SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

THE PROGNOSTIC IMPORTANCE OF TRAUMATIC AXONAL INJURY ON EARLY MRI: THE TRONDHEIM TAI-MRI GRADING AND QUANTITATIVE MODELS

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL AND METHODS

This study consisted of 463 patients with TBI from three separate prospective cohorts (figure 1):

1) Trondheim mild TBI cohort, comprising patients (16-60 years) presenting with mild TBI to the emergency department at Trondheim University Hospital or at the Trondheim municipal outpatient clinic (April 2014-Descember 2015). Mild TBI was defined according to the WHO criteria[1]. Patients underwent MRI at median 2 (range 0-5) days.

2) Trondheim moderate-severe TBI cohort, comprising patients (8-70 years) admitted with either moderate (GCS score 9-13, or GCS score $14-15$ and loss of consciousness > 5 min) or severe TBI (GCS score \leq 8) according to the Head Injury Severity Scale (October 2004-October 2017)[2; 3]. Patients underwent MRI at median 9 (range 0-41) days.

3) Oslo severe TBI cohort comprising patients (16-70 years), admitted to Oslo University Hospital with severe TBI (GCS-score \leq 8 during the first 24 hours post-injury) (January 2009-January 2011)[4]. Patients underwent MRI at median 5 (range 1-19) days.

Exclusion criteria

Exclusion criteria were: [1] age \geq 70 years, to reduce the prevalence of age-related WMHs (white matter hyperintensities), and age < 8 years, due to difficulties assessing outcome according to Glasgow Outcome Scale Extended (GOSE) below this age; [2] MRI performed > 6 weeks post-injury, due to the attenuation of lesions on MRI over time[5]; [3] unreadable MRI due to large artefacts, one or more missing predefined MRI sequences (see below) or acute ischemia/infarction in large-vessel territories on diffusion MRI; and [4] inclusion in the CENTER-TBI project, since it will serve as a validation cohort in a planned follow-up multicentre study.

CT reading

The CT scans were reviewed by radiologists or residents in radiology in collaboration with neuroradiologists (Trondheim moderate-severe TBI cohort)[6], by reviewing the radiology report (Trondheim m-TBI cohort)[1], or by neuroradiologists (Oslo severe TBI cohort)[7]. In the Trondheim moderate-severe TBI cohort and Oslo severe TBI cohort, the worst CT scan was used and a Marshall CT score was assigned[8]. The worst CT scan was defined as the scan with the highest Marshall CT score with score 5 and 6 considered equally high. In the Trondheim mild TBI cohort all CT scans with intracranial traumatic pathology were reviewed once more by an experience neuroradiologist (KAK) and a Marshall CT score assigned. In the Trondheim mild TBI cohort, 31 patients were not found to be eligible for CT imaging in the acute phase based on the clinical evaluation[9] and they were assigned Marshall CT score of 1.

MRI acquisition and reading

The MRI protocols consisted of the following sequences: T1, T2, fluid attenuated inversion recovery (FLAIR), diffusion weighted imaging (DWI), and T2*gradient echo (T2*GRE, Trondheim moderate-severe TBI cohort: n=219 and Oslo severe TBI cohort: n=47) or susceptibility weighted imaging (SWI, Trondheim moderate-severe TBI cohort: n=43, Oslo severe TBI cohort: n=2, Trondheim mild TBI cohort: n=159).

MRI scans were scored and annotated blinded for clinical information by consultants in radiology (KGM, AMHF, EHS, ØO and SAB) according to the ERA-NET NEURON TAI-MRI template developed by the TAI-MRI partners. The presence and number of TAI lesions on FLAIR, DWI and T2*GRE/SWI were registered in 58 predefined locations in the brain[10].

Hypointense foci on T2*GRE/SWI were considered as signs of TAI, if they had the typical distribution, appearance, and location. Traumatic microbleeds often are asymmetric and occurs at predilection sites with an increasing gradient from hemispheres to deep brain [11], and thus show another distribution compared to for instance cerebral amyloid angiopathy [12] and hypertensive angiopathy [13]. Further, the appearance of traumatic microbleeds is typically linear, cigar, comet tail or bead like and they tend to appear in clusters [14; 15] in contrast to other cerebral microbleeds that are more scattered and round-ovoid [16]. Location of TAI is typical at the interface between grey and white matter, corpus callosum and brainstem [17; 18], but recently emphasized to be found in thalamus and basal ganglia as well [19; 20]. Bilateral

calcifications in basal ganglia are common but is often symmetric. In patients where SWI was available, the phase images were useful to distinguish calcifications from microbleeds.

