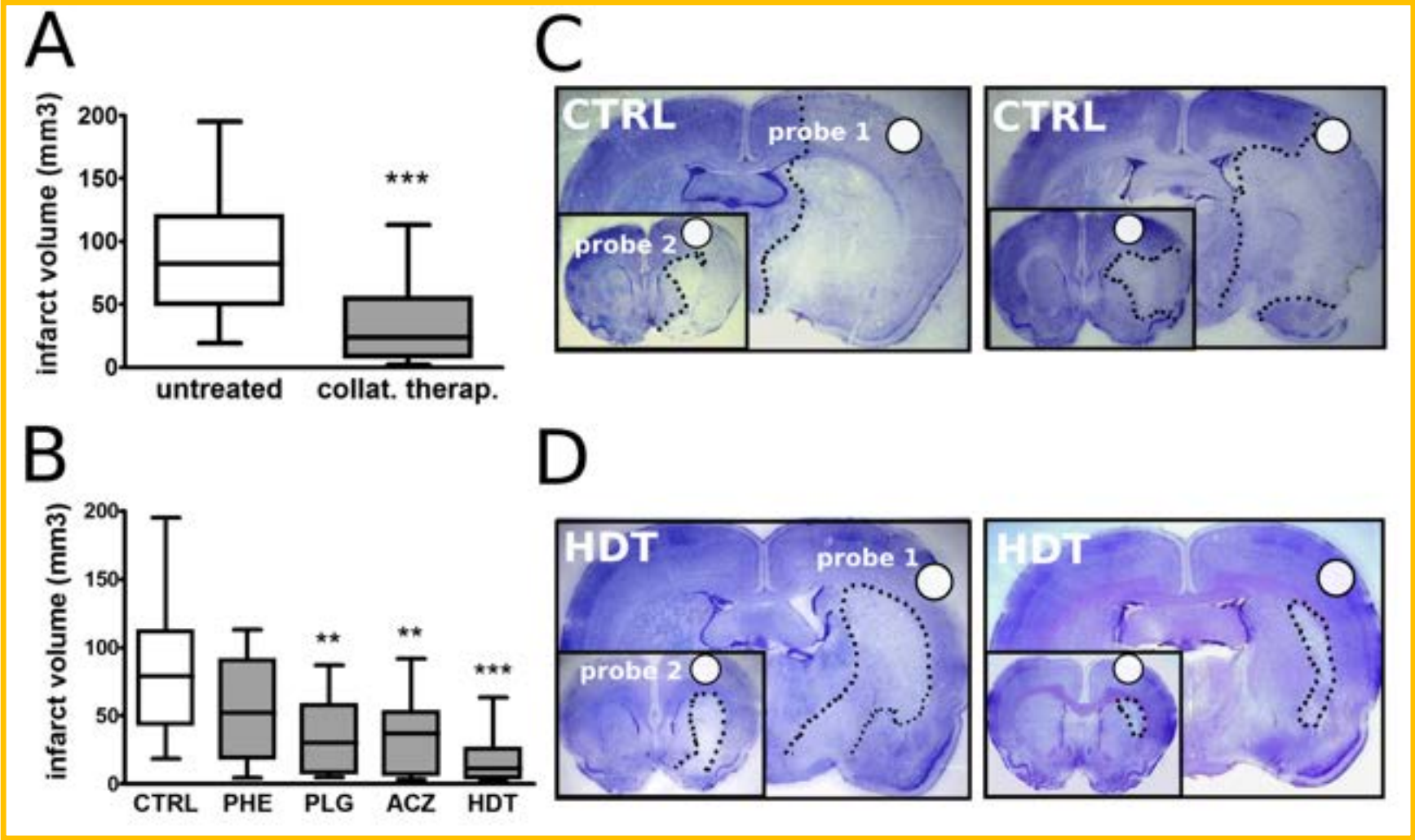
JCBFM

Journal of Cerebral Blood Flow & Metabolism  
0(00) 1–11  
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DOI: 10.1177/0271678X16688705  
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SAGE

# TIMING OF TREATMENT APPLICATION



# HDT15 versus other COLLATERALS THERAPEUTICS



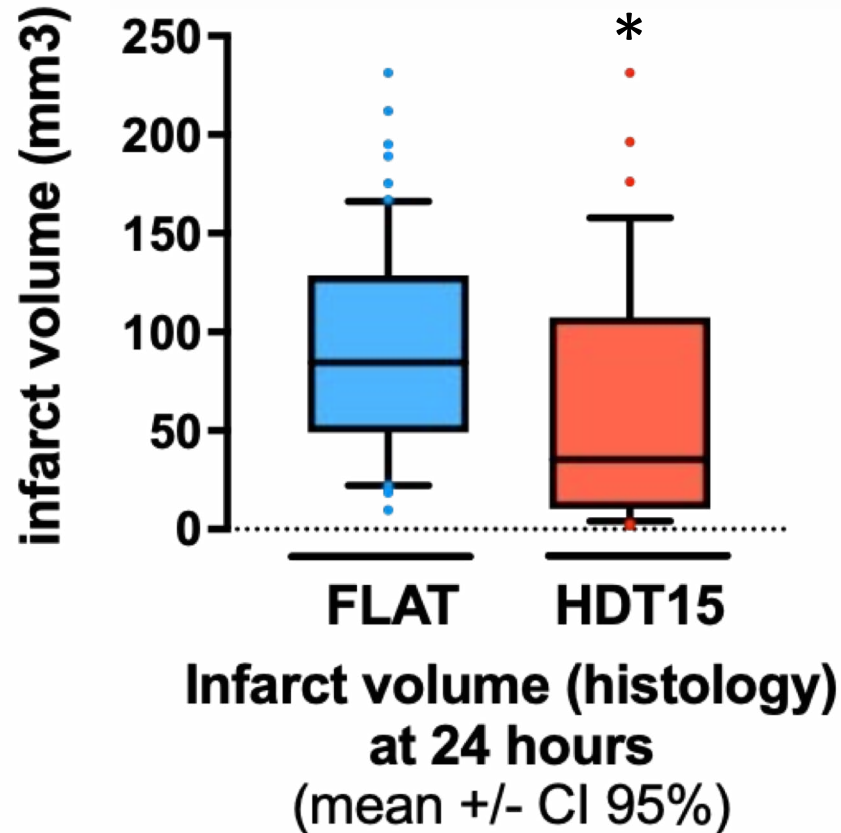


# Pooled analysis of stroke outcome

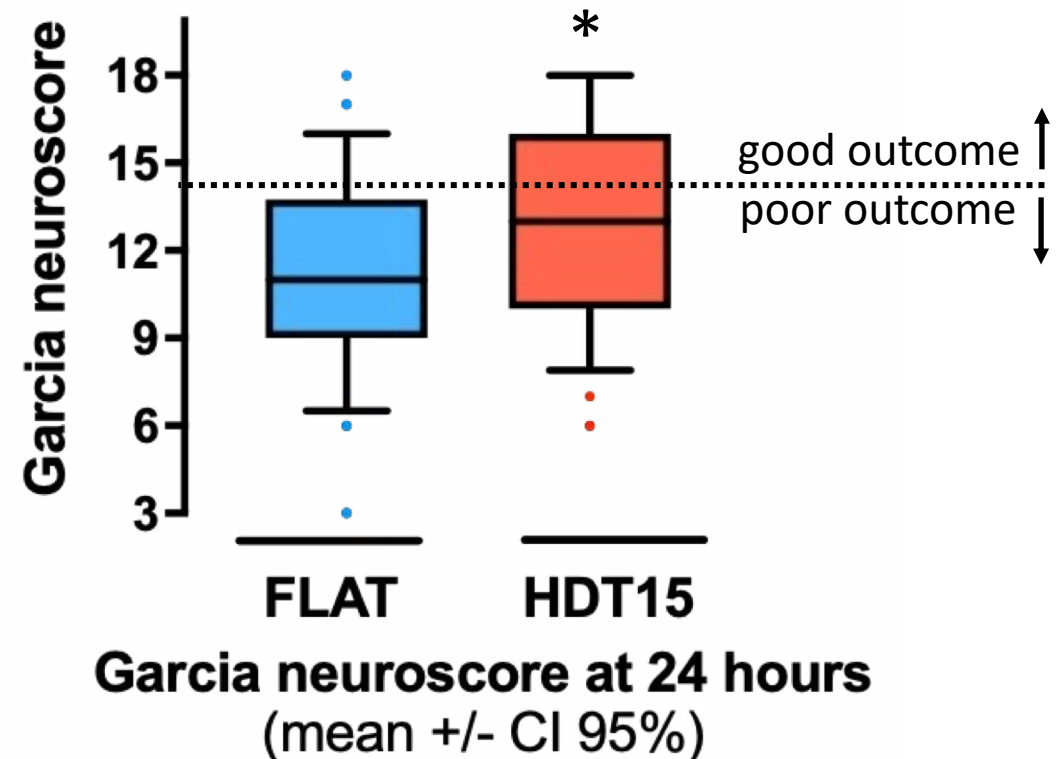
104 randomized rats (from 3 studies)

Diamanti et al., Eur J Neurosci 2022

**34% reduction  
in infarct volume,  $p = 0.006$**

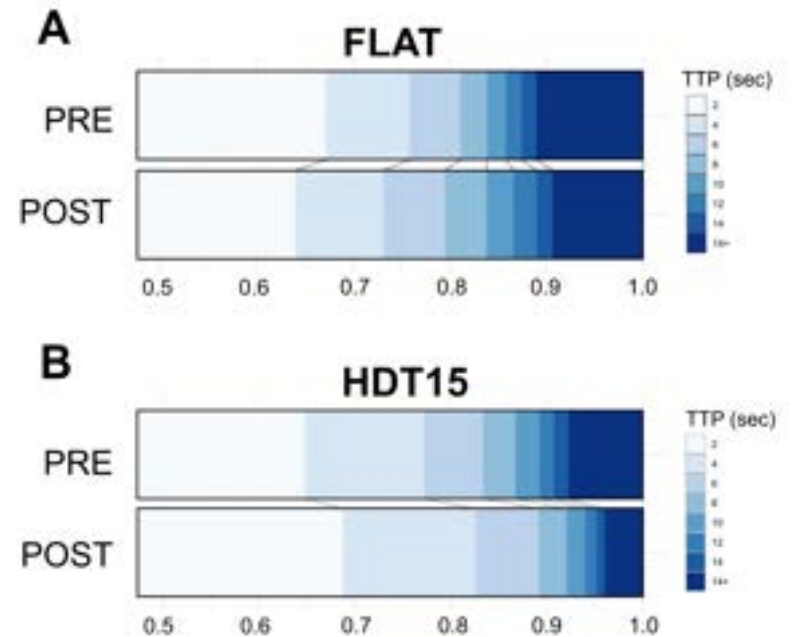
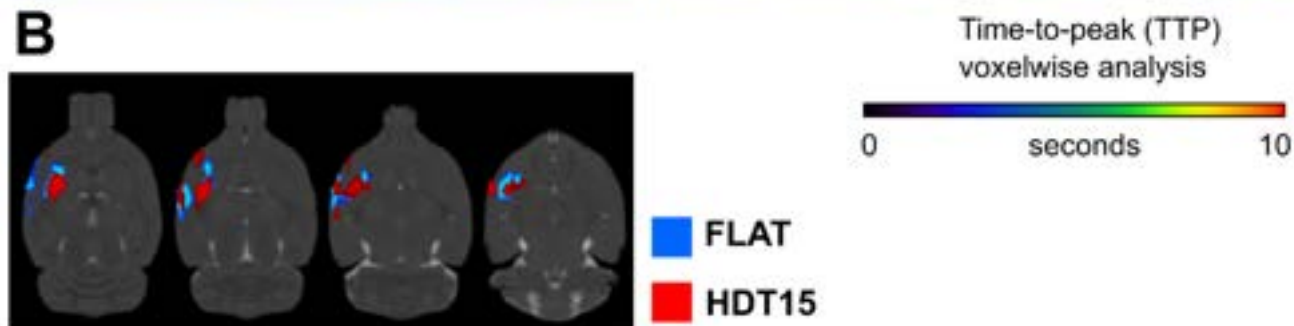
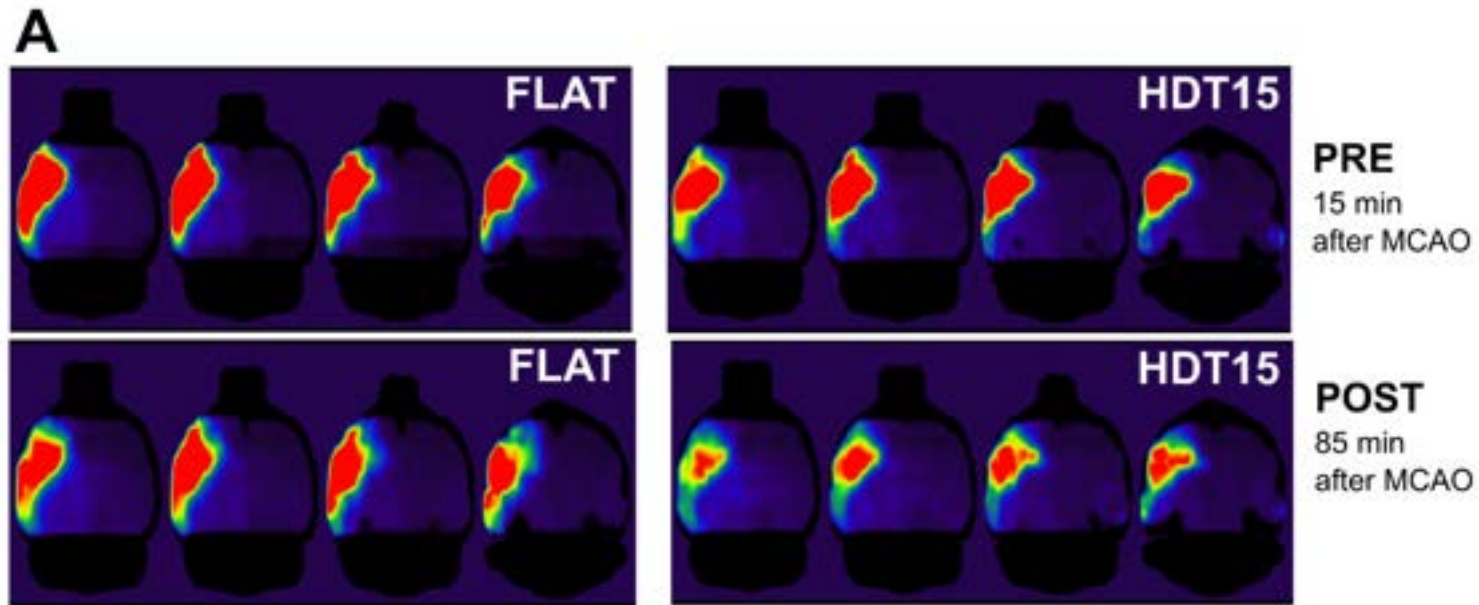


