

Supplementary Information

Effect of Vectashield-induced fluorescence quenching on conventional and super-resolution microscopy

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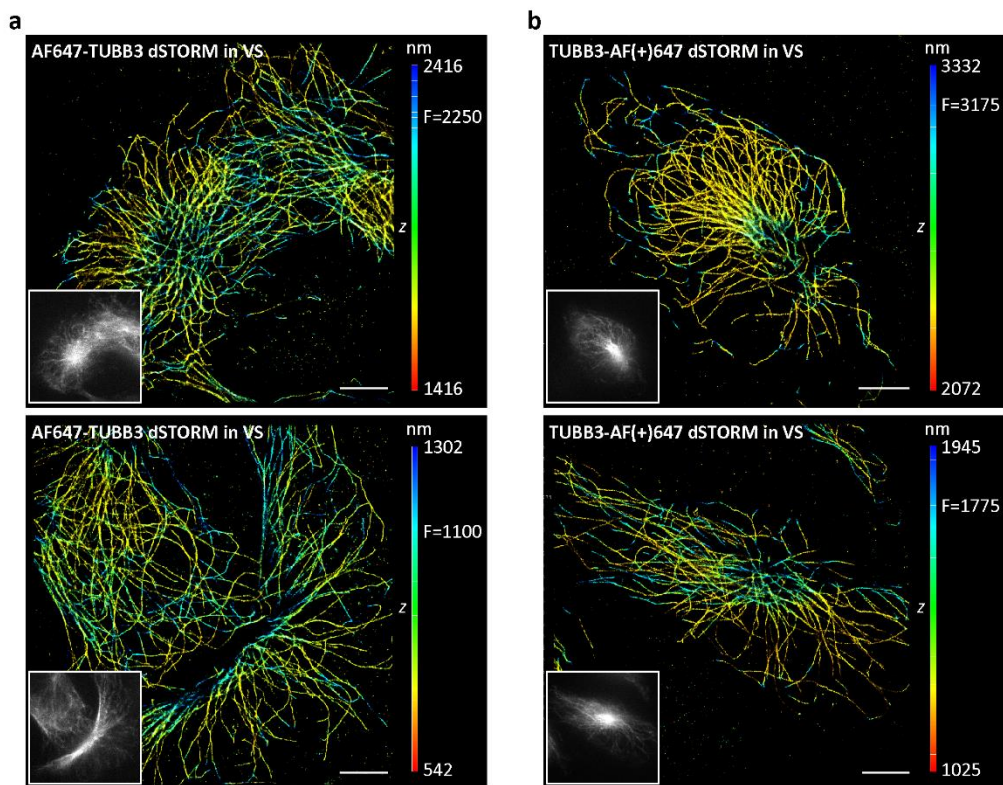
Dependent variable "average localization precision"

Dependent variable "FRC"

