



Diagnostic Committee

Report 2015/16

The Diagnostic Committee is chaired by Tarek Yousry; its members are Marion Smits, Núria Bargalló and Meike Vernooij.

In the following we present a brief summary of the DC's activities, which focuses on our current working groups (tumour, epilepsy, examination), the development of a new working group in dementia, and for the 1st time, the establishment of a research fellowship in Diagnostic Neuroradiology, the development of a new, level III, ECNR course in advanced brain tumour imaging and developing new relationships with other scientific societies.

To plan, coordinate and develop these activities, the Diagnostic Committee (DC) met three times in London (29.10.2015; 19.01.2016 and 22.06.2016).

Tumour WG (Marion Smits)

- **Theme:** The Working Group's theme is "*state-of-the-art glioma imaging in clinical practice and research trials*", focusing on
 - a) standardisation of conventional MR imaging,
 - b) role of advanced imaging techniques with MR imaging and PET.
- **Workshop:** The tumour WG held an interactive workshop at ESNR 2015 in Naples (19/09/2015) consisting of a one hour interactive session with 4 panellists and a case based discussion. The panellists were Dr Steffi Thust (London/UK), Dr Claudia Godi (Milan/IT), Prof Adam Waldman (London/UK), Dr Marion Smits (Rotterdam/NL).

Excellent feedback was received from the participants and the congress president.

The discussion items from the workshop were used as a basis for developing a survey on current European practices and drafting a paper on tumour imaging.

- **Survey:** The survey was sent to ESNR members (1662), ESNR Associates (6400) as well as national societies (Netherlands, Belgium, UK) and social media (Twitter and LinkedIn) on March 1st, 2016 and closed on April 1st 2016.

A total of 224 responses (centres; 60% academic) from 31 European countries -80% being consultant neuroradiologists- were received. It was noted that there was a very enthusiastic feedback.

The results were summarised in an abstract which has been submitted sent to ESNR (accepted for oral presentation), ESMRMB (accepted for oral presentation) and RSNA (decision pending) annual meetings.



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- **Publication:** A consensus statement by the ESNR and EORTC, tentatively entitled “*Recommendations for clinical glioma MR imaging*”, with respect to current practices in Europe is being drafted. A final draft is planned for the end of Summer 2016.
- **Outlook:** With the publication of this manuscript the term of the Tumour WG -in its current formation- will come to an end. A proposal is being prepared for a sequel focusing on *advanced* brain tumour imaging. The composition of the WG, led by Marion Smits, will be determined at a later stage.

Epilepsy WG (Núria Bargalló)

- **Theme:** The WG’s theme is “*standardisation of the fMRI protocol for language lateralisation in adults and paediatric patients with refractory epilepsy in clinical practice*”.
- **OHBM:** An agreement was reached with OHBM to have a joint session on “*fMRI language lateralisation*” at the ESNR in Belgrade. OHBM will fund the expenses of the OHBM member participating. Reciprocally, ESNR will fund ESNR members participating at a OHBM joint session.
- **Workshop:** The WG will organise a workshop at ESNR 2016, entitled ‘*fMRI language lateralisation in epilepsy patients for dummies*’. The panellists are: Dr Paolo Vitali (Pavia/IT), Dr Cristina Rosazza (Milan/IT), Prof Susan Bookheimer (Palo Alto/US) and Dr Nuria Bargallo (chair).
- **Survey:** A survey was sent to 6 expert centres and the results will be discussed at the workshop.
- **Publication:** A manuscript is planned after the workshop with input from the panellists and participants, as well as a further, more extended survey on epilepsy imaging.

Dementia WG (Meike Vernooij)

- **Theme:** A new Dementia WG on “*standardized evaluation and reporting of scans from the memory clinic*” is being formed, led by MV.
- The working group members were discussed and will be invited.
- **Workshop:** A workshop will be organized at the ESNR conference in Malmoe/SE that addresses the question “*How should patients with memory problems be imaged and reported?*”
- The theme and aims of this new WG are detailed in *Appendix 1*.



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Examination WG (Meike Vernooij)

- The WG provides the EBR Case Collection Committee with neuroradiological exam materials. All the 2015 and 2016 material has been submitted in a timely fashion.
- For the 2016 batches onwards, the WG has established a network of centres that are engaging in collecting appropriate material. These include neuroradiologists from Rotterdam; London and Madrid. The network is chaired by MV.
- The WG will engage with the EBNR to explore how the WG can support the EDiNR.

Advanced Courses in Diagnostic Neuroradiology (Level-III)

The DC is looking at teaching advanced neuroradiology (level III) following on from the ECNR program. The following two courses are being prepared: 1) Brain tumour imaging (2017, Milan/IT) and 2) Neurodegenerative diseases (2018).

- **Brain Tumour 2017:** The Brain Tumour course will be hosted by Andrea Falini, Milan/IT, tentatively 7-10 Nov.

The organising committee consists of: Andrea Falini, Ana Ramos, Tarek Yousry, Marion Smits. A draft programme is currently being developed.

The facilities in the San Raffaele Congress Centre include a lecture theatre for 100 participants and several workshop rooms for at least 20 participants. It is planned to have 10 PC installed in each of two workshops rooms (10 for class).