**higher chance of good outcome  
OR 2.64, 96% CI 1.12-6.20,  $p = 0.015$**



# Brain regional reduction of TTP after HDT15

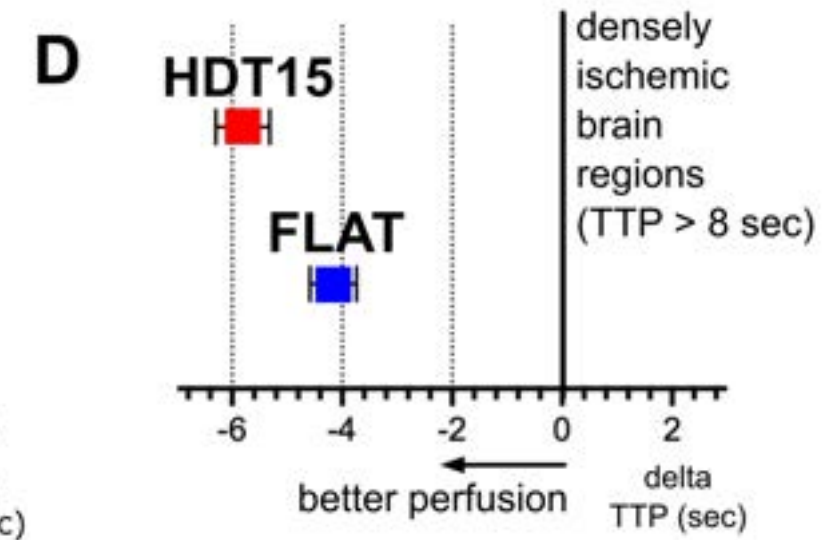
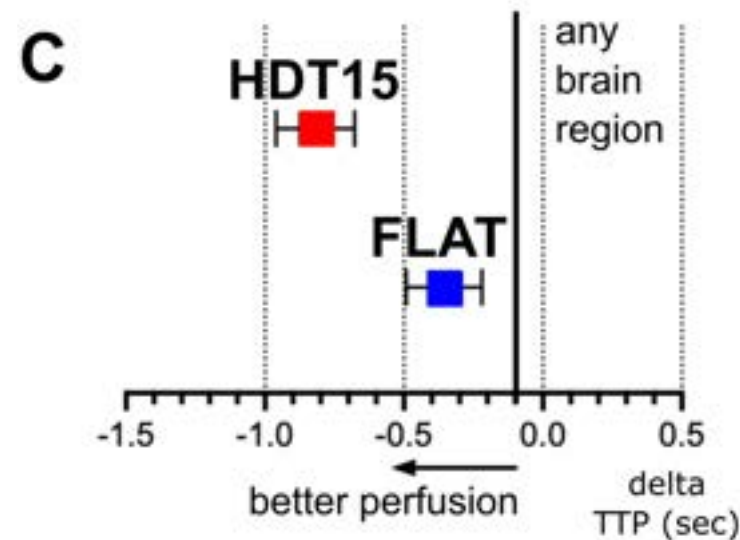
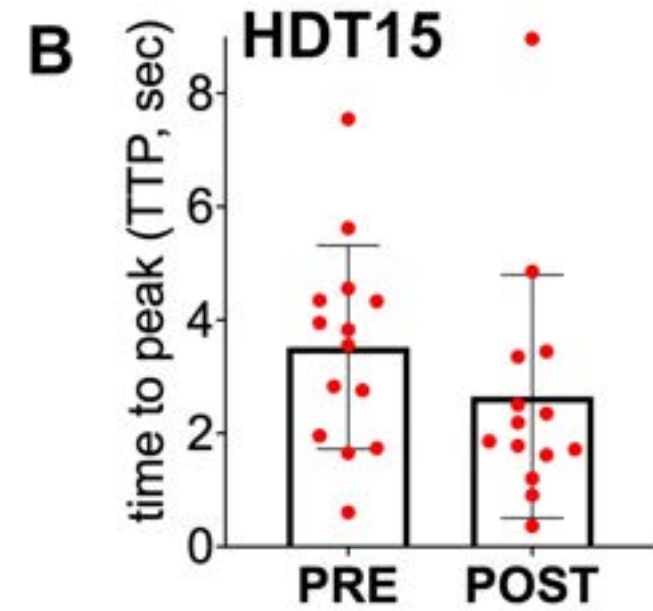
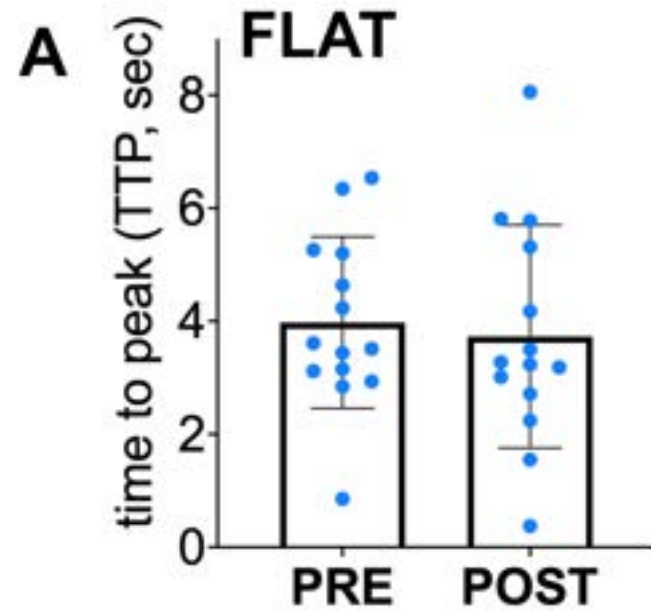
voxelwise analysis and perfusion shift  
POST versus PRE treatment (60 min)



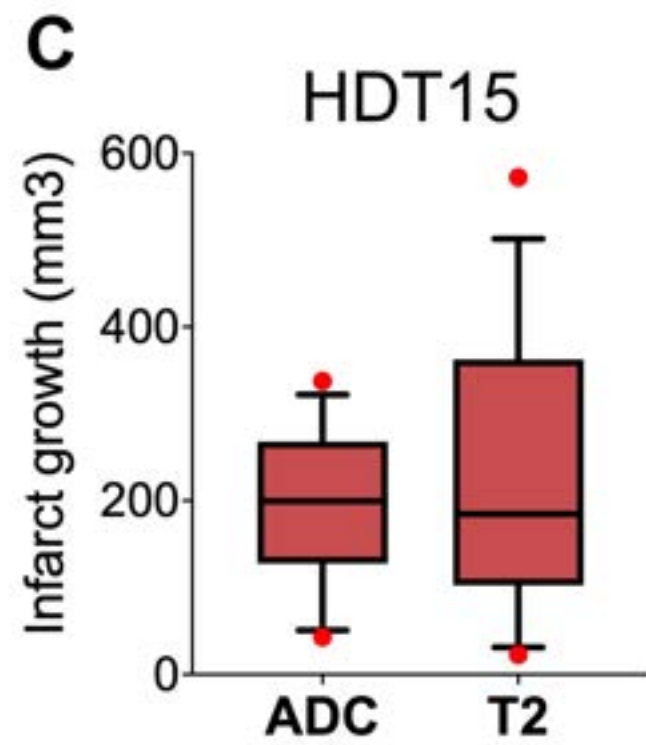
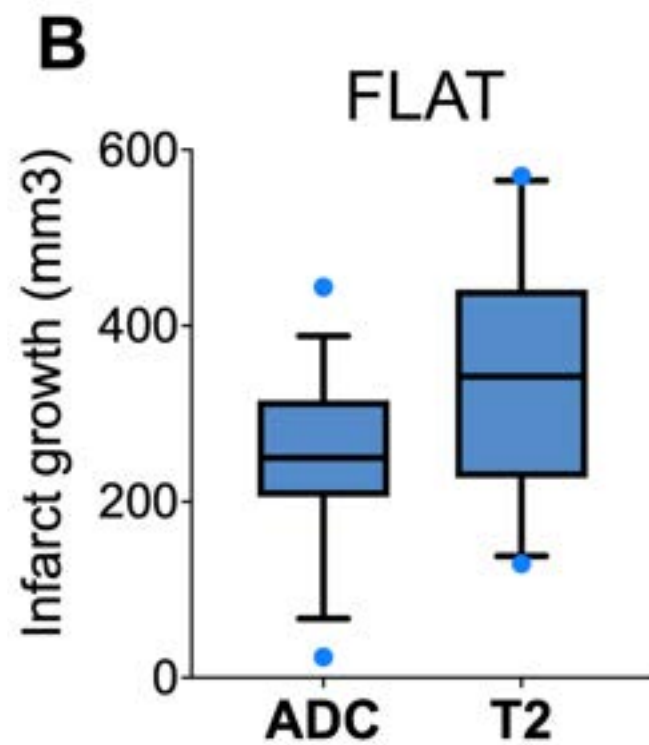
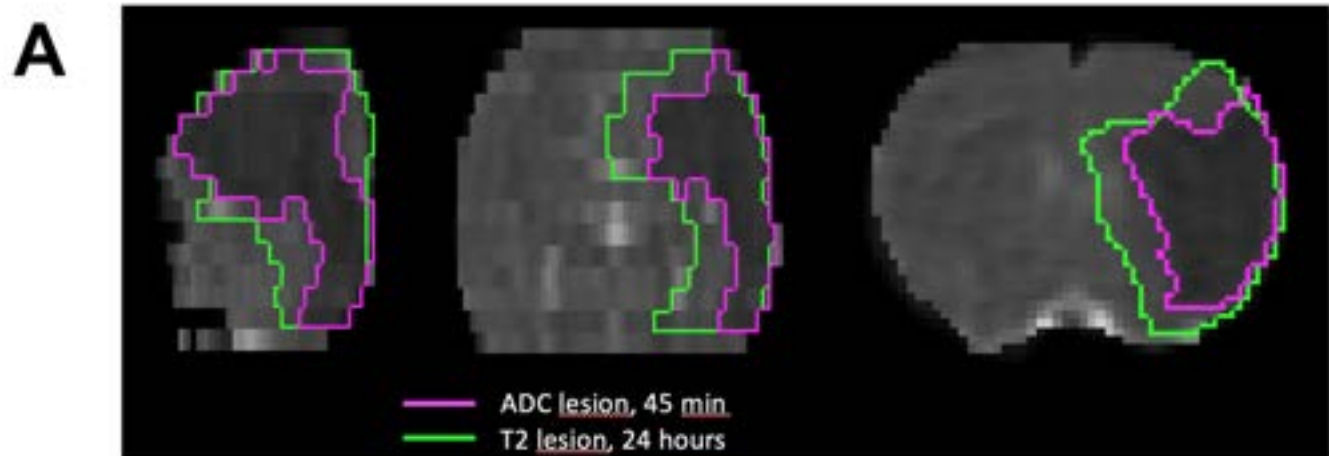
**HDT15 versus FLAT**  
relative difference 56.8%;  $p < 0.0001$

**higher chance of better perfusion**  
OR 1.50, 96% CI 1.41-1.60,  $p < 0.0001$

approximately  
**20%**  
absolute gain  
in cerebral perfusion



# Infarct growth over the first 24 hours



# DOWN-PRIME study

8 primates (macaques)

*endovascular MCA occlusion/reperfusion*

single arm, proof-of-concept, phase 1 trial

*perfusion MRI (DSC)*

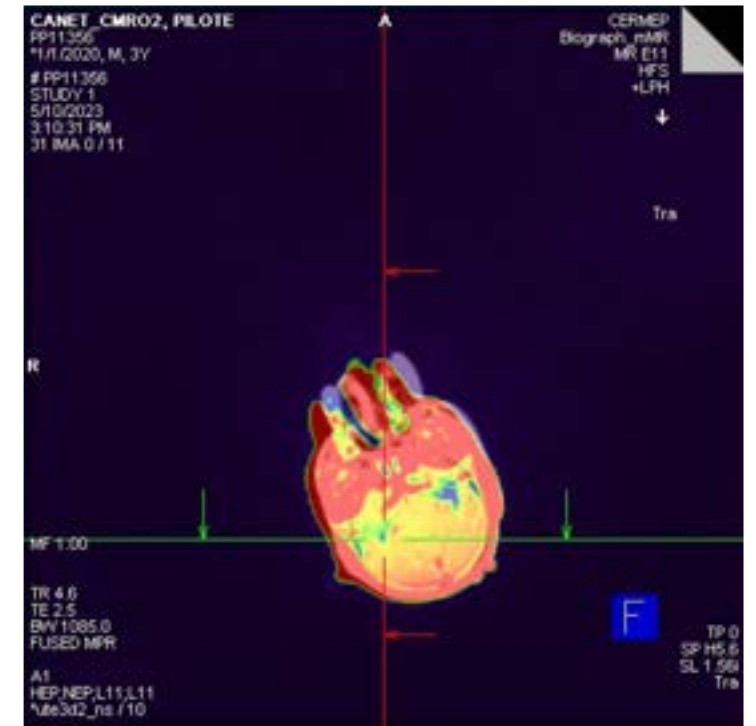
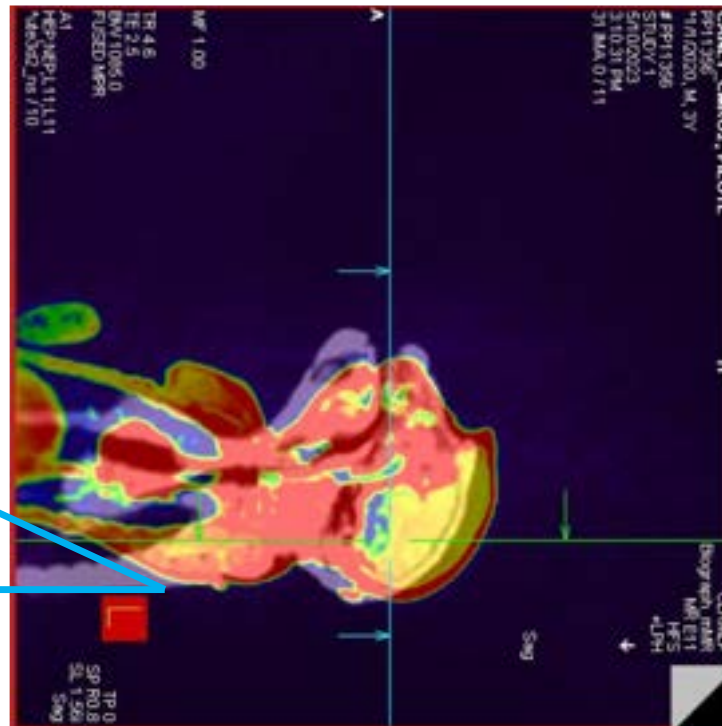
*perfusion/metabolism PET (<sup>15</sup>O-water)*

Substudy of CMRO2 project (embedded)

**Lyon-Milan** collaboration

First exp May 2023

15°




|   |              |                    |                              |
|---|--------------|--------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>AAPG2021</b>   | <b>CMRO2</b> | PRCE               |                              |
| Coordinated by:   | Tae-Hee CHO  | Duration 48 months | ANR Requested Funding 950 k€ |
| Scientific evaluation committee CE17 Axis 3.9 translational health research |              |                    |                              |

**Oxygen metabolism by MRI in clinical stroke:  
Innovative biomarker in cerebrovascular diseases**



# The V-COOL Project

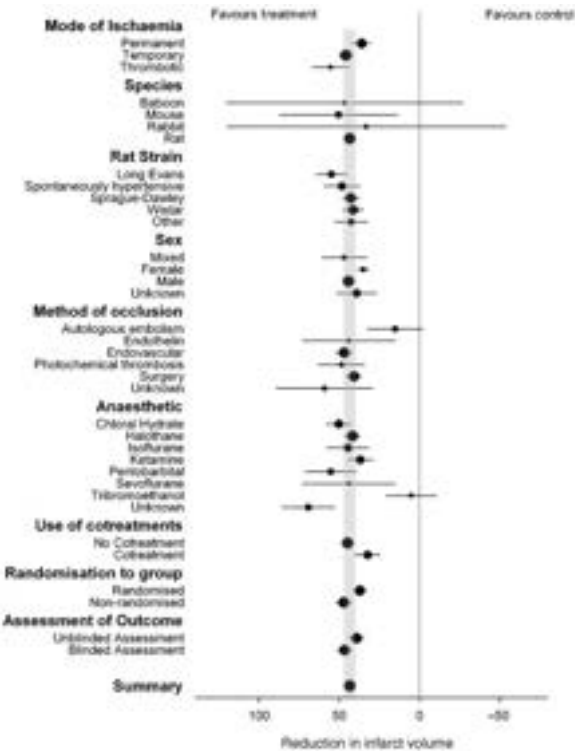
|  |   |
|--|---|
|  <p><i>Ministero della Salute</i><br/>Direzione Generale della Ricerca Sanitaria<br/>e Biomedica e della Vigilanza sugli Enti<br/>BANDO 2011-2012 PROGETTI DI RICERCA<br/>PROGETTO COMPLETO</p> | <p>Project Title:<br/>Selective cerebrospinal fluid hypothermia: bioengineering development and in vivo study of an intraventricular cooling device (V-Cool) for acute stroke therapy</p> |
| <p>Project Code: GR-2011-02347879</p>  | <p>Principal Investigator: BERETTA SIMONE</p>   |



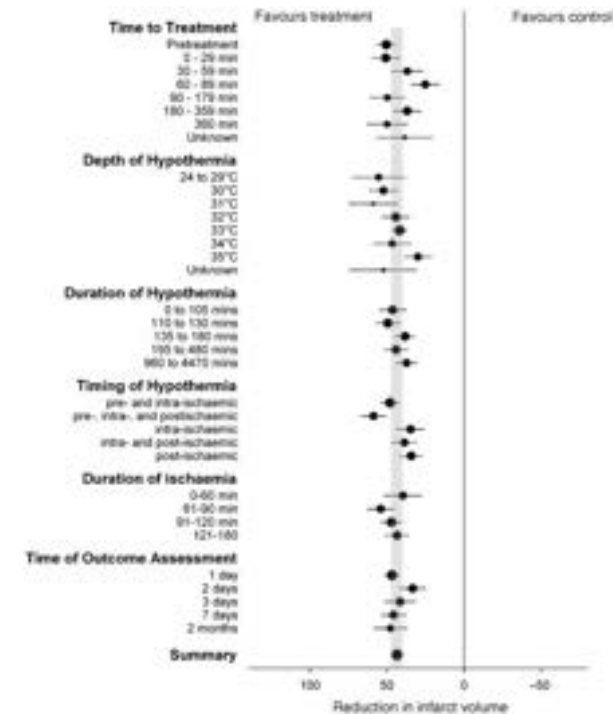
## REVIEW ARTICLE

# Hypothermia in animal models of acute ischaemic stroke: a systematic review and meta-analysis

H. Bart van der Worp,<sup>1</sup> Emily S. Sena,<sup>2</sup> Geoffrey A. Donnan,<sup>3</sup> David W. Howells<sup>3</sup> and Malcolm R. Macleod<sup>2</sup>



**Fig. 2** Point estimate of effect on infarct size and 95% CI by mode of ischaemia, species, rat strain, sex, method of occlusion, anaesthetic, use of co-treatment, randomisation, and assessment of outcome. The grey band indicates the global estimate and its 95% CI.



**Fig. 4** Point estimate of effect on infarct size and 95% CI by duration of ischaemia in models of reperfusion, time to treatment, depth of hypothermia, duration of hypothermia, timing of hypothermia and time of outcome assessment. The grey band indicates the global estimate and its 95% CI.

