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PET Imaging of Mild Traumatic Brain Injury and Whiplash Associated Disorder

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Propositions

Belonging to the dissertation

PET Imaging of Mild Traumatic Brain Injury and Whiplash Associated Disorder

by

David Vallez Garca

1. The construction of tracer specific templates is of great importance for accurate data analysis, as the normalization of rodent brain PET/SPECT images cannot be performed only by means of MRI or [¹⁸F]FDG templates. [Thesis Chapter 2]
2. A voxel-based approach identifies subtle changes better than volume-of-interest (VOI) based analysis, as voxel-based analysis is limited mainly by the spatial resolution of the scanner rather than by the size of VOIs. [Thesis Chapter 3]
3. The apparent lack of a pathophysiological substrate in mild traumatic brain injury and whiplash-associated disorder has driven the focus of attention towards expectations, beliefs and other psychological aspects surrounding the trauma. [Thesis Chapter 1]
4. The worldwide prevalence of mild traumatic brain injury demands global attention and effective actions involving all levels of society. [Thesis Chapter 4]
5. The absence of behavioral or cognitive deficits following a mild traumatic brain injury does not mean that neurochemical or metabolic alterations, which can be detected by nuclear medicine neuroimaging, are not present. [Thesis Chapter 5]
6. Symptoms from whiplash-associated disorder are the result of a mismatch between the proprioceptive information from the cervical spinal cord and the information integrated in regions such as mesencephalon, thalamus and insula. [Thesis Chapter 7]
7. PET and SPECT imaging greatly contribute to a better understanding of brain disorders given their capacity to visualize functional alterations obscured in conventional imaging, a phenomenon best seen in mild traumatic brain injury and whiplash-associated disorders. [Thesis Chapter 8]
8. *"You must consider the PhD not as a sprint, but more as a marathon"* [Rudi Dierckx, during a monthly meeting]. *"... And sometimes, it will be even closer to an Ironman triathlon"* [personal experience]
9. *"Statistical Parametric Mapping is just like a big Irish stew"* [Andreas Otte, mail correspondence]
10. *"Science is built up of facts, as a house is built of stones; but an accumulation of facts is no more a science than a heap of stones is a house."* Henri Poincare
11. *"An expert is a person who has made all the mistakes that can be made in a very narrow field."* [Niels Bohr]