Hyperintense foci on FLAIR and b1000 images on DWI were also considered as TAI lesions if they had a typical distribution, appearance, and location. Incidental white matter hyperintensities detected on the FLAIR as either periventricular hyperintensities ("caps and bands") or patchy / confluent hyperintense lesions in deep white matter[21; 22], were considered unspecific and not trauma-related, and thus not included as TAI lesions. The brainstem might also be involved in chronic small vessel disease, but these lesions are usually diffuse, symmetrical, and central [23] while TAI is typically found in the posterolateral aspect of the brain stem [17].

In the evaluation and annotation of traumatic MRI findings in this study, the distribution, appearance, and location on all obtained MRI sequences were held together, in the same way that MRI sequences in the clinical radiological work-up of patients are considered complementary to each other. In those cases where the radiologist interpreted the lesions as non-traumatic and not as a sign of TAI, the lesion was not counted or segmented. If the radiologists were in doubt, they consulted one of the other radiologists to reach consensus.

If the lesion count exceeded 10 in one of the locations, the value 15 was assigned[5]. Patients were excluded if at least one of the essential MRI sequences (FLAIR, DWI and/or T2*GRE/SWI) were missing or unreadable[17]. The standard TAI grade was registered for all patients (see Introduction). Parenchymal changes following insertion of drain or intracranial pressure devices were defined as iatrogenic injuries, and thus not included to the TAI or contusion lesion number or volumes.

For a more comprehensive description on the MRI scanners, protocols and reading, we refer to a recent published related study[10].

Outcome and handling of missing outcome data

In mild TBI, outcome was assessed at 3-months by telephone or face-to-face with the Glasgow Outcome Scale Extended (GOSE), an instrument assessing global functioning after TBI on an eight-point scale.[24; 25] In moderate-severe TBI, outcome was assessed at 6-months with the GOSE, by telephone or face-to-face. In the Oslo severe TBI cohort, GOSE was administered

at 3 and 12 months, and 6-months GOSE score was calculated as a weighted mean, rounded to the nearest integer value: (2/3) x 3 months GOSE score + (1/3) x 12 months GOSE score.

In the moderate-severe TBI group, one patient had missing 12 months GOSE score, where the 3 months GOSE score was used. For three patients with missing 6 months GOSE score, the 12 months GOSE score was used. Sixteen patients (4.9%) were missing; not planned for follow-up (n=14), death of other reasons (n=1) or not possible to assess (n=1). We followed the recently published recommendations on how to handle missing outcome data in TBI [26-28]. We found no significant differences in baseline characteristics as age $(p=0.47)$, sex $(p=0.14)$, worst CT Marshall score ($p=0.18$) or GCS score ($p=0.36$) between the missing and the nonmissing group. Little's Missing Completely at Random (MCAR) test showed that the MCAR assumption was not rejected $(p=0.15)$, when including complete covariate data (age, pupil size, GCS score, CT Marshall score, secondary events and *standard* TAI grade in MRI). We imputed the missing values using a model-based approach (expectation-maximization algorithm), and the imputed values were rounded to the nearest integer values. Missing GOSE scores for 16 patients were imputed using this approach. A missing GCS score for one patient was imputed in a similar way. We had no reasons to assume the data was *missing not at random*. We anyway chose to perform sensitivity analyses by redoing some of the analyses with exclusion of the patients with missing GOSE scores (n=16). These analyses gave no changes to the results of the analyses.

For the mild TBI group, 11 patients (7%) had missing GOSE score at 3 months. Little's test indicated that the missing data was not MCAR ($p=0.029$) and with absent relevant auxiliary data, we chose to exclude these patients from the outcome analyses. None of those with TAI on MRI in the mild TBI group had missing GOSE scores at 3 months.

