

Supplementary Table 1. Inter-rater and intra-rater reliability derived from repeated analysis of 10 multiple sclerosis cases.

|                    |  | <b>difference (D)</b> | <b>STD (D)</b> | <b>D/average</b> | <b>95% CI (D)</b> | <b>95% LOA</b>  | <b>ICC</b> | <b>95% CI (ICC)</b> |
|--------------------|--|-----------------------|----------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------|---------------------|
| <b>Intra-Rater</b> | <b>FA</b>  | 0.013                 | 0.040          | 2.1%             | (-0.016, 0.041)   | (-0.065, 0.091) | 0.96       | (0.91, 1.01)        |
|                    | <b>MD (<math>\mu\text{m}^2/\text{ms}</math>)</b>                               | 0.011                 | 0.085          | 1.3%             | (-0.050, 0.071)   | (-0.156, 0.178) | 0.96       | (0.91, 1.01)        |
|                    | <b><math>\lambda_{\parallel}</math> (<math>\mu\text{m}^2/\text{ms}</math>)</b> | 0.033                 | 0.096          | 2.4%             | (-0.036, 0.010)   | (-0.155, 0.222) | 0.95       | (0.89, 1.01)        |
|                    | <b><math>\lambda_{\perp}</math> (<math>\mu\text{m}^2/\text{ms}</math>)</b>     | -0.030                | 0.076          | 0.6%             | (-0.057, 0.051)   | (-0.152, 0.146) | 0.96       | (0.92, 1.00)        |
| <b>Inter-Rater</b> | <b>FA</b>  | 0.025                 | 0.040          | 4.1%             | (-0.004, 0.053)   | (-0.054, 0.103) | 0.95       | (0.88, 1.01)        |
|                    | <b>MD (<math>\mu\text{m}^2/\text{ms}</math>)</b>                               | -0.039                | 0.095          | 4.7%             | (-0.106, 0.029)   | (-0.224, 0.148) | 0.94       | (0.87, 1.01)        |
|                    | <b><math>\lambda_{\parallel}</math> (<math>\mu\text{m}^2/\text{ms}</math>)</b> | -0.028                | 0.094          | 2.0%             | (-0.095, 0.039)   | (-0.212, 0.155) | 0.96       | (0.91, 1.01)        |
|                    | <b><math>\lambda_{\perp}</math> (<math>\mu\text{m}^2/\text{ms}</math>)</b>     | -0.049                | 0.085          | 9.4%             | (-0.110, 0.012)   | (-0.216, 0.118) | 0.94       | (0.86, 1.01)        |

Abbreviations: FA, fractional anisotropy. MD, mean diffusivity.  $\lambda_{\parallel}$ , parallel diffusivity.  $\lambda_{\perp}$ , perpendicular diffusivity. STD, standard deviation. CI, confidence interval. LOA, limits of agreement. ICC, intra- or inter-class correlation coefficient.

Supplementary Table 2. DTI indices in the optic nerves.

|                                  | <i>prior optic neuritis</i> | <i># individuals (# analyzed nerves)</i> | <i>FA</i> | <i>MD (<math>\mu\text{m}^2/\text{ms}</math>)</i> | $\lambda_{\parallel}$ ( $\mu\text{m}^2/\text{ms}$ ) | $\lambda_{\perp}$ ( $\mu\text{m}^2/\text{ms}$ ) |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|-----------|--|---|---|
| <b><i>all MS</i></b>             | ±                           | 104 (197)                                | 0.58±0.15 | 1.03±0.31  | 1.71±0.34   | 0.69±0.31                                       |
|                                  | -                           | 96 (158)                                 | 0.58±0.15 | 1.03±0.31  | 1.69±0.33   | 0.69±0.32                                       |
|                                  | +                           | 32 (35)                                  | 0.58±0.13 | 1.06±0.30  | 1.78±0.36   | 0.71±0.28                                       |
| <b><i>RRMS</i></b>               | ±                           | 63 (120)                                 | 0.60±0.16 | 1.02±0.33  | 1.71±0.35   | 0.67±0.33                                       |
|                                  | -                           | 57 (91)                                  | 0.60±0.16 | 1.03±0.34  | 1.71±0.35   | 0.69±0.35                                       |
|                                  | +                           | 25 (27)                                  | 0.60±0.13 | 1.00±0.28  | 1.72±0.33   | 0.65±0.28                                       |
| <b><i>SPMS</i></b>               | ±                           | 23 (42)                                  | 0.52±0.13 | 1.09±0.28  | 1.76±0.35   | 0.77±0.26                                       |
|                                  | -                           | 21 (33)                                  | 0.52±0.14 | 1.05±0.27  | 1.70±0.32   | 0.74±0.27                                       |
|                                  | +                           | 6 (7)                                    | 0.51±0.08 | 1.27±0.29  | 2.01±0.44   | 0.91±0.23                                       |
| <b><i>PPMS</i></b>               | ±                           | 18 (35)                                  | 0.57±0.13 | 1.01±0.26  | 1.66±0.27   | 0.67±0.26                                       |
| <b><i>healthy volunteers</i></b> | N/A                         | 15 (29)                                  | 0.63±0.11 | 1.00±0.41  | 1.71±0.56   | 0.66±0.36                                       |

