JPND research
EU Joint Programme – Neurodegenerative Disease Research

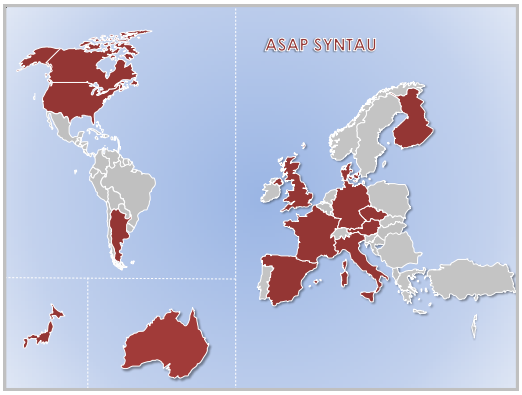
ASAP SynTau

Alignment and **S**tandardization of Neuroimaging Methods in **A**typical **P**arkinsonism, specifically **Syn**ucleinopathies and **Tau**opathies

The term Atypical Parkinsonism (AP) is used for neurodegenerative disorders that share several clinical features with Parkinson's disease, but have a different underlying pathology. In general, these disorders also progress much more quickly and response to symptomatic treatment is lower. Today, the development of therapies targeting the underlying pathological substrate of AP (e.g. tau protein aggregation) sparks hope for a significant improvement in treatment options.

However, further clinical testing is difficult because symptom-based clinical testing provides neither accurate early diagnosis nor sensitive and objective markers of disease progression. Here, neuroimaging methods have shown great potential, but a broad consensus on technical standards for multi-centre studies is lacking. Moreover, exciting new imaging methods are at hand, such as tau ligands for PET and ultra-high-field MRI, which have unprecedented potential to provide early diagnostic markers as well as very sensitive progression markers. Developing a methodological framework for these promising new methods would jump-start implementation in multi-centre studies.

This Working Group brings together neuroimaging experts from all over the world to develop a broad, community-based consensus on imaging protocols. These outcomes will help pave the way for the integration of neuroimaging in large and longitudinal multi-centre studies in AP, including therapeutic trials.



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