**Selective CSF hypothermia** is a new unexplored concept.

**Advantages compared to systemic hypothermia:**

- targeted hypothermia
- deeper degree of hypothermia
- longer duration of hypothermia
- reduction of systemic side effects

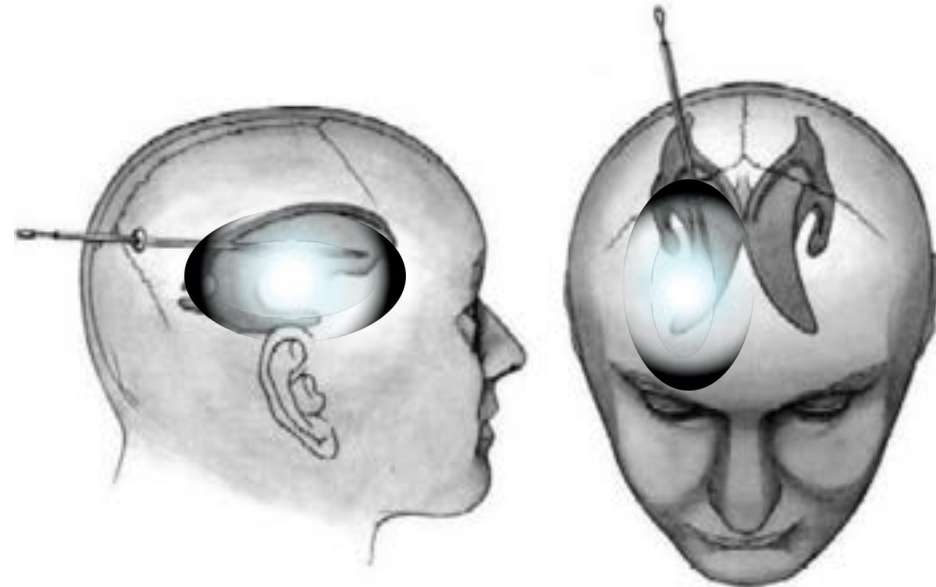
*shivering*

*infections (pneumonia)*

*cardiac arrhythmias*

*coagulopathy*

*sedation and intubation*

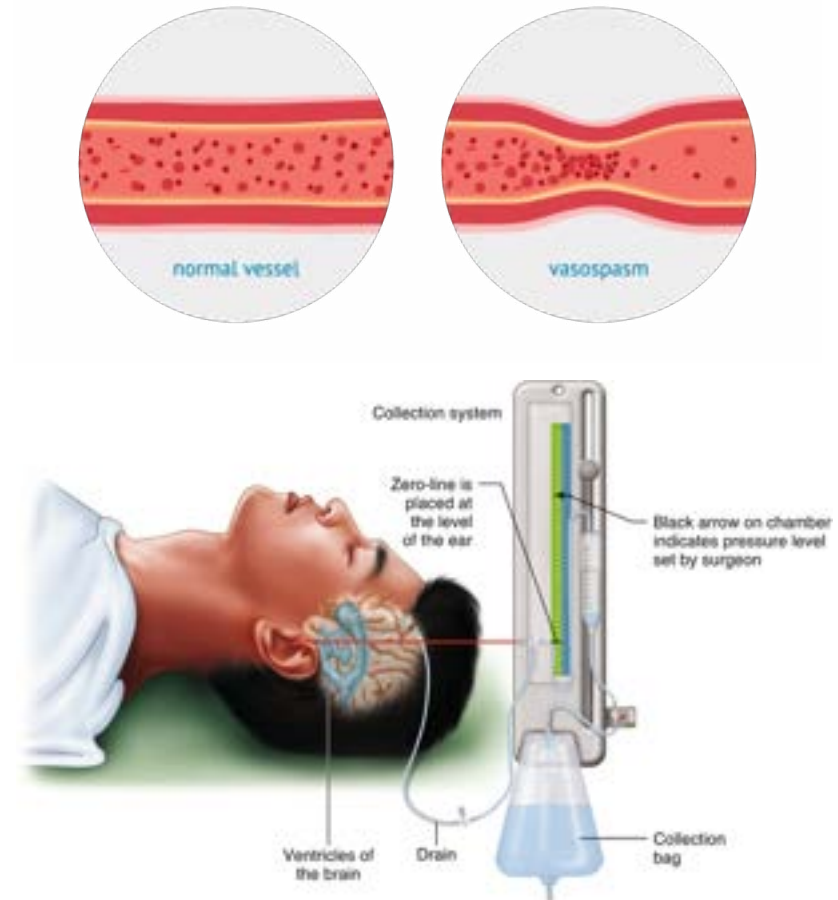


## Selective CSF hypothermia is a new unexplored concept.

### Clinical translation potential:


- vasospasm after subarachnoid hemorrhage
- acute ischemic stroke (severe)
- malignant cerebral edema
- traumatic brain injury
- super-refractory status epilepticus

Potential combination with external ventricular drains (EVD)





# Selective Cerebrospinal Fluid Hypothermia: Bioengineering Development and In Vivo Study of an Intraventricular Cooling Device (V-COOL)

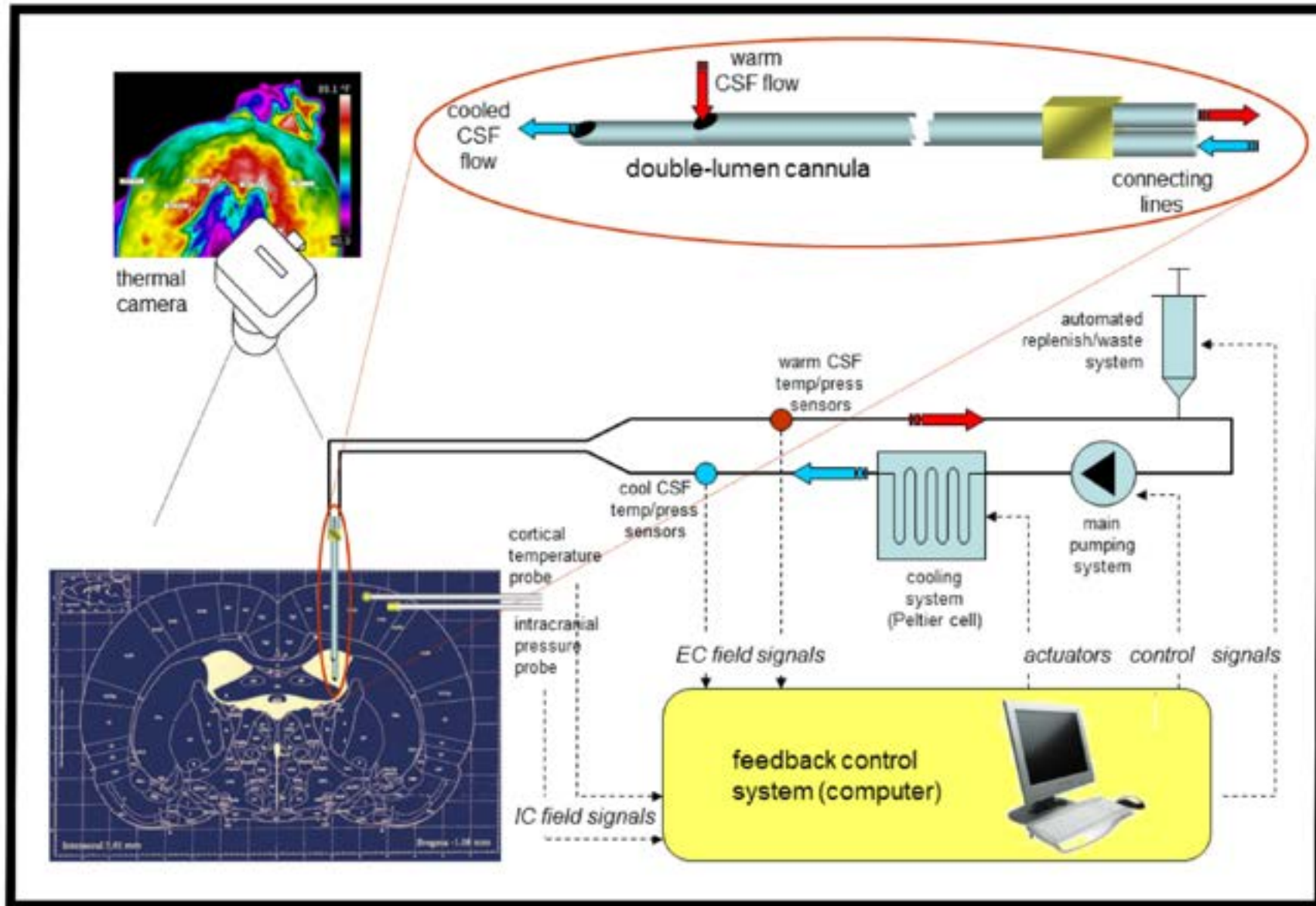
Simone Beretta<sup>1,2</sup>  · Alessandro Versace<sup>1</sup> · Gianfranco Fiore<sup>3</sup> · Marco Piola<sup>3</sup> · Beatrice Martini<sup>1</sup> · Vittorio Bigiogerà<sup>1</sup> · Lorenzo Coppadoro<sup>2</sup> · Jacopo Mariani<sup>1</sup> · Lorenzo Tinti<sup>1</sup> · Silvia Pirovano<sup>1</sup> · Laura Monza<sup>1</sup> · Davide Carone<sup>1</sup> · Matteo Riva<sup>1</sup> · Giada Padovano<sup>1</sup> · Gilda Galbiati<sup>1</sup> · Francesco Santangelo<sup>1</sup> · Marco Rasponi<sup>3</sup> · Francesco Padelli<sup>5</sup> · Isabella Giachetti<sup>5</sup> · Domenico Aquino<sup>5</sup> · Susanna Diamanti<sup>1,2</sup> · Laura Librizzi<sup>4</sup> · Maria Grazia Bruzzone<sup>5</sup> · Marco De Curtis<sup>4</sup> · Carlo Giussani<sup>1,2</sup> · Erik P. Sganzerla<sup>1,2</sup> · Carlo Ferrarese<sup>1,2</sup>

Accepted: 11 September 2022

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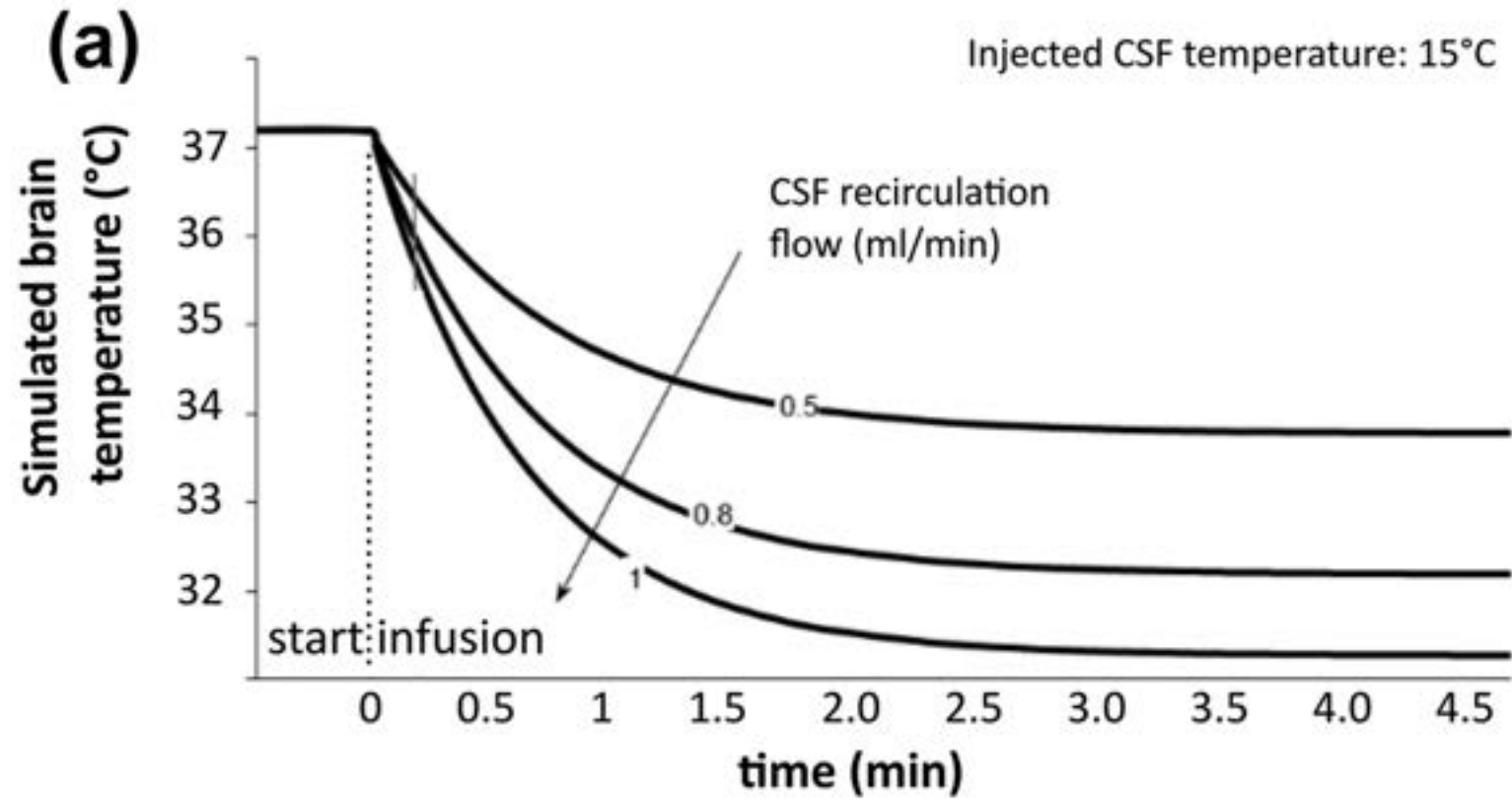
# Concept design of the V-COOL device



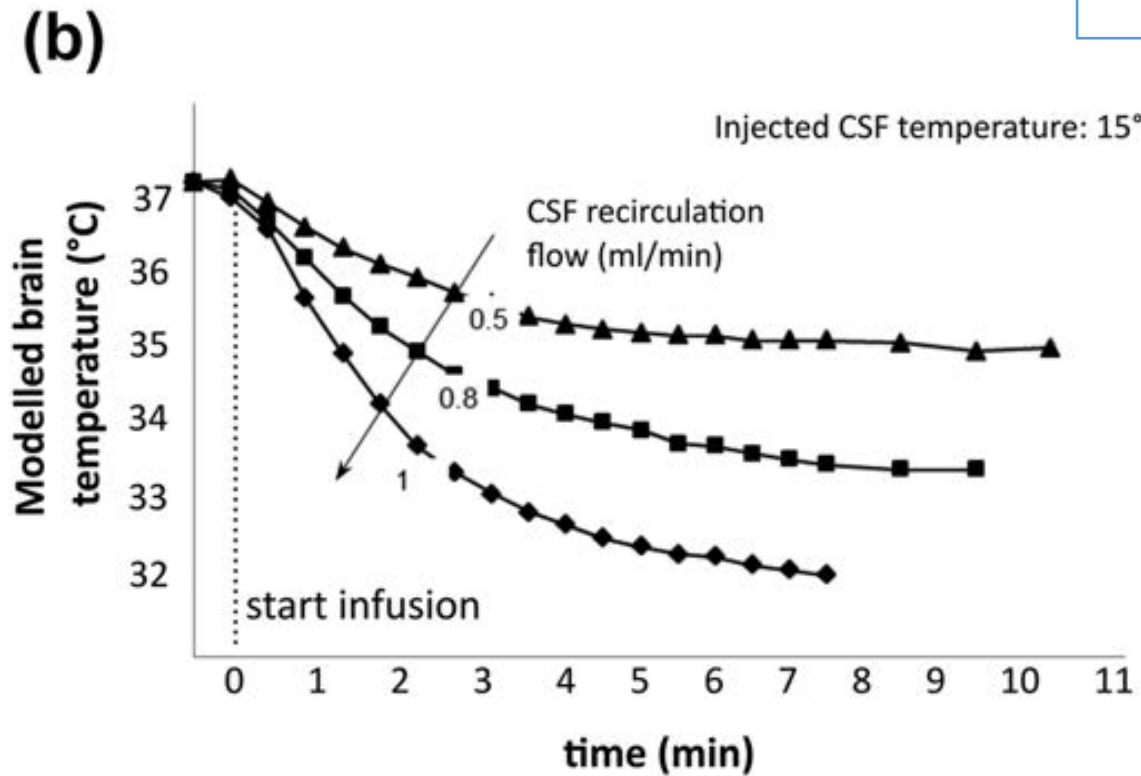
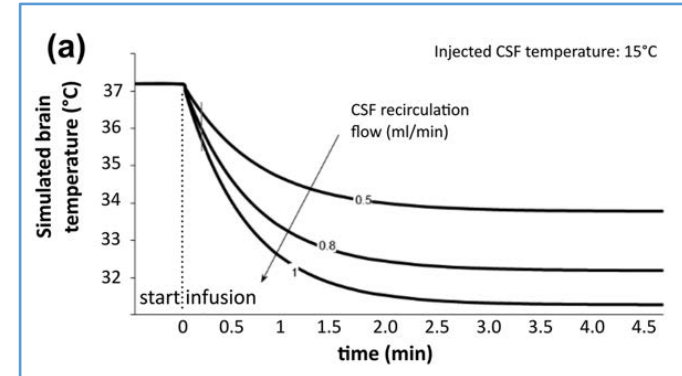
The **cooling mechanism** of the V-COOL device is based on **exchange of cool-versus-warm CSF**, similarly to hemodialysis or plasma exchange