Statistical analyses

Since only 11 patients had bilateral pupil dilation, a collapsed binary categorical variable for pupil status (abnormal / normal) was used in the regression analyses. The Marshall CT score of the worst CT scan, was collapsed into four levels (1, 2, 3-4 or 5-6) in the regression analyses, due to low numbers in the categories 4 (n=4) and 6 (n=5) . We found little evidence of an effect of centre (hospital) in preliminary analyses and therefore omitted centre from the multivariable analyses.

Based on assessment of model fit the volumes were log-transformed, while the numbers were used on the original scale. Since volumes of zero cannot be log-transformed, region specific binary variables indicating the presence or absence of TAI were also included in the regression models. Hence, an association between numbers or volumes and the GOSE score was estimated only for cases where TAI was present.

Penalized regression imposes a penalty to models with many predictors, where the aim is to avoid overfitting and reduce the complexity of the model. With these methods we can assess the *combined* value of the predictors rather than the predictive strength of each. Elastic-net regression, which is a combination of the limiting models ridge regression and lasso regression, typically performs well in the presence of highly correlated predictors[29]. To assess the ability of each of the elastic-net models to discriminate poor outcome (GOSE score \leq 4) from favourable outcome (GOSE 5-8), we calculated an optimism-corrected area under the receiver operating characteristics (AUC-ROC)-curve as part of the bootstrap procedure described in the main document.

Data collection was performed in a web-based data collection system administered by the faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences at Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), Trondheim, Norway.

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SUPPLEMENTAL TABLE S1 Moderate-severe TBI: Adjusted[#] ordinal logistic regression analyses (n=305) with 6 months GOSE score^{*} as response variable and **presence of TAI including laterality on clinical MRI as explanatory variables.**

TBI, traumatic brain injury; GOSE, Glasgow outcome scale extended; TAI, traumatic axonal injury; FLAIR, fluid-attenuated inversion recovery; DWI, diffusion weighted imaging; T2*GRE; T2* gradient echo; SWI, susceptibility weighted imaging; n, numbers; OR, odds ratio; CI, confidence interval; p, p-value; NA, not applicable. # Adjustment for age, pupil abnormalities, GCS score and worst Marshall CT score.

* GOSE score at 6 months is dependent variable in multivariable ordinal logistic regression analyses. GOSE scores were inverted to give interpretable odds ratios. If 9 or fewer patients had lesions in a sub region, regression analyses were not performed (NA).

** Includes lesions in cerebellum, internal capsule, and external capsule.

Each column and row indicate one model. P-values <0.01 are in bold.

SUPPLEMENTAL TABLE S2 Moderate-severe TBI: Estimated odds ratios with 95% bootstrap confidence intervals, from elastic-net regression (α=0.8) predicting 6 months GOSE score. The results correspond to figure 2 the elastic-net clinical TAI-MRI model in the manuscript.

TBI, traumatic brain injury; GOSE, Glasgow outcome scale extended; TAI, traumatic axonal injury; GCS, Glasgow coma scale; OR, odds ratio; CI, confidence interval; T2*GRE, T2* gradient echo; SWI, susceptibility weighted imaging; DWI, diffusion weighted imaging; FLAIR, fluid-attenuated inversion recovery.

We forced CT Marshall score to be included into the model, indicated with italic fonts.

OR=1 indicate that the variable was shrunken to zero and not included into the model; this is also marked with faded font color. The optimism corrected area under the curve for predicting poor outcome (GOSE score \leq 4) was 0.910 (95%CI 0.890; 0.922) for this model.

SUPPLEMENTAL TABLE S3. Mild TBI: Uni- and multivariable logistic regression models with GOSE score at 3 months as response variables and MRI findings as explanatory variables.

