

Tools for the statistical analysis of PET studies in refractory epilepsy

- **SCHEDA**
- **APPROFONDIMENTI**

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A Spanish biomedical research center has developed a new and useful toolkit for locating the epileptogenic zone (EZ) in patients with complex partial seizures resistant to pharmacological treatment, in which surgery should be considered as a possible treatment. They are looking to establish licenses, research cooperation or technical cooperation agreements.

This research center gathers some of the most important Spanish research groups in biomedicine, who are located in more than 100 institutions like universities, hospitals, and technological centers distributed around the country. The success of surgical treatment of drug-resistant epilepsy is determined by the accuracy of presurgical identification of the epileptogenic zone (EZ). This EZ is defined as "the minimum amount of cortex that must be resected to produce seizure freedom". Positron emission tomography (PET) is part of the regular preoperative work-up in medically refractory epilepsy. As a complement to a visual evaluation of PET, statistical parametric maps can help in the detection of the EZ. However, software packages currently available are time-consuming and little intuitive for physicians. The toolkit is useful for locating the EZ in patients with complex partial seizures resistant to pharmacological treatment in which surgery should be considered as a possible treatment. The inclusion of the tools developed in a graphic environment allows the generation of applications to help to locate the EZ by performing a voxel-to-voxel statistical analysis in PET images as a complementary tool. In centers in which the SISCOM technique cannot be performed (Subtraction of Ictal SPECT Co-registered to Magnetic Resonance Imaging - MRI-), the analysis of PET studies is the neurofunctional test of the first choice. The research center is looking to collaborate with industrial partners from the sectors of medical technologies, medical imaging, and software technologies through license, research cooperation or technical cooperation agreements. They want to enter into preclinical R&D collaboration or jointly collaborate in further developments until clinical proof-of-concept.

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