Summary statistics (mean±standard deviation) are derived from all data and account for multiple observations per participant (i.e., right and left optic nerves). *Abbreviations:* MS, multiple sclerosis; RRMS, relapsing-remitting MS; SPMS, secondary progressive MS; PPMS, primary progressive MS. FA, fractional anisotropy. MD, mean diffusivity.  $\lambda_{\parallel}$ , parallel diffusivity.  $\lambda_{\perp}$ , perpendicular diffusivity. N/A, not applicable.

Supplementary Table 3. Partial correlation of visual acuity measurements with DTI indices and peripapillary retinal nerve fiber layer thickness.

|                     |                    | FA                  |                     |                     | $\lambda_{\perp}$   |                     |                     |
|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
|                     |                    | $\pm$               | -                   | +                   | $\pm$               | -                   | +                   |
| <b>100% acuity</b>  | <b>PRNFL</b>       | 0.20 (<0.001)       | 0.11 (<0.001)       | 0.29 (<0.001)       | 0.20 (<0.001)       | 0.11 (<0.001)       | 0.29 (<0.001)       |
|                     | <b>DTI</b>         | 0.08 (<0.001)       | 0.03 (0.02)         | 0.29 (0.001)        | 0.04 (0.01)         | 0.01 (0.08)         | 0.15 (0.03)         |
|                     | <b>PRNFL + DTI</b> | 0.21 (<0.001, 0.05) | 0.10 (<0.001, 0.33) | 0.33 (<0.001, 0.01) | 0.19 (<0.001, 0.26) | 0.10 (<0.001, 0.74) | 0.31 (<0.001, 0.03) |
| <b>2.5% acuity</b>  | <b>PRNFL</b>       | 0.26 (<0.001)       | 0.22 (<0.001)       | 0.15 (<0.001)       | 0.26 (<0.001)       | 0.22 (<0.001)       | 0.15 (<0.001)       |
|                     | <b>DTI</b>         | 0.04 (0.01)         | 0.02 (0.04)         | 0.13 (0.02)         | 0.03 (0.03)         | 0.01 (0.21)         | 0.12 (0.04)         |
|                     | <b>PRNFL + DTI</b> | 0.26 (<0.001, 0.63) | 0.22 (<0.001, 0.92) | 0.20 (0.002, 0.08)  | 0.26 (<0.001, 0.99) | 0.23 (<0.001, 0.53) | 0.18 (0.001, 0.46)  |
| <b>1.25% acuity</b> | <b>PRNFL</b>       | 0.16 (<0.001)       | 0.15 (<0.001)       | 0.09 (0.01)         | 0.16 (<0.001)       | 0.15 (<0.001)       | 0.09 (0.01)         |
|                     | <b>DTI</b>         | 0.01 (0.05)         | 0.02 (0.11)         | 0.01 (0.69)         | 0.01 (0.05)         | 0.01 (0.09)         | 0.005 (0.81)        |
|                     | <b>PRNFL + DTI</b> | 0.16 (<0.001, 0.90) | 0.15 (<0.001, 0.75) | 0.09 (0.01, 0.51)   | 0.16 (<0.001, 0.91) | 0.15 (<0.001, 0.99) | 0.09 (0.01, 0.44)   |

Fractional variance ( $R^2$ ) of visual acuity scores explained by peripapillary retinal nerve fiber layer (PRNFL) thickness and DTI indices. Each row corresponds to a different mixed-effects regression model, where the fixed-effect variables are: (1) PRNFL thickness alone; (2) one of the four DTI indices alone; or (3) PRNFL thickness plus one of the four DTI indices, taken together. Numbers in parentheses represent the p-values for the fixed-effects components in each model. Prior optic neuritis status is denoted:  $\pm$ , all optic nerves; -, no prior optic neuritis; +, prior optic neuritis. *Abbreviations:* FA, fractional anisotropy.  $\lambda_{\perp}$ , perpendicular diffusivity.