**In silico model of the V-COOL device**  
*mono-compartmental*



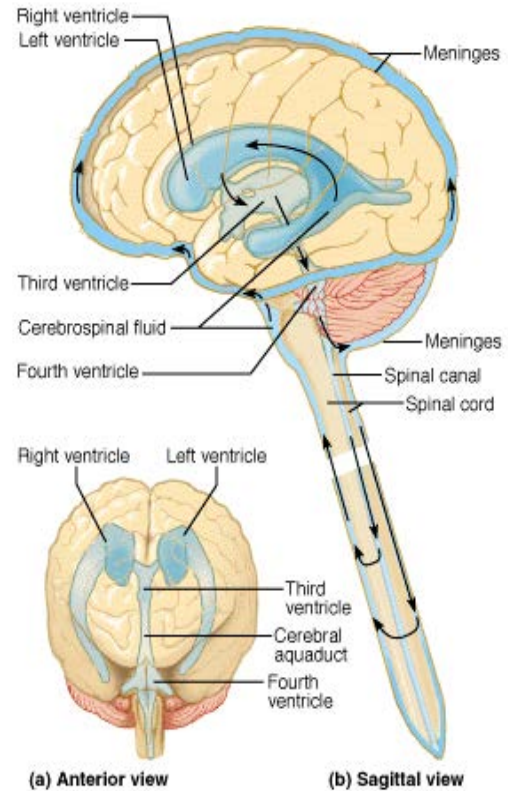
# In vitro model of the V-COOL device



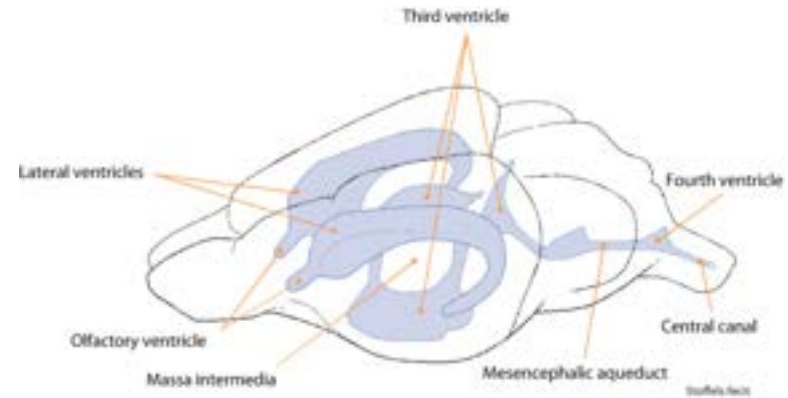
# In vivo prototyping of the V-COOL device

## CSF access

### HUMAN



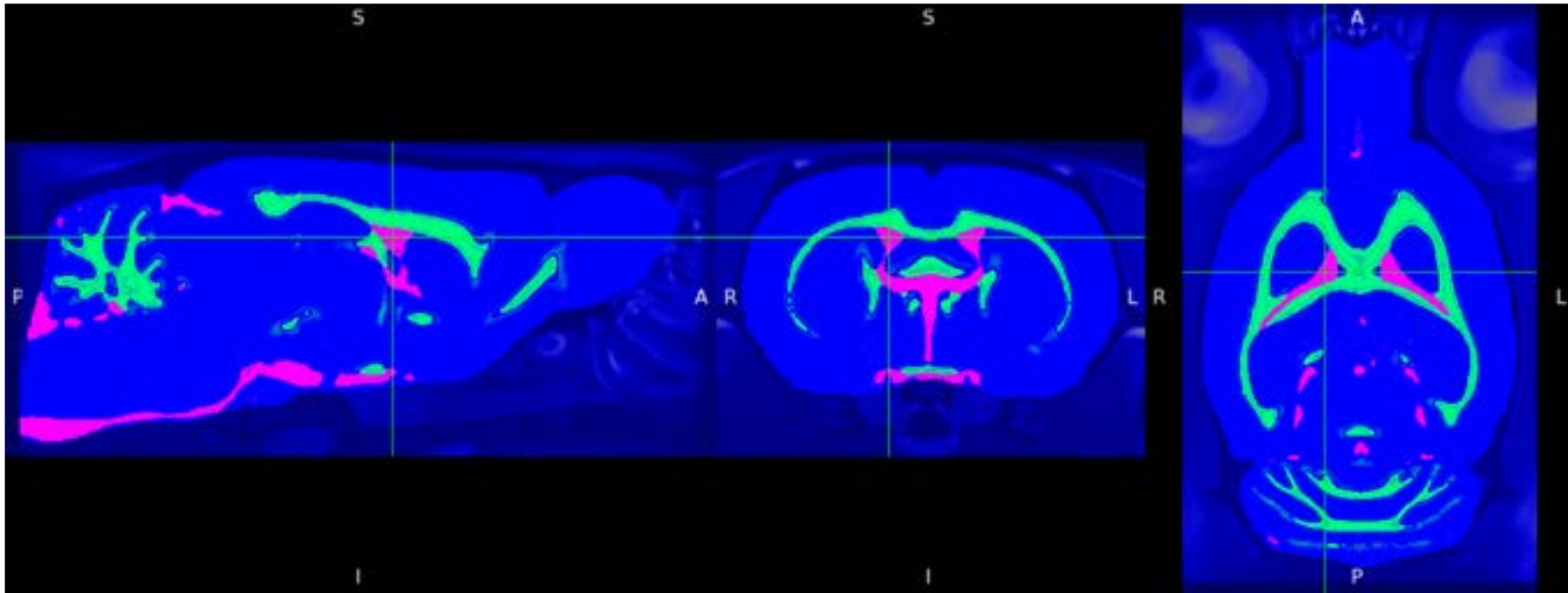
### RAT



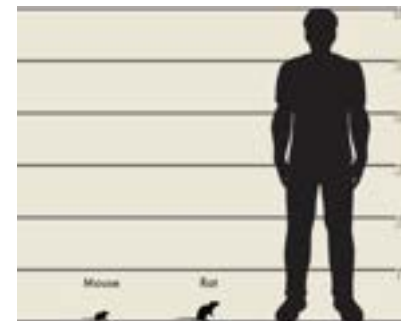


# In vivo prototyping of the V-COOL device

*CSF access*

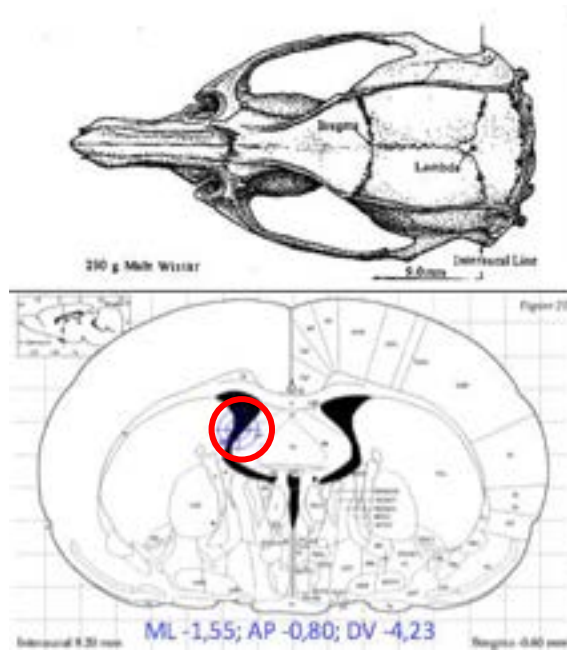


**...size always matters!**



# In vivo prototyping of the V-COOL device

*CSF access*



Target for **V-COOL device**

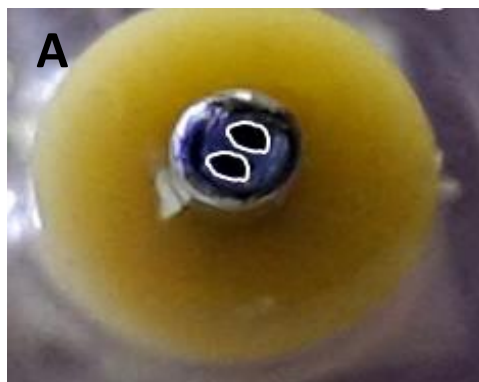
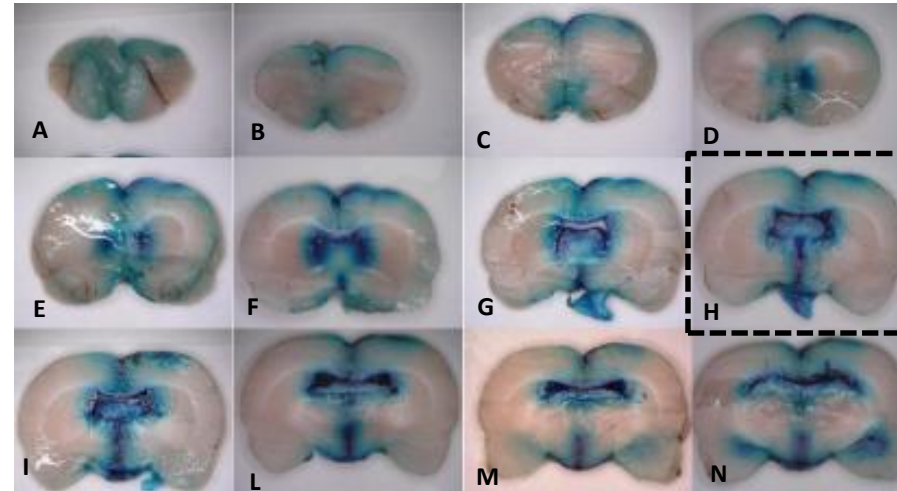
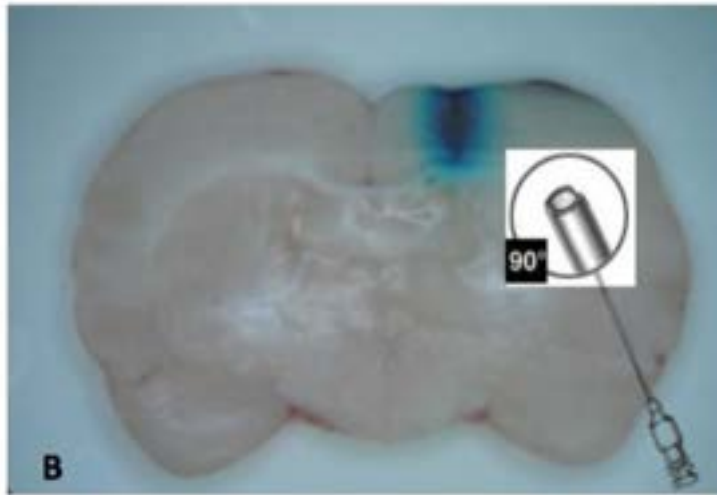


Target for **temperature (and pressure) probes**



# In vivo prototyping of the V-COOL device

*CSF access*



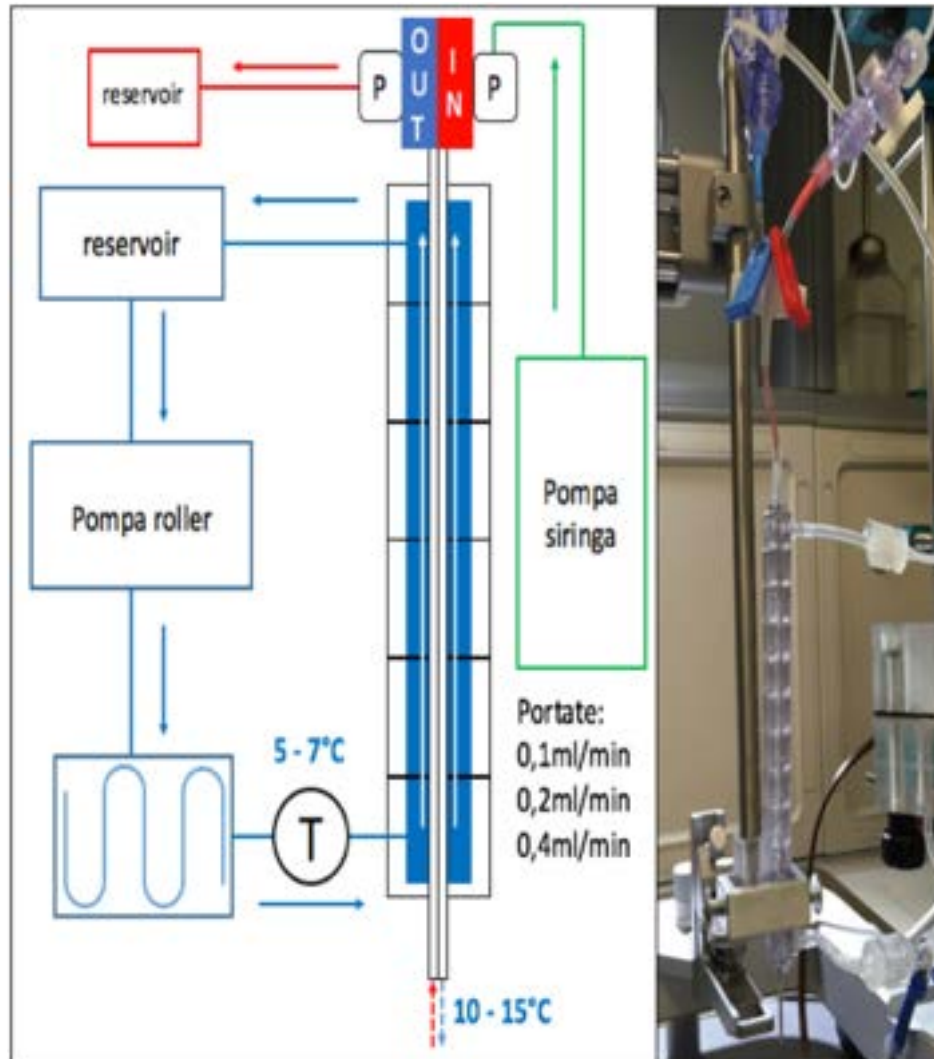
V-COOL 2.0



V-COOL 3.0

**...tip always matters!**

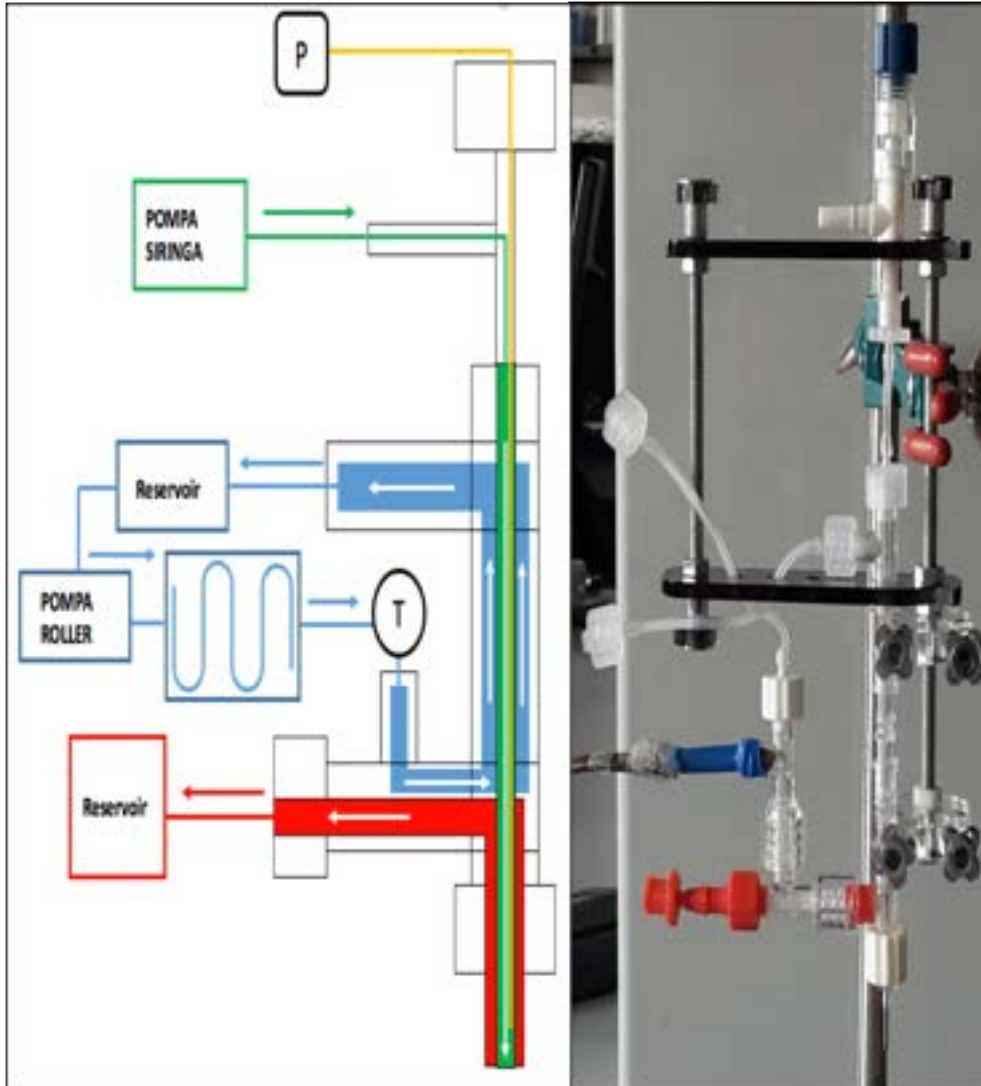
# V-COOL 2.0 prototype



- Double parallel lumen, one for infusion (23GA) and one for drainage (22GA)
- Exoskeleton with internal cold water recirculation (5-7°C), cooled by an ice coil
- Peristaltic pump for infusion at 0.1 ml/min, 0.2 ml/min and 0.4 ml/min flow rates
- Double pressure transducer placed upstream of the infusion lumen and downstream of the drainage lumen
- Thermocouple for cooling circuit control