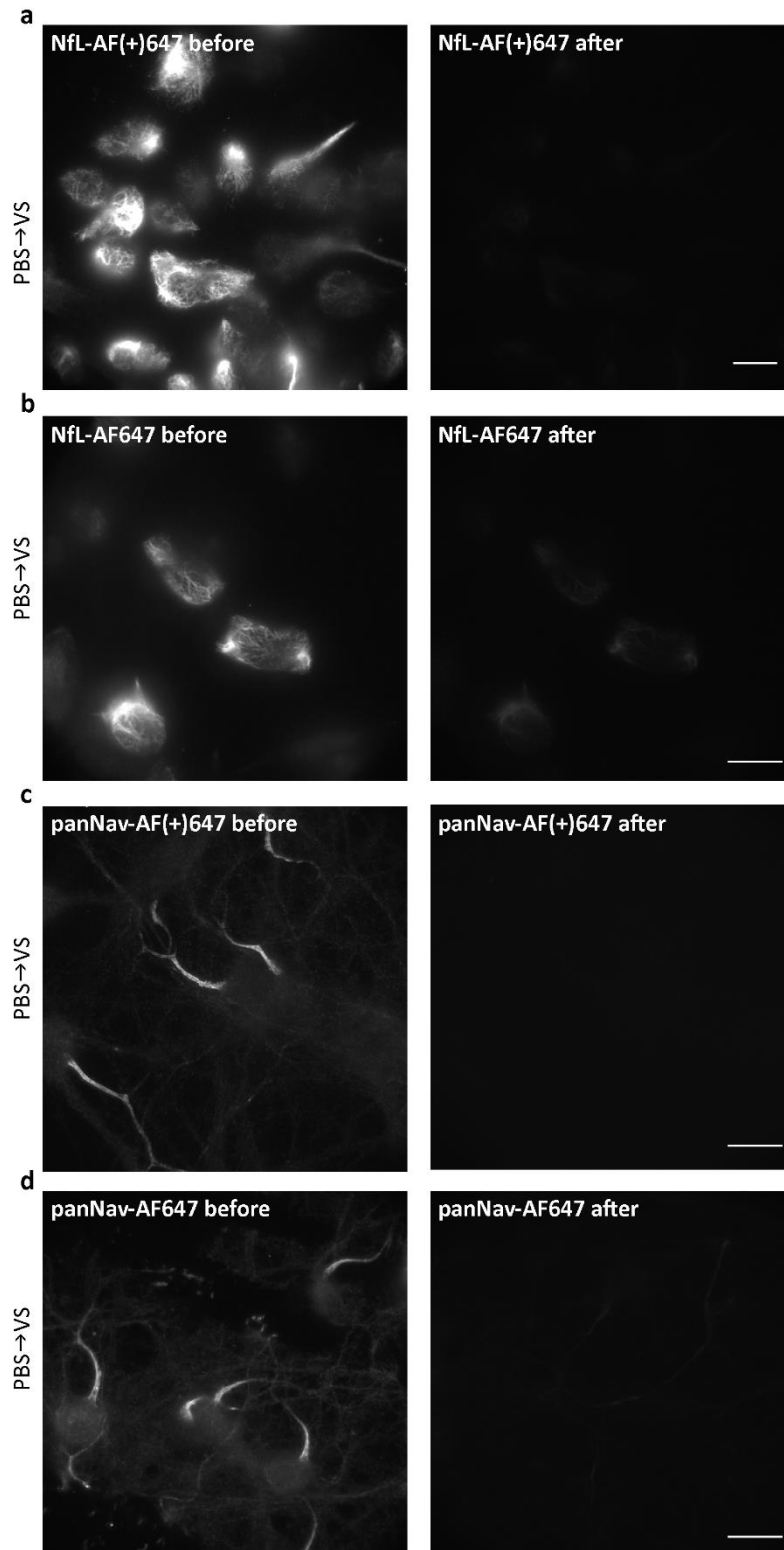
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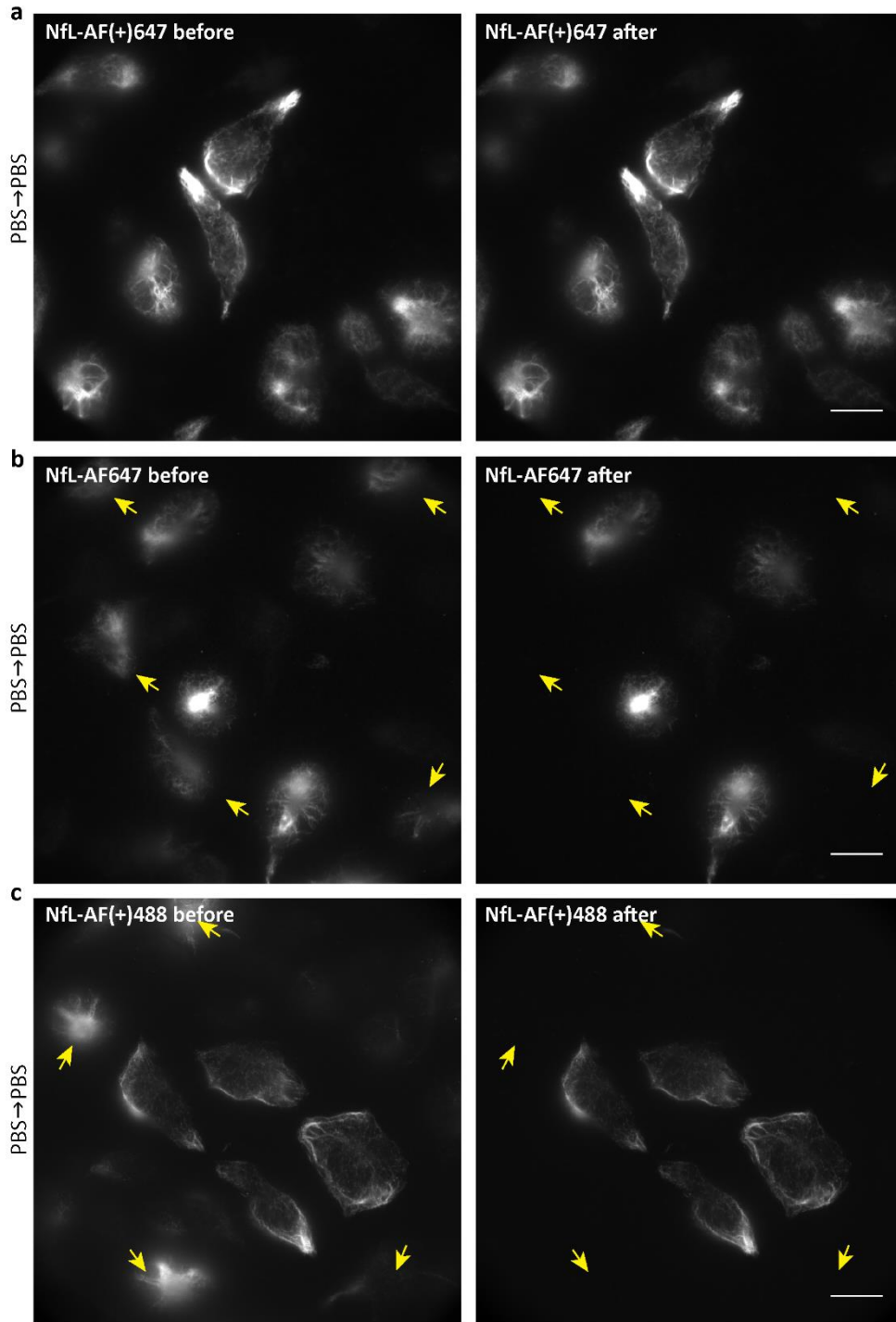