			Univariable analyses $(n=147)$		Multivariable [§] analyses $(n=147)$	
	Variable	$n (%)*$	OR (95% CI)	p value	OR (95% CI)	p value
ŠE* င္ပ	Any trauma pathology on MRI -TAI lesions -Contusions -Extra axial hematoma	16(10) 9(6) 7(4) 6(4)	8.13 (2.41; 27.48) 4.81(1.07; 21.52) 14.22 (2.84; 71.12) 14.88 (2.27; 97.34)	0.001 0.040 0.001 0.005	19.82 (4.10; 95.79) 8.23 (1.52; 44.55) 29.00 (4.60; 182.72) 27.92 (3.48; 223.86)	< 0.001 0.014 < 0.001 < 0.001

TBI, traumatic brain injury; GOSE, Glasgow outcome scale extended; n, numbers; OR, odds ratio; CI, confidence interval; TAI, traumatic axonal injury

*GOSE scores were dichotomized into good recovery (GOSE score 7-8) or disability (GOSE score ≤ 6), models predict disability.

§Multivariable analyses are adjusted for age and sex.

P-values <0.01 are in bold.

SUPPLEMENTAL TABLE S4 Moderate-severe TBI: Estimated odds ratios with 95% bootstrap confidence intervals, from elastic-net regression (α=1.0) predicting 6 months GOSE score. The results correspond to supplemental figure 1 *the elastic-net quantitative* TAL MBL madel below. *TAI-MRI model* **below.**

TBI, traumatic brain injury; GOSE, Glasgow outcome scale extended; GCS, Glasgow coma scale; OR, odds ratio; CI, confidence interval; TAI, traumatic axonal injury; T2*GRE, T2* gradient echo; SWI, susceptibility weighted imaging; DWI, diffusion weighted imaging; FLAIR, fluid-attenuated inversion recovery.

We forced CT Marshall score to be included into the model, indicated with italic fonts.

OR=1 indicate that the variable was shrunken to zero and not included into the model; this is also marked with faded font color. The optimism corrected area under the curve for predicting poor outcome (GOSE score \leq 4) was 0.925 (95%CI 0.908; 0.938) for this model.

SUPPLEMENTAL TABLE S5 Moderate-severe TBI: Adjusted[#] ordinal logistic regression analyses with 6 months GOSE score^{*} as response variable and TAI lesion burden in different locations and sub locations on MRI as explanatory variables (n=305).

TBI, traumatic brain injury; GOSE, Glasgow outcome scale extended; TAI, traumatic axonal injury; FLAIR, fluid-attenuated inversion recovery; DWI, diffusion weighted imaging; T2*GRE, T2* gradient echo; SWI, susceptibility weighted imaging; n, numbers; OR, odds ratio; CI, confidence interval; ICEC, internal and external capsule; Tegm/SN, tegmentum and substantia nigra, Cer.ped, cerebellar peduncles; N.caudatus; nucleus caudatus; NA, not applicable.

Adjustment for age, pupil abnormalities, Glasgow coma scale score and worst Marshall CT score.

* GOSE score at 6 months is dependent variable in multivariable ordinal logistic regression analyses. GOSE scores were inverted to give interpretable odds ratios. If 9 or fewer patients had lesions in a sub region, regression analyses were not performed (NA).

**All patients with TAI in the cerebellum, also had TAI elsewhere in the cerebral hemispheres.

Each column and row indicate one model. Bold text indicates that the 95% CI does not contain zero. *

SUPPLEMENTAL FIGURE 1. The *elastic-net quantitative TAI-MRI model.* An ordinal regression model with elastic-net penalty was fitted to predict 6 months GOSE score in moderate-severe TBI. The model included TAI-MRI presence variables (including laterality variables) *and* TAI-MRI number and volume variables. Worst Marshall CT score are always included into the model. The histogram shows the percentage of the 500 bootstrap samples for which each variable was included in the model (i.e. their coefficient was not set to zero). For simplicity, only variables selected in at least 50% of the bootstrap samples are shown. The plot is related to supplemental table S4. In figure 2 (main document) and supplemental table S2, the *elastic-net clinical TAI-MRI model* is presented.

GCS, Glasgow Coma Scale; Pres., presence; Vol., volume; No., number; TAI, traumatic axonal injury; T2*GRE, T2* gradient echo; SWI, susceptibility weighted imaging; DWI, diffusion weighted imaging; FLAIR, fluid-attenuated inversion recovery.

* Two variables (marked with *) had OR<1 in elastic-net regression models (correlation phenomenon). Results for individual variables must be interpreted with caution since the joint effect of all variables together must be taken into consideration when interpreting this figure.