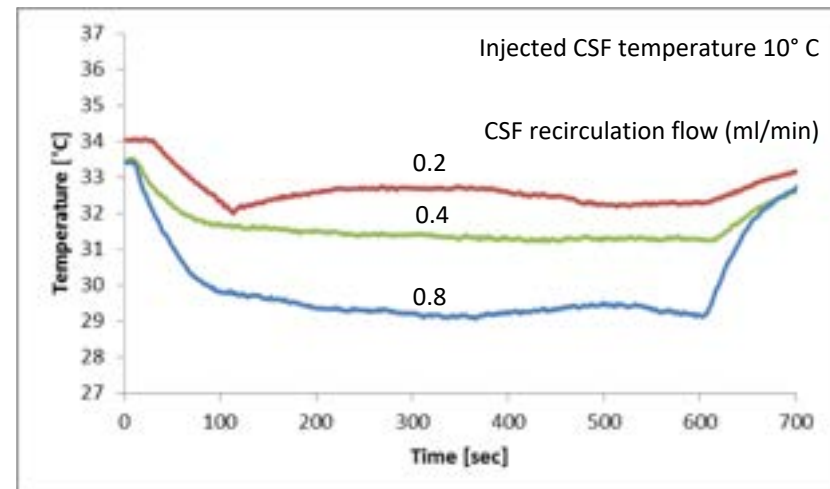
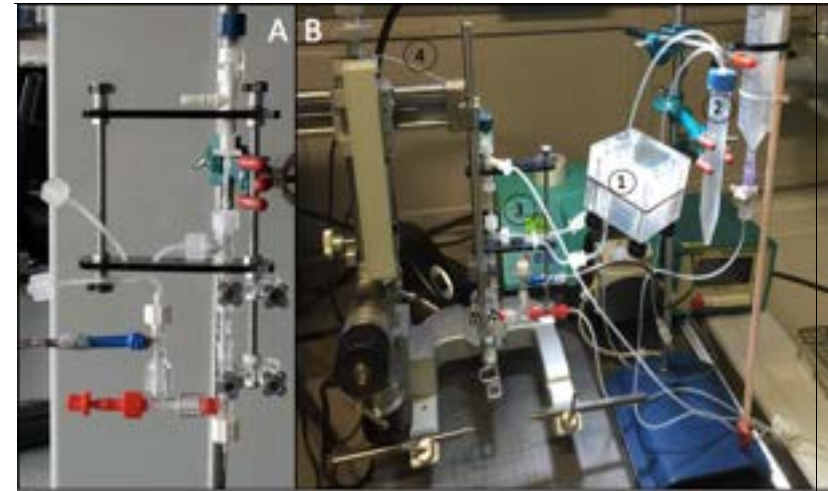
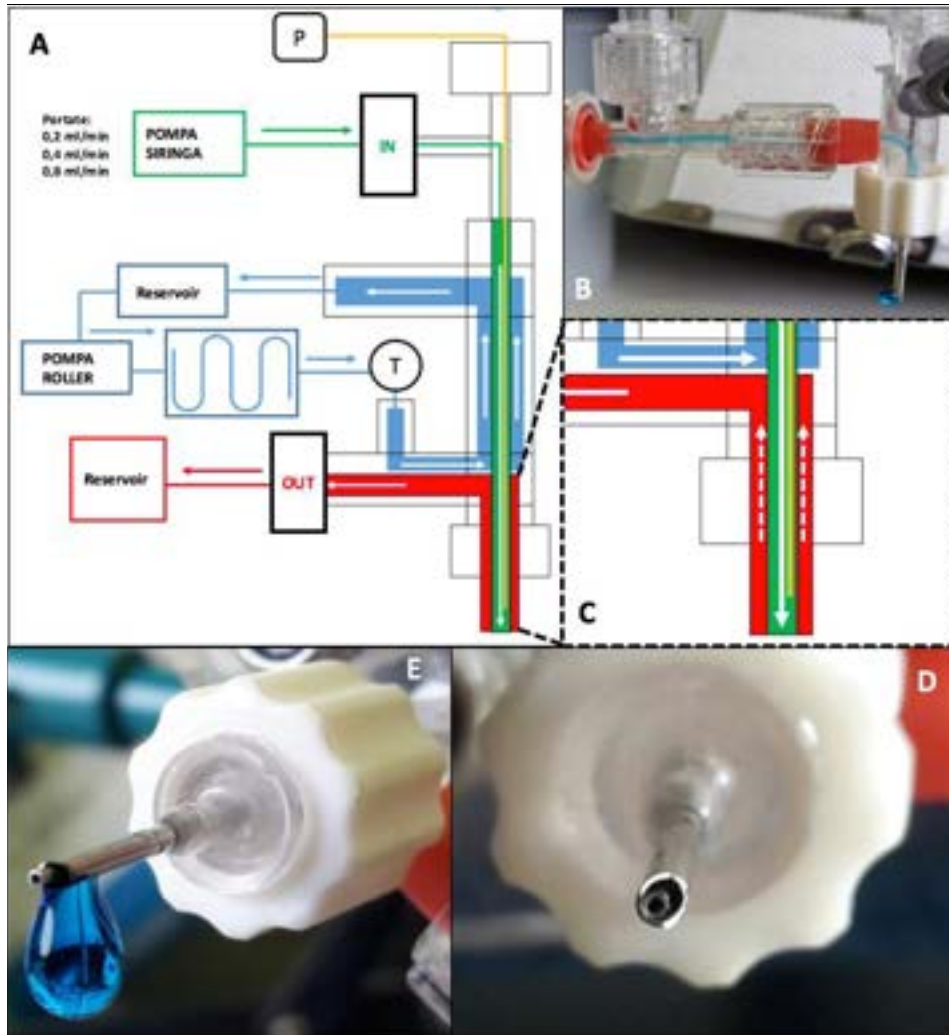


# V-COOL 3.0 prototype

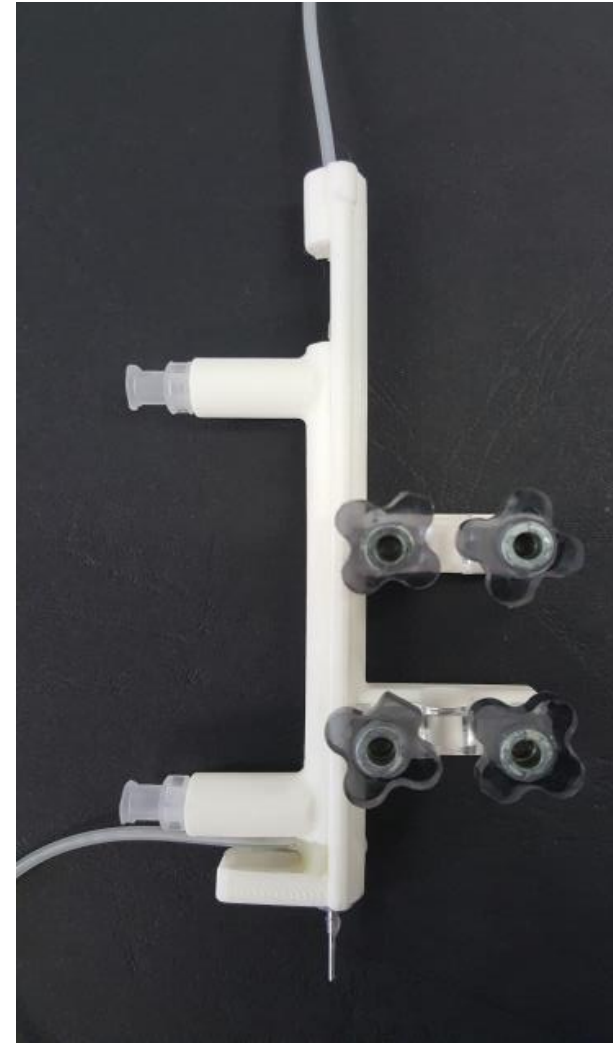


- Double concentric lumen, with larger and more efficient drain lumen (19GA) and 23.5GA infusion lumen
- Exoskeleton with internal cold water recirculation (5-7°C), cooled by Peltier module
- Syringe pump for infusion at flow rates of 0.2 ml/min, 0.4 ml/min and 0.8 ml/min
- Pressure transducer placed inside the drainage lumen
- Early detachment of the two lumens, to avoid heat exchange
- Thermocouple for cooling circuit control

# V-COOL 3.0 prototype

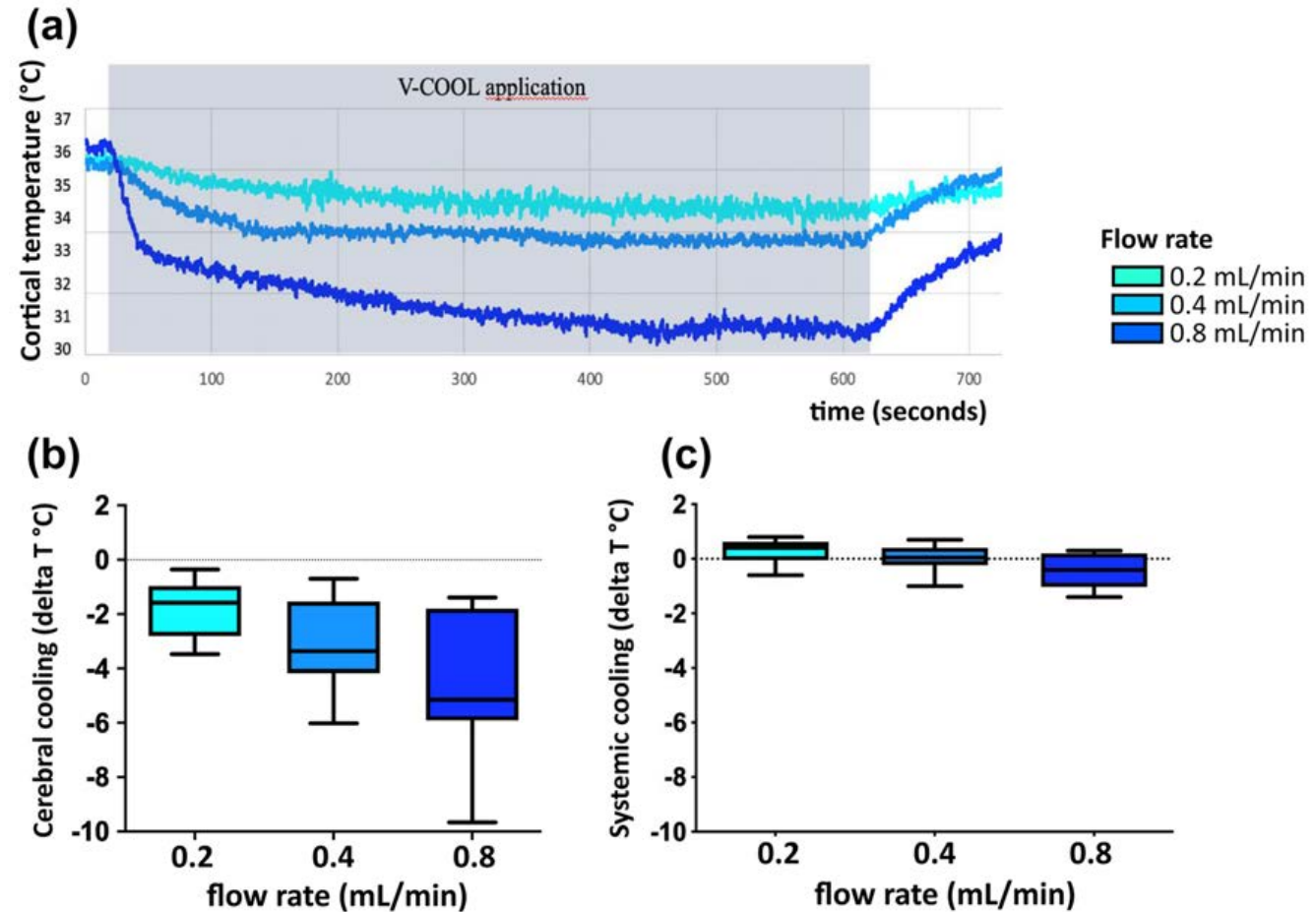


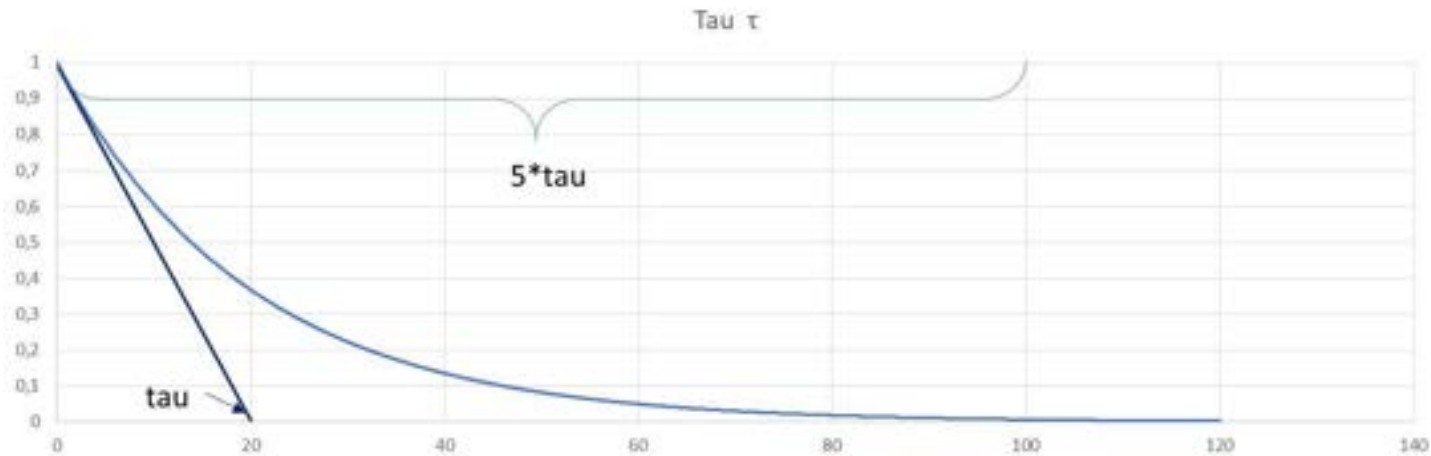
## V-COOL 3.0 prototype



# In vivo effect on brain and systemic temperature of the V-COOL device

**Fig. 3** Representative tracings showing the dynamics of cerebral cortical temperature in a rat during application of the V-COOL device (a). Mean cerebral cortical cooling ( $n=42$ ) during V-COOL application at increasing inflow rates (b). Mean systemic cooling (rectal temperature,  $n=42$ ) during V-COOL application at increasing inflow rates (c)





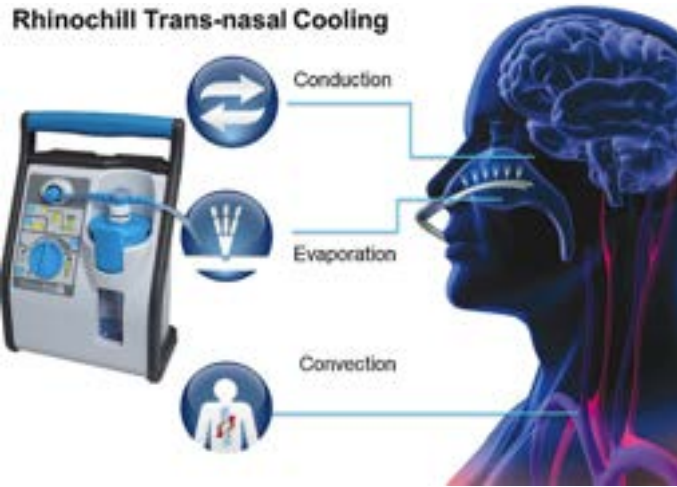
*Figura 56. Esempio di curva iperbolica con rappresentazione di  $\tau$  e  $5\tau$ .*

**time to steady state 4.8 min**

time to target temperature ( $5T$ ; 5 times the time constant)

