

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Imaging			
Imaging N-acetylaspartate (NAA) to assess neuronal metabolism and multiple sclerosis (MS)-associated disability	An imaging study in humans suggests that NAA concentrations could help assess MS-associated disability. Magnetic resonance spectroscopy of the CNS was used to obtain data to estimate NAA concentrations. MS patients had lower NAA concentrations and cross-sectional spinal cord areas than age-matched healthy controls, suggesting ongoing neural degeneration. In patients, greater NAA concentrations were associated with less MS disability ($p=0.012$). Next steps could include evaluating the utility of imaging NAA levels in other CNS disorders.	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Ciccarelli, O. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i> ; published online Nov. 10, 2010; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.3330-10.2010 Contact: Olga Ciccarelli, University College London, London, U.K. e-mail: o.ciccarelli@ion.ucl.ac.uk
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