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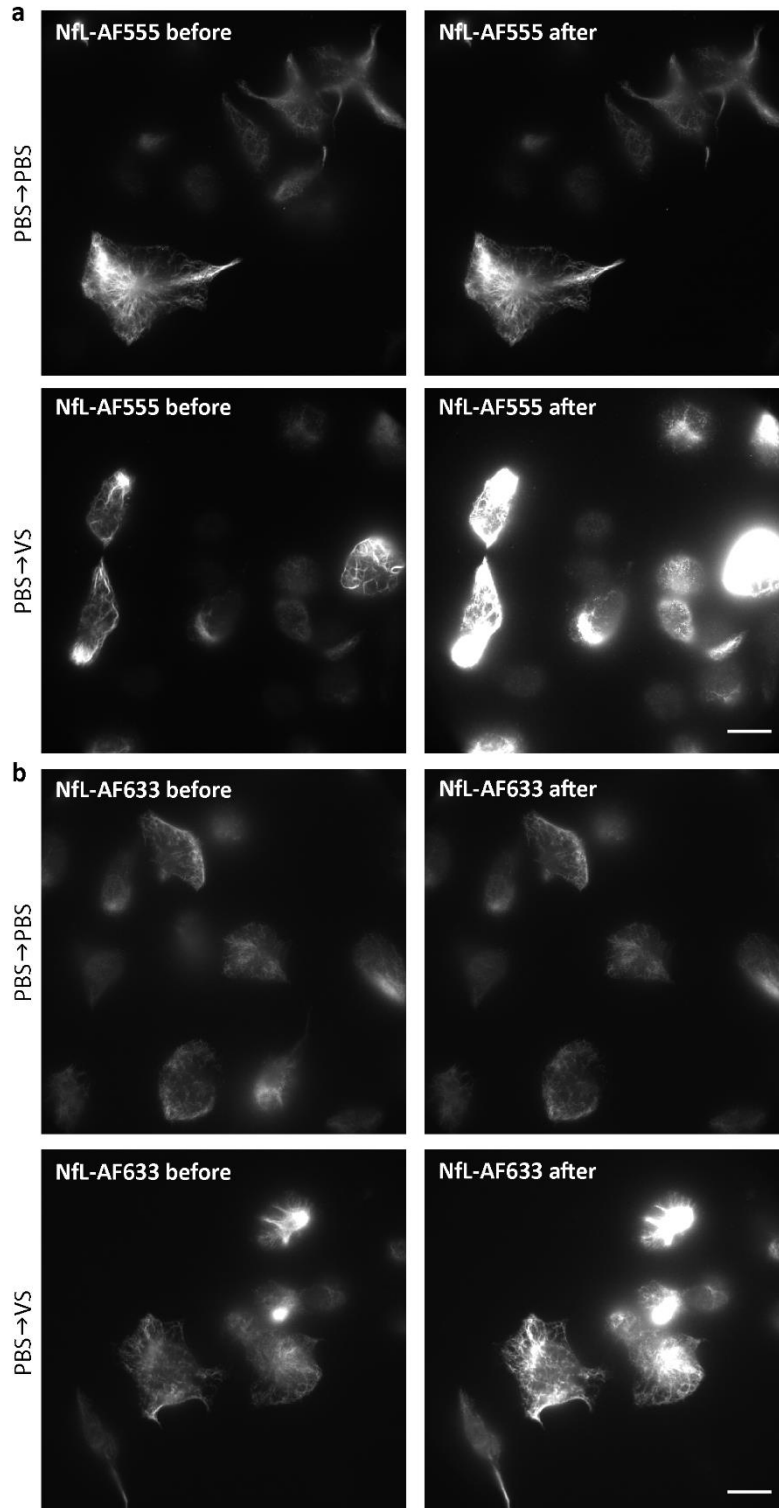
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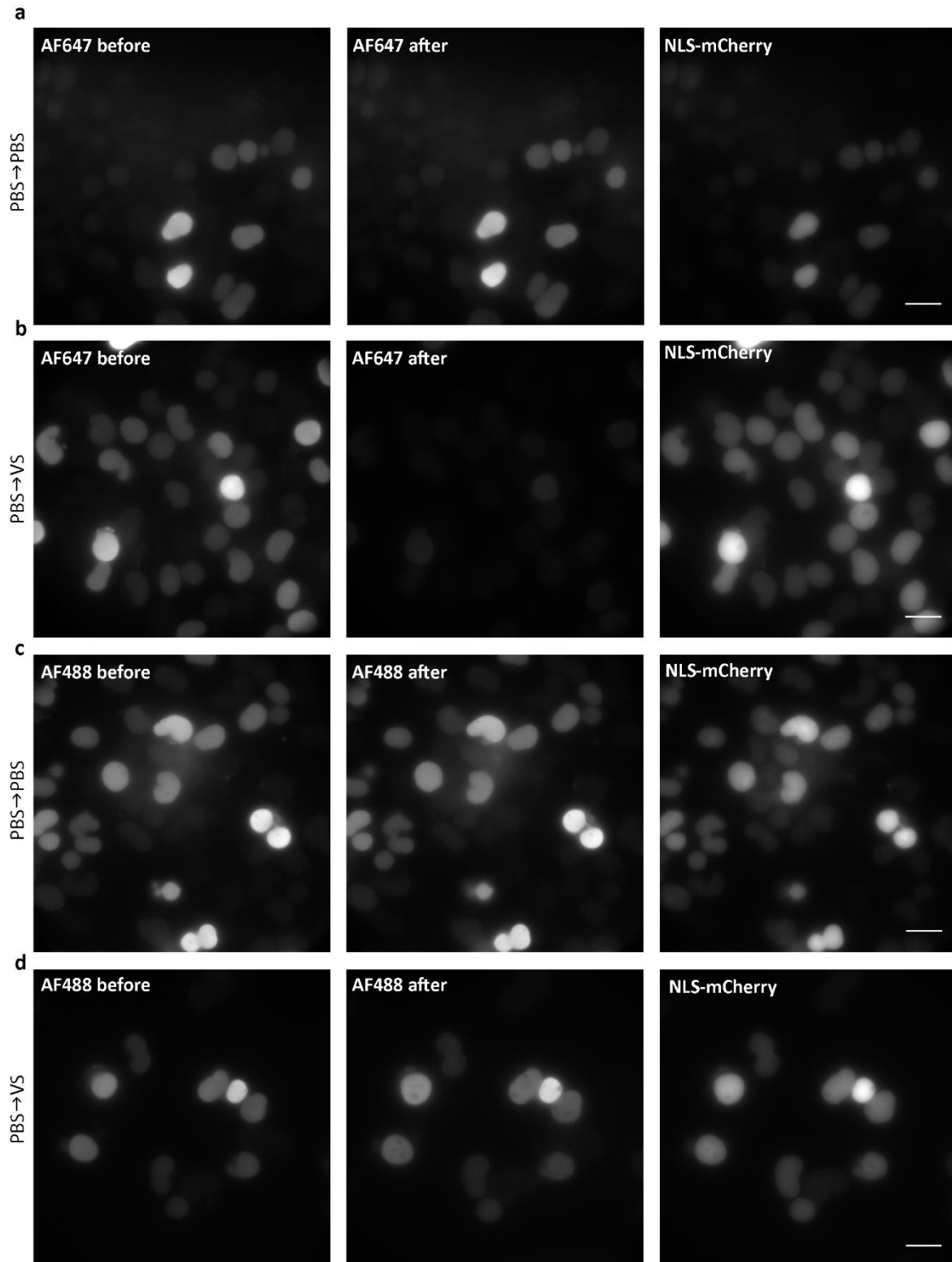