(0.4 mL/min)



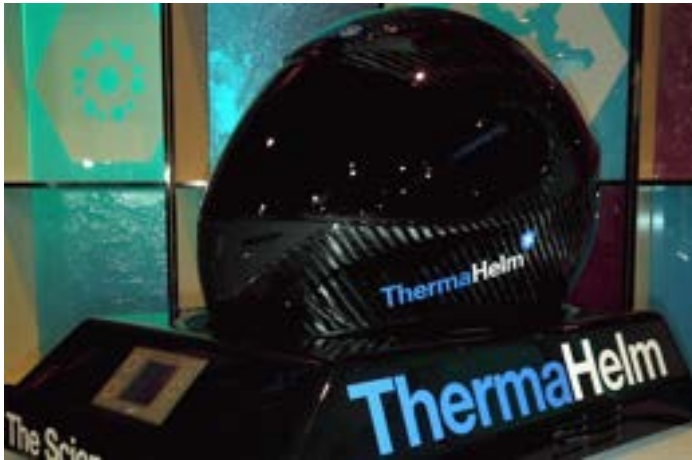


## Net cooling effect

### Rhinocill

– 1.7°C in 60 min

target tympanic temperature of 34°C in 1.3 hours  
(coupled with surface cooling)



### Cooling helmet

– 1.8°C in 60 min

target cerebral temperature of 34°C in 3.4 hours

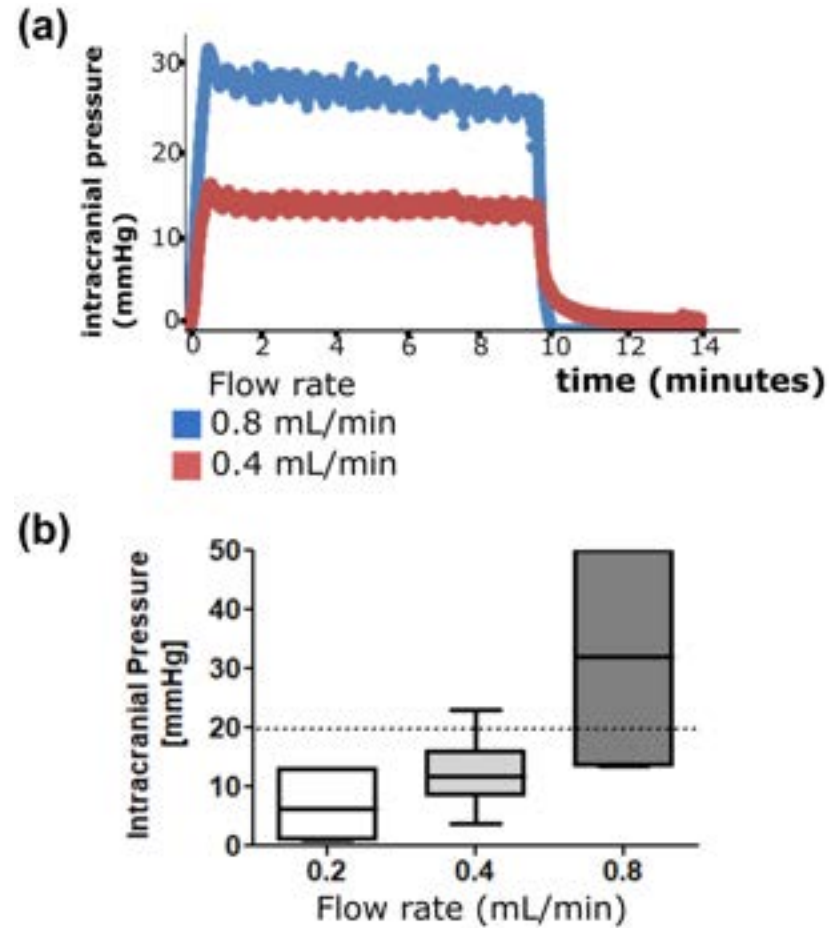


### Neuron Guard

– 0.6°C in 60 min

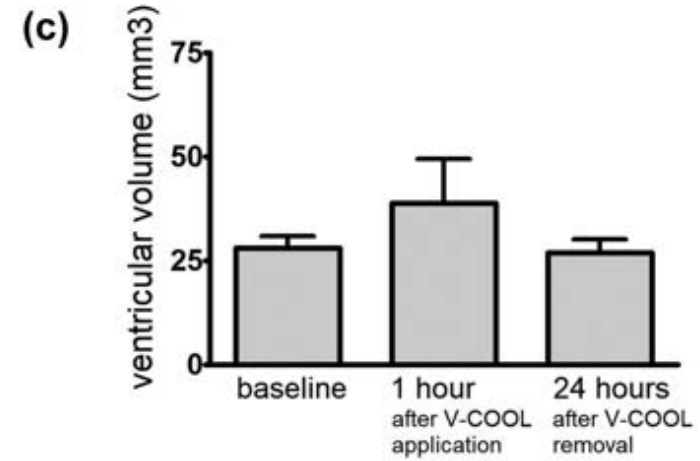
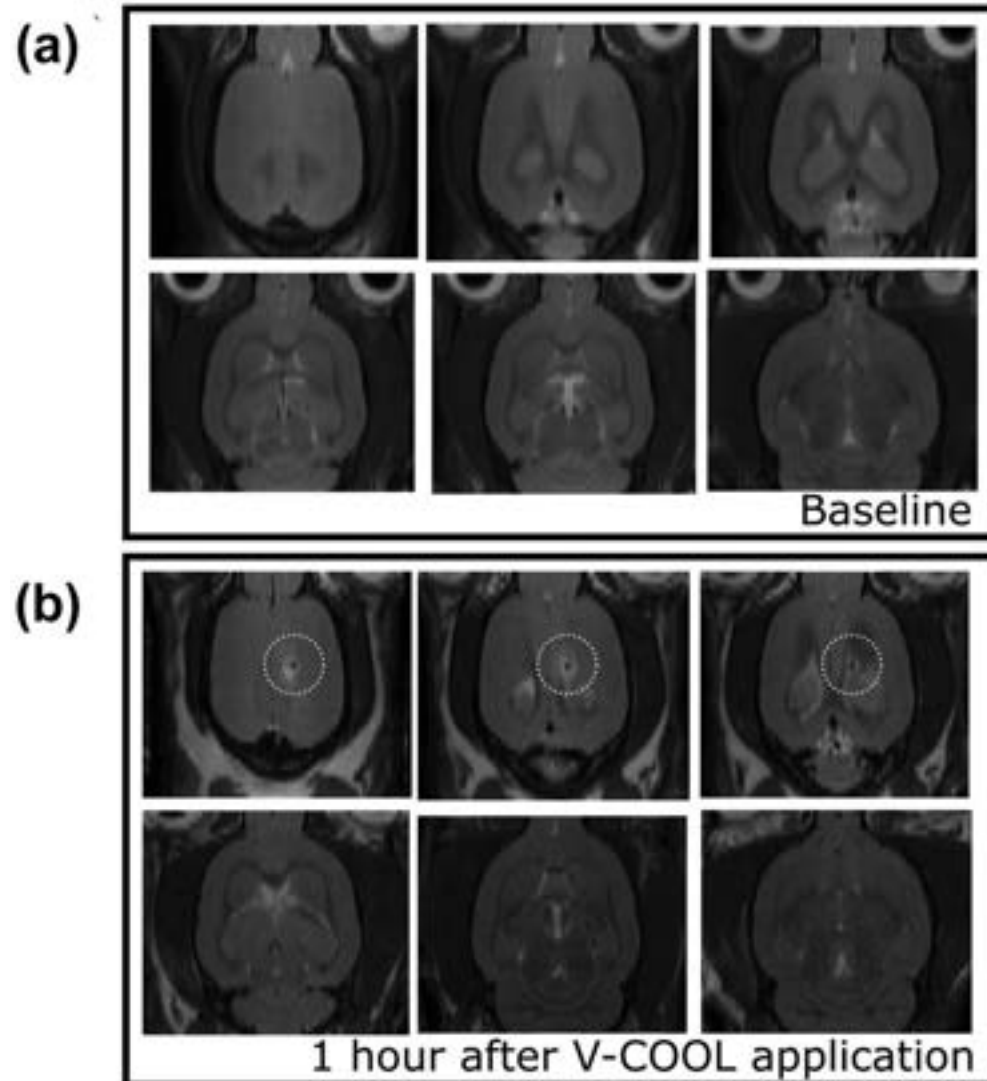
Steady stated -1.2°C at 2 hours

# In vivo effect on intracranial pressure of the V-COOL device



**Fig. 4** Representative tracings showing intracranial pressure changes in a rat during application of the V-COOL device (a). Mean intracranial pressure ( $n=15$ ) during V-COOL application at increasing inflow rates (b)

# In vivo effect on ventricular volume of the V-COOL device



**Fig. 5** Representative brain MRI images (axial view) of a rat before (a) and after 60-min application of V-COOL (b). The site of V-COOL access is highlighted (dotted circles). Mean ventricular volume ( $n=5$ ) was calculated before, immediately after 60-min application of V-COOL, and 24 h after V-COOL removal (c)

# Remote ischemic conditioning in ischemic stroke



Sistema Socio Sanitario



Fondazione IRCCS  
San Gerardo dei Tintori



Regione  
Lombardia

Simone Beretta, MD, PhD

Department of Neurology and Stroke Unit

Fondazione IRCCS San Gerardo dei Tintori Monza

University of Milano Bicocca, ITALY

# A translational story...



THE FAILURE RATE IS MORE THAN 90% ...

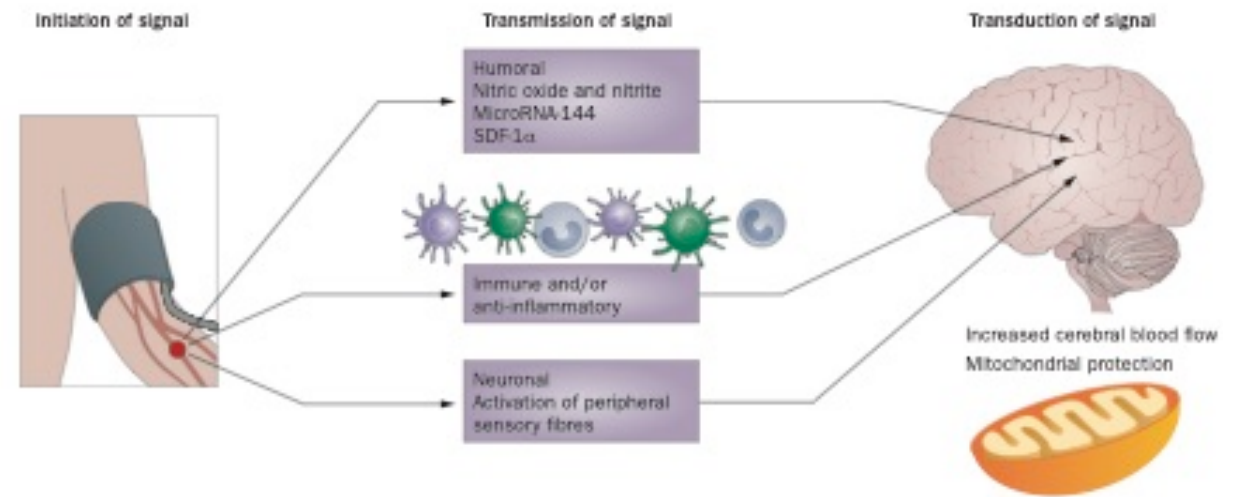
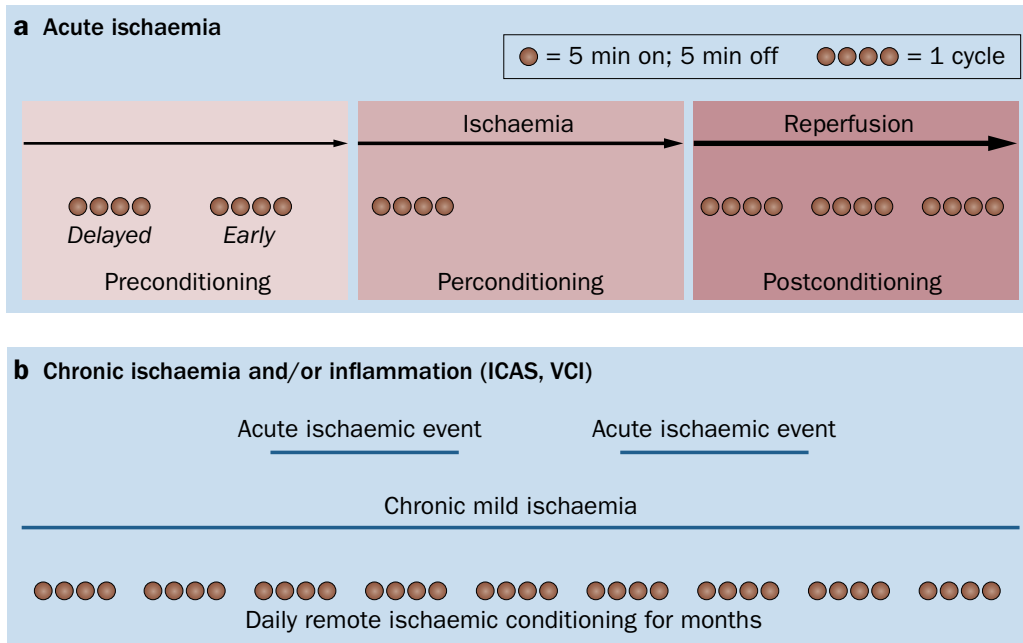




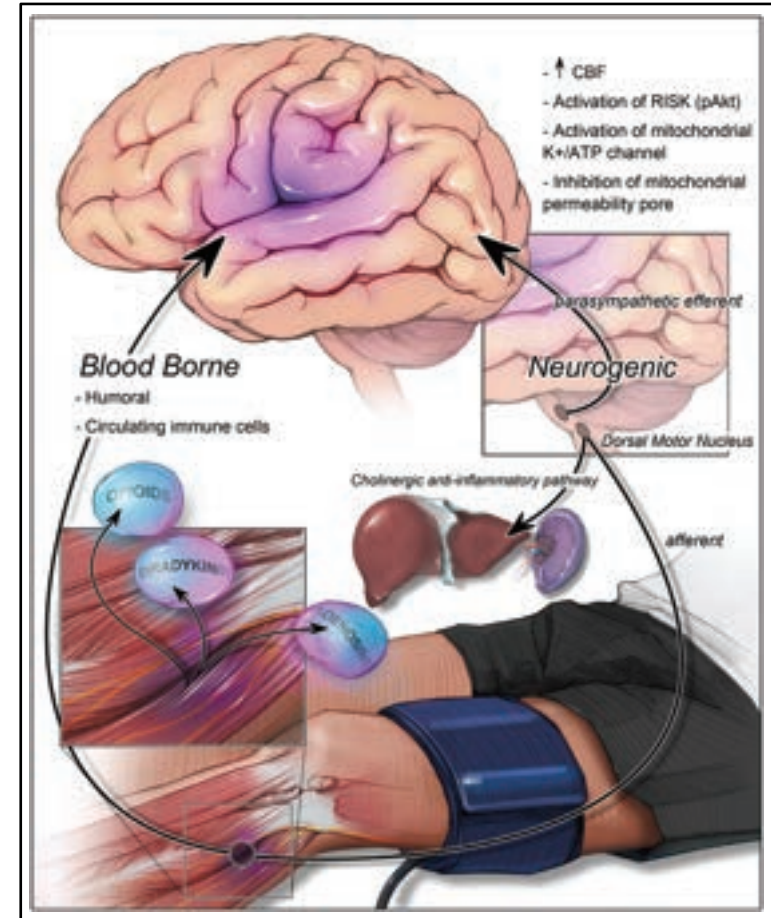
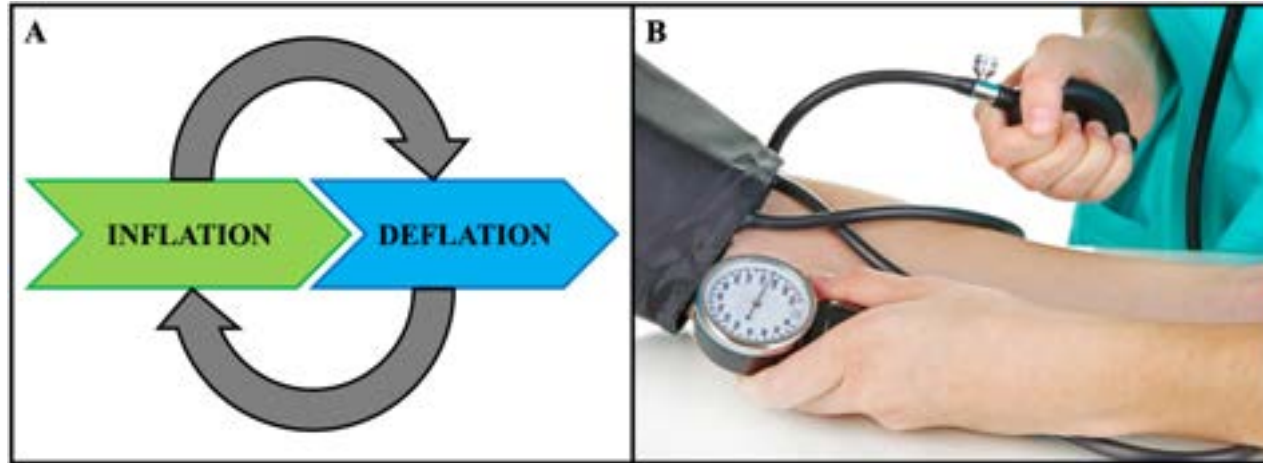
# Remote ischaemic conditioning—a new paradigm of self-protection in the brain