Developing relationships with other scientific societies

- **OHBM:** Agreement was reached to have a joint session at the ESNR in Belgrade. OHBM will fund the expenses of the OHBM member participating. Reciprocally, ESNR will fund ESNR members participating at a joint WS at an OHBM meeting.
- **MENACTRIMS:** T Yousry discussed with MENACTRIMS the opportunity of developing joint educational course.

This was discussed and supported by the ExCom.

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- EORTC: Marion Smits established a working relationship to support
 - i) the planned Advanced Course in tumour imaging
 - ii) the publication of the “Recommendations for clinical glioma MR imaging”.

ESNR Research-fellowship in Neuroradiology

- The DG established a Research Fellowship (*details in appendix 2*). Submission deadline is August 10. The successful applicant will be announced at the ESNR Conference in Belgrade.

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Appendix 1

ESNR Diagnostic Committee Working Group on Dementia

Meike Vernooij, MD PhD, Erasmus MC, Rotterdam, The Netherlands.

Rationale

Worldwide, populations are aging, with an accompanying increase in prevalence of cognitive problems and dementia. Nowadays, brain imaging plays a key role in the evaluation of patients suspected of dementia. As a result, radiologists from both academic and non-academic centers are increasingly confronted with CT and MRI examinations in patients evaluated at memory clinics. Yet, standards for image acquisition and reporting vary widely across centers. In a recent survey conducted among memory clinics in the Netherlands, 75% of respondents reported that no standardized assessment of the imaging was performed. This is in contradiction with the growing role of imaging in subtyping dementia, assessing diagnosis earlier and the inclusion of patients in clinical trials. This exemplifies that there is a growing need for guidelines for standardized acquisition, evaluation and reporting of radiological examinations in memory clinic patients.

Theme

The Working Group's theme is to address the standardized use of neuroimaging in clinical practice of patients suspected of dementia. Specifically, we will address the following questions

1. Indications: who will benefit most from imaging and what are the overall goals?
2. Modality: which type of structural imaging (CT/MRI) is best suited for which patient?
3. Protocol: what is the most optimal (and cost-efficient) acquisition protocol?
4. Interpretation: what items should be reported systematically?
5. Referral: when is second line imaging (PET) indicated and what tracer should be used?
6. Feedback: how are results communicated and integrated in a multidisciplinary team?

Working group composition

The working group is composed of both established and more junior experts in the field of imaging in dementia. These primarily include experts in the fields of neuroradiology, neurology and nuclear medicine. When applicable, they will consult with persons in their network from the fields of MR physics, image analysis, and neuropsychology.

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The working group actively seeks collaborations with established European networks and associations in these fields, such as Alzheimer Europe and European Academy of Neurology (EAN)

Proposed activities for 2016-2017

- Communicate the aim and rationale of the Working Group through the ESNR website, and engage the ESNR membership in active dialogue.
- Bimonthly teleconference with the Working Group; Working Group meeting at the 2016 ESNR annual meeting.
- Formulate desired practice (of the future).
- Send questionnaire to determine obstacles to reach the formulated aims.
- Formulate a pathway to fill the gaps with goals that can be met through ESNR.
- Position paper on imaging and reporting in dementia, to be published in a European journal, either European Radiology (ESR) or Neuroradiology (ESNR). This paper will address the minimum advised imaging protocol, indications to apply advanced imaging/ nuclear imaging, the use of semi-quantitative rating scales for scan evaluation, and standardized reporting.
- Workshop on imaging and reporting in dementia at the 2017 annual meeting of the ESNR (Lund/SE).

The progress and achievements of the working group will be presented to and discussed with the ESNR Executive Committee at the 2016 annual meeting in Belgrade/RS.

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Appendix 2

ESNR Research fellowship

The ESNR Neuroradiology Diagnostic Committee is delighted to announce that, with support of the ESNR Executive Committee, we can offer a

12 months Research Fellowship in Diagnostic Neuroradiology.

Purpose of this fellowship is to stimulate cross-border research exchange in Neuroradiology within Europe.

The fellowship amounts to **€25.000**, intended to cover costs for living during the fellowship. Host institutions are expected to cover all potential other costs related to carrying out the research project.

Eligible are ESNR junior or full **members up to the age of 40 years**, who are working or studying in Europe at the time of application (see also ESNR regulations 7.12.2014).

Candidates will be selected based on their potential for scientific development, including the capacity to carry out the proposed research project, the quality of the research project, and the appropriateness of the host institution for the proposed project.

A minimum of 1 (submitted) **manuscript** is expected to result from the Fellowship.

Applications can be submitted until **August 10, 2016** and should include:

1. **Curriculum vitae** of the applicant, including information on previous publications and awards.
2. **Letter of invitation by the host institution**, including mention of the intended supervisor for the project.
3. A detailed **research proposal**, including background, methods and work plan and expected deliverables at the end of the Fellowship. Maximum of 5 A4 pages, including references, at minimum font size 11.

Selection will be performed by the ESNR Neuroradiology Diagnostic Committee and the winner will be announced at ESNR 2016 in Belgrade.

When awarded, the Fellowship is to commence in the first quarter of 2017.

Applications to be sent to: info@esnr.org

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