David C. Hess, Rolf A. Blauenfeldt, Grethe Andersen, Kristina D. Hougaard, Md Nasrul Hoda, Yuchuan Ding and Xunming Ji

Hess, D. C. *et al.* *Nat. Rev. Neurol.* **11**, 698–710 (2015);




# REMOTE ISCHEMIC CONDITIONING: HOW-TO



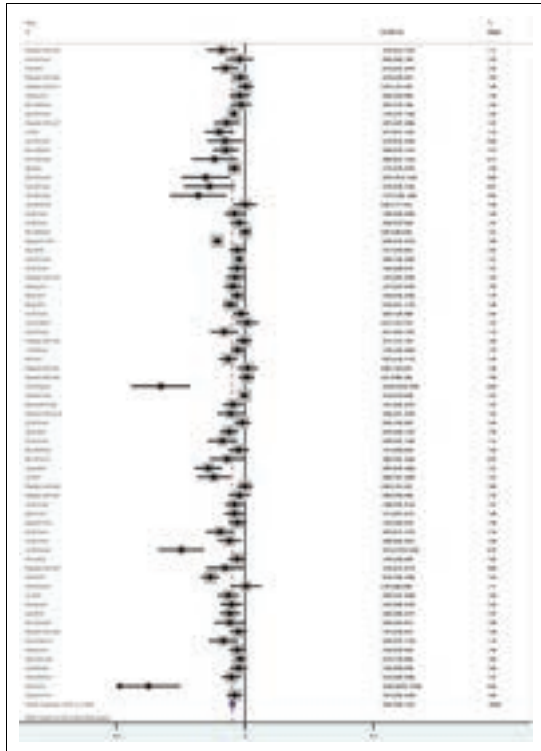


REMOTE ISCHEMIC CONDITIONING IN  
ACUTE ISCHEMIC STROKE  
**Evidence from basic science research**

# A meta-analysis of remote ischaemic conditioning in experimental stroke

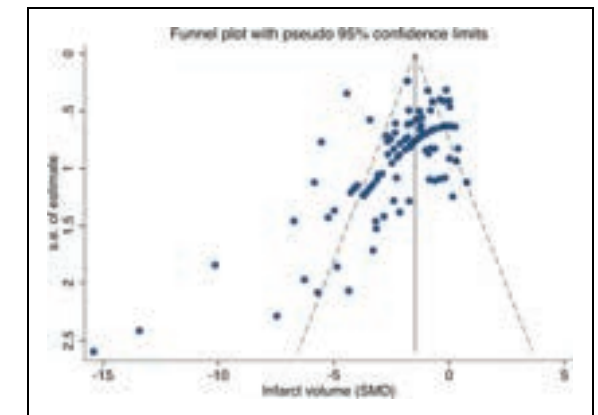
Philippa Weir<sup>1</sup>, Ryan Maguire<sup>1</sup>, Saoirse E O’Sullivan<sup>1</sup> and Timothy J England<sup>1,2</sup> 

Journal of Cerebral Blood Flow & Metabolism  
 2021, Vol. 41(1) 3–13  
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|  | No. of experiments | No. of animals | SMD [95% CI]         | P value  |
|--|--------------------|----------------|----------------------|----------|
| Remote ischaemic per/post-conditioning | 72                 | 1160           | -2.00 [-2.38, -1.61] | <0.00001 |

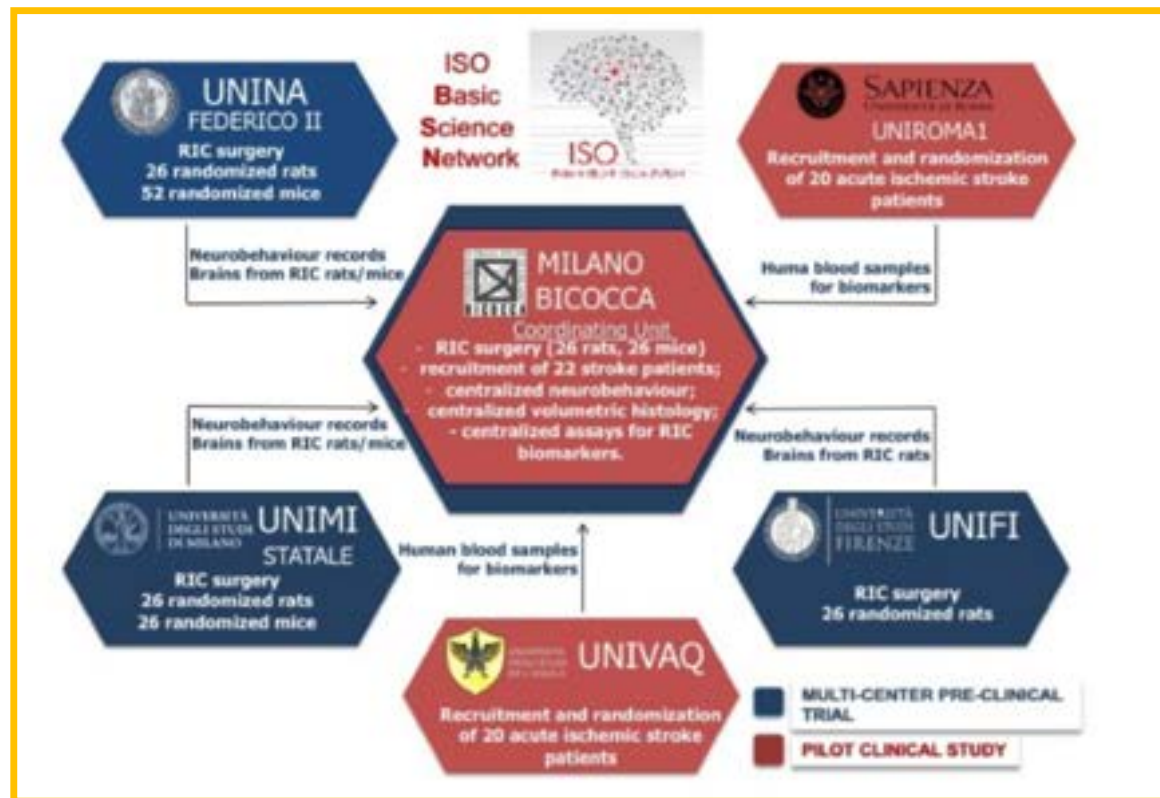
**Medium-to-large effect size on infarct volume**



**Figure 5.** Begg's funnel plot. An asymmetric funnel indicates a relationship between treatment effect estimate and study precision. Egger's test suggested significant publication bias ( $p < 0.001$ ).



# MULTICENTER PRE-CLINICAL AND CLINICAL TRIAL



Pre-Clinical Trial



Pilot Clinical Trial



# TRICS BASIC

210 randomized animals

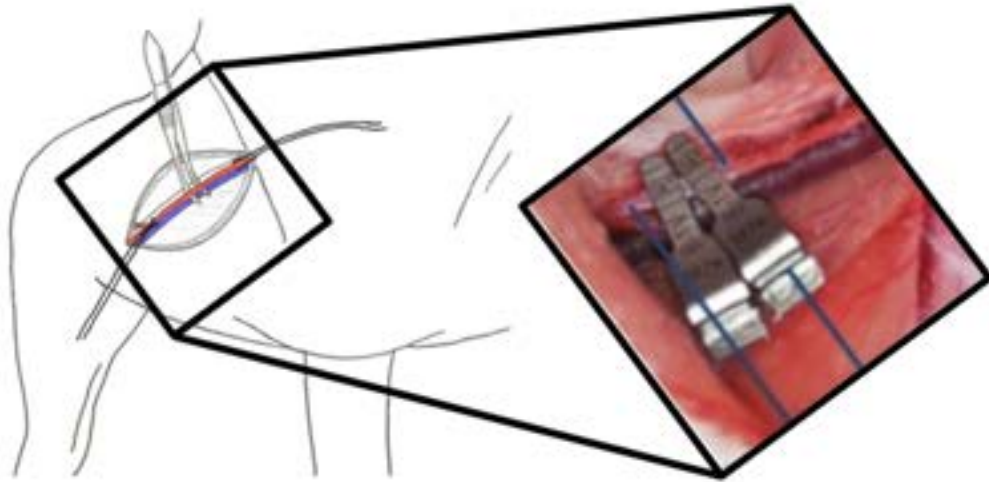
Multi-centric (7 laboratories in Italy)

Mice and Rats

Males and Females

Central randomization

Blinded surgeons, outcome assessment  
and centralized histology



## Surgical RIC

(5-10 min femoral artery  
occlusion)

Single RIC application

Outcome assessed at 48 hours



Open access

Protocol

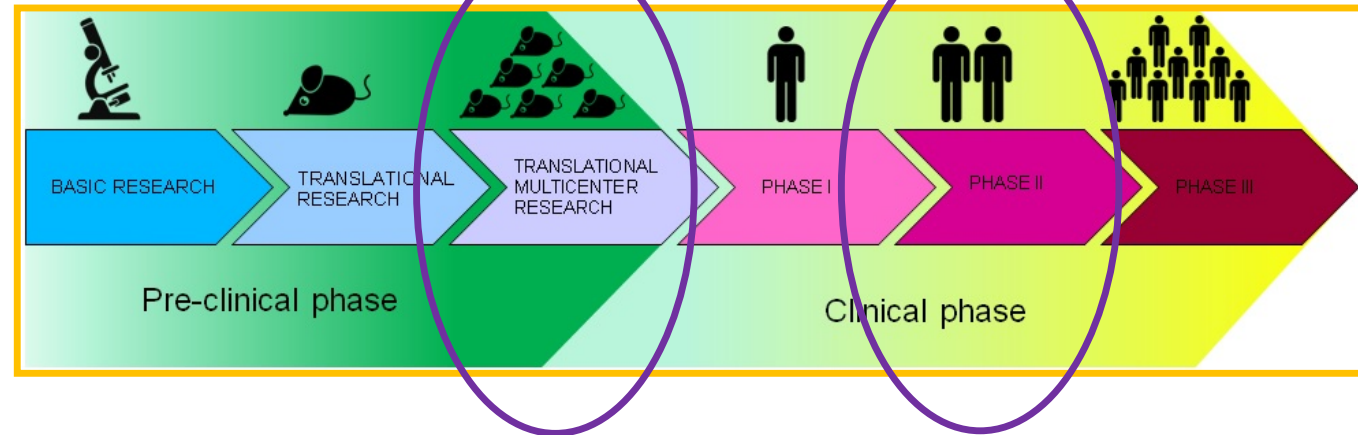
BMJ Open Science



**Multicentre translational Trial of Remote Ischaemic Conditioning in Acute Ischaemic Stroke (TRICS): protocol of multicentre, parallel group, randomised, preclinical trial in female and male rat and mouse from the Italian Stroke Organization (ISO) Basic Science network**

Mauro Tettamanti,<sup>1</sup> Simone Beretta <sup>2</sup>, Giuseppe Pignataro,<sup>3</sup> Stefano Fumagalli,<sup>1</sup> Carlo Perego,<sup>1</sup> Luigi Sironi,<sup>4</sup> Felicita Pedata,<sup>5</sup> Diana Amantea <sup>6</sup>, Marco Bacigaluppi,<sup>7</sup> Antonio Vinciguerra,<sup>3</sup> Alessia Valente,<sup>1</sup> Susanna Diamanti,<sup>2</sup> Jacopo Mariani,<sup>2</sup> Martina Viganò,<sup>2</sup> Francesco Santangelo,<sup>2</sup> Chiara Paola Zoia,<sup>2</sup> Virginia Rodriguez-Menendez,<sup>2</sup> Laura Castiglioni,<sup>4</sup> Joanna Rzemieniec,<sup>4</sup> Ilaria Dettori,<sup>5</sup> Irene Bulli,<sup>5</sup> Elisabetta Coppi,<sup>5</sup> Giorgia Serena Gullotta,<sup>7</sup> Giacinto Bagezza,<sup>6</sup> Gianvito Martino,<sup>7</sup> Carlo Ferrarese,<sup>2</sup> Maria Grazia De Simoni<sup>1</sup>

# NATIONWIDE TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH PROGRAM FROM THE ISO BASIC SCIENCE NETWORK



**TRICS BASIC:** Translational Trial of Remote Ischaemic Conditioning in Acute Ischaemic Stroke: multicentre, parallel group, randomised, preclinical trial in female and male rat and mouse from the Italian Stroke Organization (ISO) Basic Science network

**TRICS-9:** Multi-center randomized pilot clinical Trial on Remote Ischemic Conditioning in acute ischemic Stroke within 9 hours of onset in patients ineligible to recanalization therapies

# INTRA-ISCHEMIC CLINICAL ASSESSMENT

| Intra-ischemic clinical assessment of successful MCA occlusion |                          |                           |
|--|--------------------------|---------------------------|
|  | no                       | yes                       |
| one or both palpebral fissures have an ellipsoidal shape       | <input type="radio"/>    | <input type="radio"/>     |
| one or both ears extend laterally                              | <input type="radio"/>    | <input type="radio"/>     |
| asymmetric body bending on the ischemic side                   | <input type="radio"/>    | <input type="radio"/>     |
| limbs extend laterally and do not align to the body            | <input type="radio"/>    | <input type="radio"/>     |
| Calcolo valore occlusione                                      |                          |                           |
| <hr/>  |                          |                           |
| Death during MCA surgery, before RIC                           | <input type="radio"/> no | <input type="radio"/> yes |

# Remote Ischemic post-Conditioning

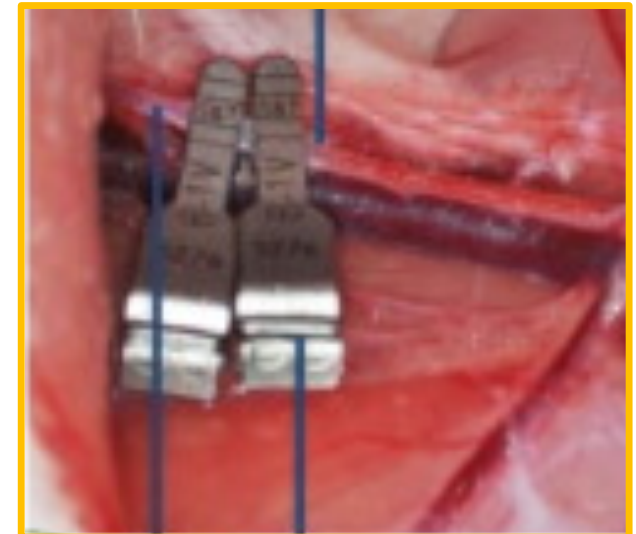
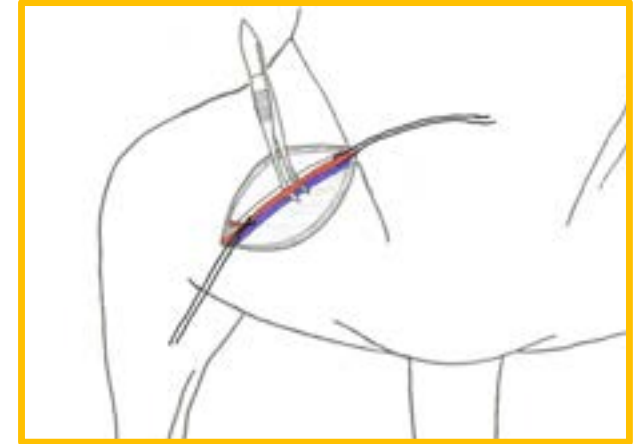
Surgery to expose Femoral Artery starts after reperfusion

Waiting time before treatment application:

- Rats: 20min
- Mice: 10min

Femoral Artery clamping:

- Rats: 20min
- Mice: 10min



# PRIMARY OUTCOME

## De Simoni Composite Neuroscore

### GENERAL DEFICITS

#### I. Hair (score 0-2)

0 - Hair neat and clean.

- 1 - Localized piloerection and dirty hair in 2 body parts (typically nose and eyes).
- 2 - Piloerection and dirty hair in more than 2 body parts.

#### II. Ears (score 0-2)

Mouse on OBT. Observation at the beginning with no interference, then stimulating by snapping fingers.

- 0 - Normal. Ears are stretched laterally and behind. They react to noise.
- 1 - Stretched laterally but not behind (one or both). They react to noise.
- 2 - Same as 1 but they do not react to noise.

#### III. Eyes (score 0-4)

Mouse on OBT. Observation with no interference or stimulation.

- 0 - Open, clean and quickly follow the surrounding environment.
- 1 - Open and characterized by aqueous mucus. Slowly follow the surrounding environment.
- 2 - Open and characterized by dark mucus.
- 3 - Ellipsoidal shaped and characterized by dark mucus.
- 4 - Closed.

#### IV. Posture (score 0-4)

Place the mouse on the palm and swing gently.

- 0 - The mouse stands in the upright position with the back parallel to the palm (during the swing, it stands rapidly).
- 1 - The mouse stands humpbacked. During the swing, it flattens the body to gain stability.
- 2 - The head or part of the trunk lies on the palm.
- 3 - The mouse lies on one side, barely able to recover the upright position.
- 4 - The mouse lies in a prone position, not able to recover the upright position.

#### V. Spontaneous activity (score 0-4)

Mouse on OBT. Observation with no interference or stimulation.

- 0 - The mouse is alert and explores actively.
- 1 - The mouse seems alert, but it is calm and sluggish.
- 2 - The mouse explores intermittently and sluggishly.
- 3 - The mouse is somnolent and numb, few movements on-the-spot.
- 4 - No spontaneous movements.

#### VI. Epileptic behavior (score 0-12)

Mouse on OBT. The worse epileptic behavior detected during the whole observational period should be recorded and reported according to the following score.

- 0 - None.
- 1 - The mouse is reluctant to handling, shows hyperactivity.
- 6 - The mouse is aggressive, stressed and stares.
- 9 - The mouse shows hyperexcitability, chaotic movements and presence of convulsion following handling.
- 12 - Generalized seizures associated with wheezing and unconsciousness.

### FOCAL DEFICITS

#### VII. Body asymmetry (score 0-4)

Mouse on OBT, observation of undisturbed resting behavior and description of the virtual noetail line.

0 - Normal.

- a. Body: normal posture, trunk elevated from the bench, with fore and hindlimbs leaning beneath the body.

- b. Tail: straight.

1 - Slight asymmetry.

- a. Body: leans on one side with fore and hindlimbs leaning beneath the body.

- b. Tail: slightly bent.

2 - Moderate asymmetry.

- a. Body: leans on one side with fore and hindlimbs stretched out.

- b. Tail: slightly bent.

3 - Prominent asymmetry.

- a. Body: bent, on one side lies on the OBT.

- b. Tail: bent.

4 - Extreme asymmetry.

- a. Body: highly bent, on one side constantly lies on the OBT.

- b. Tail: highly bent.

#### VIII. Gait (score 0-4)

Mouse on OBT. Observation of undisturbed movements.

0 - Normal. Gait is flexible, symmetric and quick.

- 1 - Stiff, inflexible. The mouse walks humpbacked, slower than normal mice.
- 2 - Limping with asymmetric movements.
- 3 - Trembling, drifting, falling.
- 4 - Does not walk spontaneously. When stimulated, the mouse walks no longer than three steps.

#### IX. Climbing (score 0-4)

Mouse on a gripping surface 45° to OBT. Place the mouse in the centre of the gripping surface.

0 - Normal. The mouse climbs quickly.

- 1 - Climbs with strain, limb weakness present.
- 2 - Holds onto slope, does not slip or climb.
- 3 - Slides down slope, unsuccessful effort to prevent fall.
- 4 - Slides immediately, no effort to prevent fall.

#### X. Circling behavior (score 0-4)

Mouse on OBT. Observation of the mouse walking undisturbed on the OBT.

0 - Absent. The mouse equally turns left or right.

- 1 - Predominantly one-sided turns.
- 2 - Circles to one side, although not constantly.
- 3 - Circles constantly to one side.
- 4 - Pivoting, swaying, or no movement.

#### XI. Forelimb asymmetry (score 0-4)

Mouse suspended by the tail. Movements and position of forelimbs are observed.

- 0 - Normal. Both forelimbs are extended towards the bench and move actively.
- 1 - Light asymmetry. Contralateral forelimb does not extend entirely.
- 2 - Marked asymmetry. Contralateral forelimb bends towards the trunk. The body slightly bends on the ipsilateral side.
- 3 - Prominent asymmetry. Contralateral forelimb adheres to the trunk.
- 4 - Slight asymmetry, no body/limb movement.

#### XII. Compensatory circling (score 0-4)

Forelimbs on bench, hindlimbs suspended by the tail. This position reveals the presence of the contralateral limb palsy.

- 0 - Absent. Normal extension of both forelimbs.
- 1 - Tendency to turn to one side. The mouse extends both forelimbs but starts to turn preferably to one side.
- 2 - Circles to one side. The mouse turns towards one side with a slower movement compared to healthy mice.
- 3 - Pivots to one side sluggishly. The mouse turns towards one side failing to perform a complete circle.
- 4 - Does not advance. The front part of the trunk lies on the bench. Slow and brief movements.

#### XIII. Whisker response (score 0-4)

Mouse on the bench. Using a pen, touch gently the whiskers and the tip of the ears from behind, first one the lesioned and then on the contralateral side.

- 0 - Normal symmetrical response. The mouse turns the head towards the stimulated side and withdraws from the stimulus.
- 1 - Light asymmetry.
  - a. The mouse withdraws slowly when stimulated on the ischemic side.
  - b. Normal response on the contralateral side.
- 2 - Prominent asymmetry.
  - a. No response when stimulated on the ischemic side.
  - b. Normal response on the contralateral side.
- 3 - Absent response ipsilaterally, slow response when stimulated on the contralateral side.
- 4 - Absent response bilaterally.

Dichotomised neuroscore  
(13 items, range 0-56 points)

- 0-20 Good outcome
- 21-56 Bad outcome



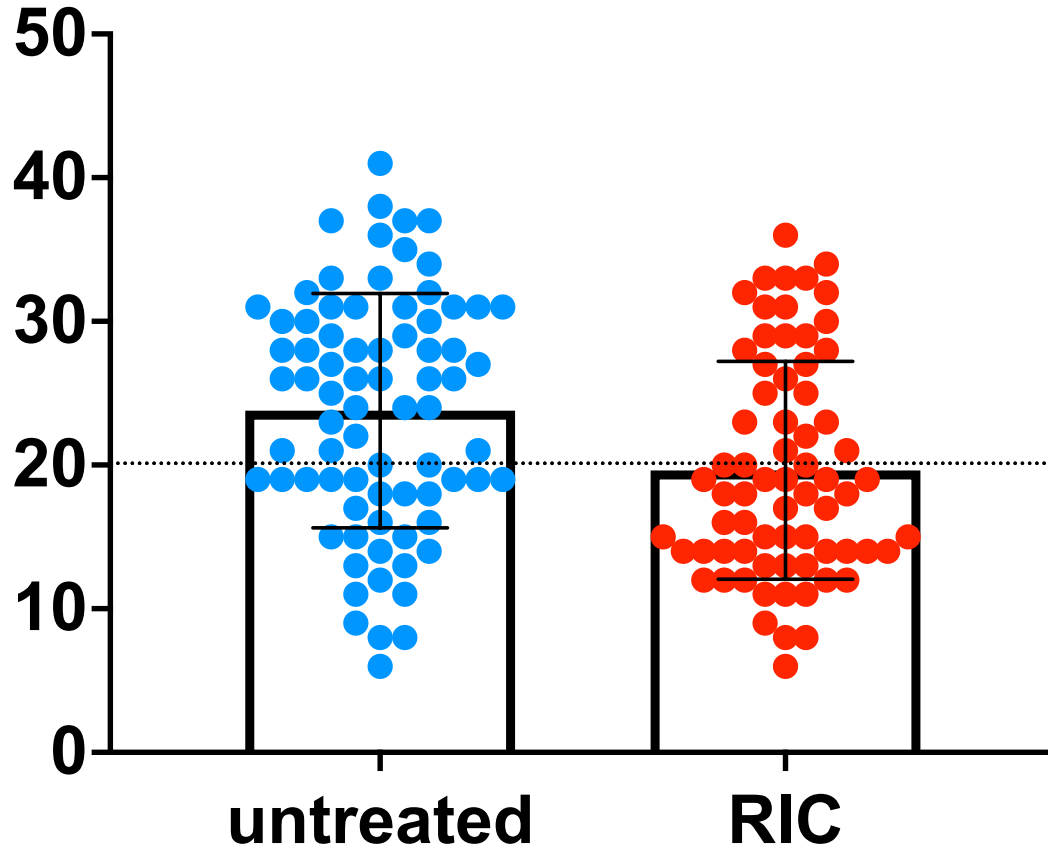
# HEALTH REPORT AT 24/48h

| Low distress  |  |
|---|--|
| Reduced food and water intake   | <input type="radio"/> no <input type="radio"/> yes |
| Abnormal behaviour upon handling (increased or decreased reaction to being handled) | <input type="radio"/> no <input type="radio"/> yes |
| Lethargy and reduced motility   | <input type="radio"/> no <input type="radio"/> yes |
| Piloerection / staring coat   | <input type="radio"/> no <input type="radio"/> yes |
| Discharge from the eyes and nose  | <input type="radio"/> no <input type="radio"/> yes |

| Moderate distress  |  |
|--|--|
| Animal not drinking  | <input type="radio"/> no <input type="radio"/> yes |
| Animal not eating (including wet mash)   | <input type="radio"/> no <input type="radio"/> yes |
| Severe surgical wound complication (infection, bleeding, opening)                        | <input type="radio"/> no <input type="radio"/> yes |
| Absence of faeces  | <input type="radio"/> no <input type="radio"/> yes |
| Audible respiratory noises (rasping, wheezing), intermittent, without respiratory effort | <input type="radio"/> no <input type="radio"/> yes |
| Weight loss exceeding 10%  | <input type="radio"/> no <input type="radio"/> yes |
| (0 = no, 1 = yes)  |  |

| High distress  |  |
|--|--|
| Presence of barrel rolling   | <input type="radio"/> no <input type="radio"/> yes |
| Presence of tonic clonic seizures  | <input type="radio"/> no <input type="radio"/> yes |
| Continuous laboured respiration with increased respiratory effort                  | <input type="radio"/> no <input type="radio"/> yes |
| Animal not moving, unresponsive to stimulation, or in a lateral recumbent position | <input type="radio"/> no <input type="radio"/> yes |

De Simoni neuroscore  
at 48 hours



Open access

Protocol

BMJ Open Science



## Multicentre translational Trial of Remote Ischaemic Conditioning in Acute Ischaemic Stroke (TRICS): protocol of multicentre, parallel group, randomised, preclinical trial in female and male rat and mouse from the Italian Stroke Organization (ISO) Basic Science network

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| Good outcome at 48 hours | Risk difference | Odds Ratio | 95% CI    | p value |
|--------------------------|-----------------|------------|-----------|---------|
| RIC versus untreated     | 0.1993          | 2.33       | 1.23-4.42 | 0.009   |

# Effect of Remote Ischemic Conditioning vs Usual Care on Neurologic Function in Patients With Acute Moderate Ischemic Stroke

## The RICAMIS Randomized Clinical Trial

Hui-Sheng Chen, MD; Yu Cui, PhD; Xiao-Qiu Li, MD; Xin-Hong Wang, MD; Yu-Tong Ma, MM; Yong Zhao, BSM; Jing Han, MM; Chang-Qing Deng, MM; Mei Hong, BSM; Ying Bao, MM; Li-Hong Zhao, MM; Ting-Guang Yan, BSM; Ren-Lin Zou, BSM; Hui Wang, MM; Zhuo Li, MM; Li-Shu Wan, MM; Li Zhang, BSM; Lian-Qiang Wang, BSM; Li-Yan Guo, MM; Ming-Nan Li, BSM; Dong-Qing Wang, MM; Qiang Zhang, MM; Da-Wei Chang, MM; Hong-Li Zhang, BSM; Jing Sun, BSM; Chong Meng, BSM; Zai-Hui Zhang, BSM; Li-Ying Shen, BSM; Li Ma, MM; Gui-Chun Wang, BSM; Run-Hui Li, MM; Ling Zhang, BSM; Cheng Bi, MM; Li-Yun Wang, BSM; Duo-Lao Wang, PhD; for the RICAMIS Investigators



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Table 2. Primary and Secondary Outcomes in the Full Analysis Set

|  | Group, No. (%)                         |                   | Treatment effect metric <sup>a</sup> | Unadjusted                    |         | Adjusted <sup>b</sup>         |         |
|--|--|-------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------|-------------------------------|---------|
|  | Remote ischemic conditioning (n = 863) | Control (n = 913) |                                      | Treatment difference (95% CI) | P value | Treatment difference (95% CI) | P value |
| <b>Primary outcome</b>   |  |                   |                                      |                               |         |                               |         |
| mRS score of 0 to 1 within 90 d <sup>c</sup>                               | 582 (67.4)                             | 566 (62.0)        | RR <sup>d</sup>                      | 1.17 (1.03 to 1.32)           | .02     | 1.18 (1.04 to 1.34)           | .007    |
|  |  |                   | RD, % <sup>d</sup>                   | 5.4 (1.0 to 9.9)              | .02     | 6.2 (2.0 to 10.4)             | .004    |
| <b>Secondary outcomes</b>  |  |                   |                                      |                               |         |                               |         |
| mRS score of 0 to 2 within 90 d <sup>c</sup>                               | 687 (79.6)                             | 689 (75.5)        | RR <sup>d</sup>                      | 1.20 (1.01 to 1.43)           | .04     | 1.22 (1.03 to 1.45)           | .02     |
|  |  |                   | RD, % <sup>d</sup>                   | 4.1 (0.3 to 8.0)              | .04     | 4.3 (0.9 to 7.8)              | .01     |
| Change in NIHSS score at day 12 from baseline, median (IQR) <sup>g,d</sup> | 4 (2 to 6)                             | 4 (2 to 5)        | GMR                                  | 1.02 (0.99 to 1.05)           | .32     | 1.02 (0.99 to 1.05)           | .30     |
| Death within 90 d <sup>h</sup>   | 7 (0.8)                                | 10 (1.1)          | HR                                   | 0.74 (0.28 to 1.94)           | .54     | 0.63 (0.24 to 1.70)           | .37     |

**1893 randomized patients**  
 within 48 hours of onset (median 25 hours)  
 NIHSS 6 to 16 (median 7)  
 ineligible to recanalization therapies  
 pre-stroke mRS ≤1

Excluded  
 uncontrolled hypertension  
 cardioembolic etiology

Anterior circulation 60%  
 Posterior circulation 35%

**RIC application**  
 Bilateral arm, automated  
 5 minutes on/off, **5 cycles**  
**Twice a day for 10-14 days**

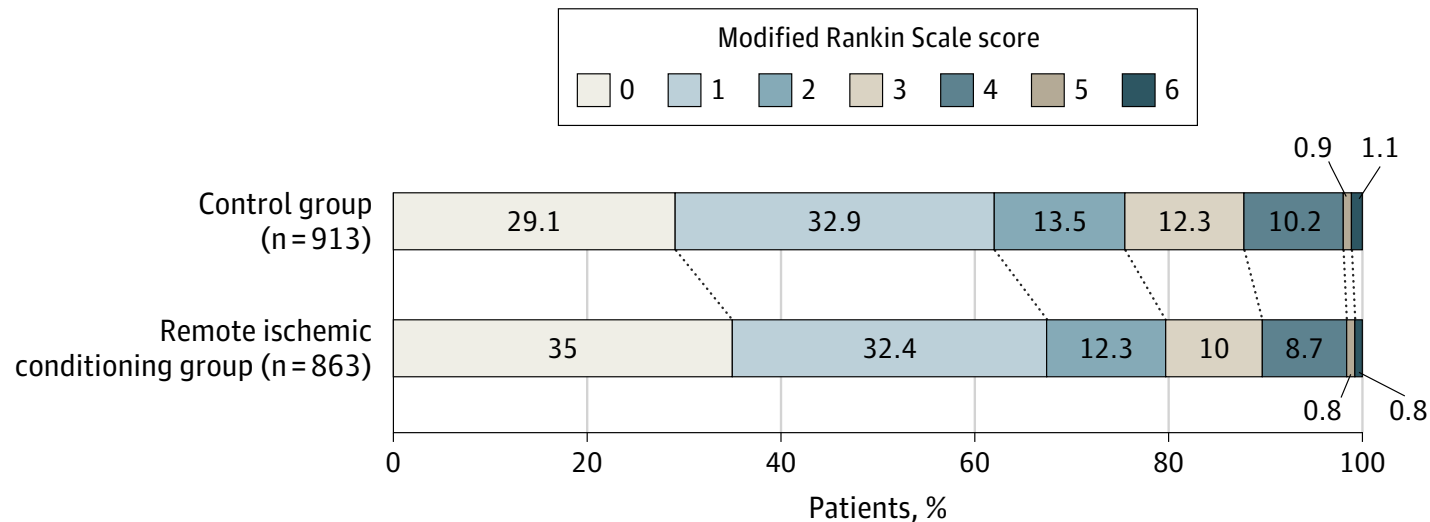
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Figure 2. Distribution of Modified Rankin Scale Scores at 90 Days in the Full Analysis Set



The raw distribution of scores is shown. Scores range from 0 to 6 (0 = no symptoms, 1 = symptoms without clinically significant disability, 2 = slight disability, 3 = moderate disability, 4 = moderately severe disability, 5 = severe disability, and 6 = death). The odds ratio was 1.29 (95% CI, 1.09-1.52), and the *P* value was .003; the adjusted odds ratio was 1.37 (95% CI, 1.16-1.63), and the adjusted *P* value was <.001.



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