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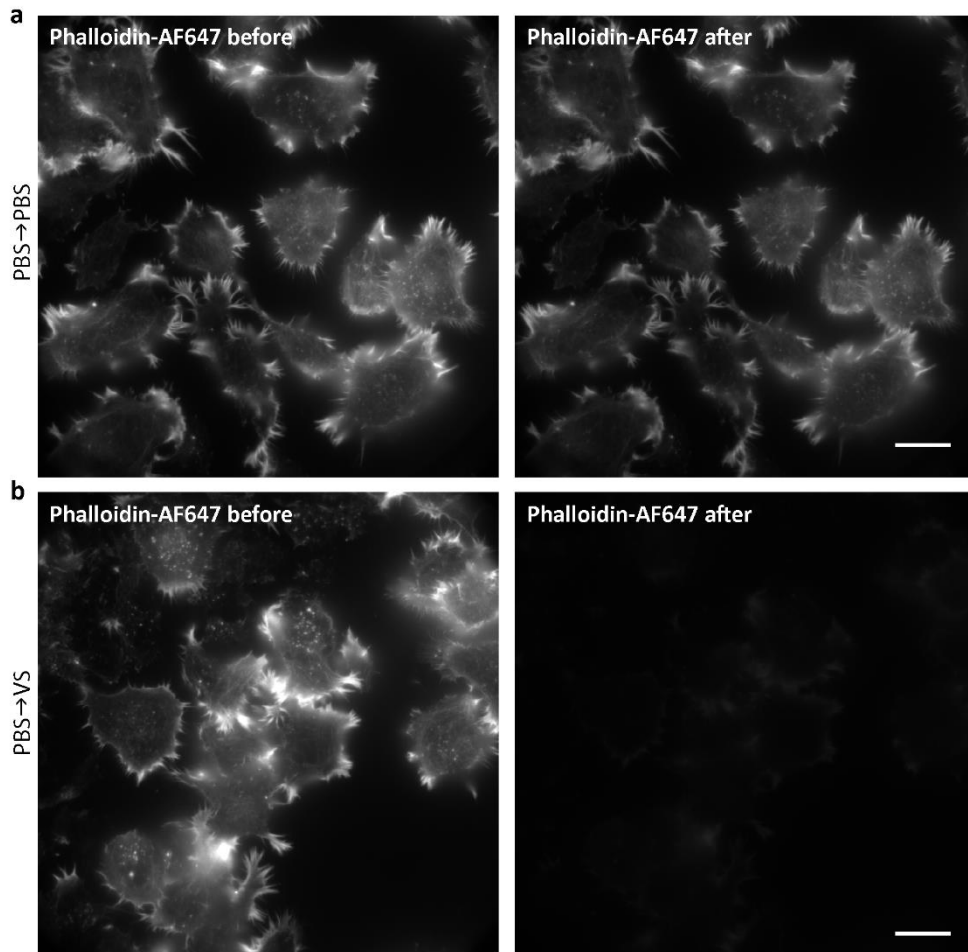
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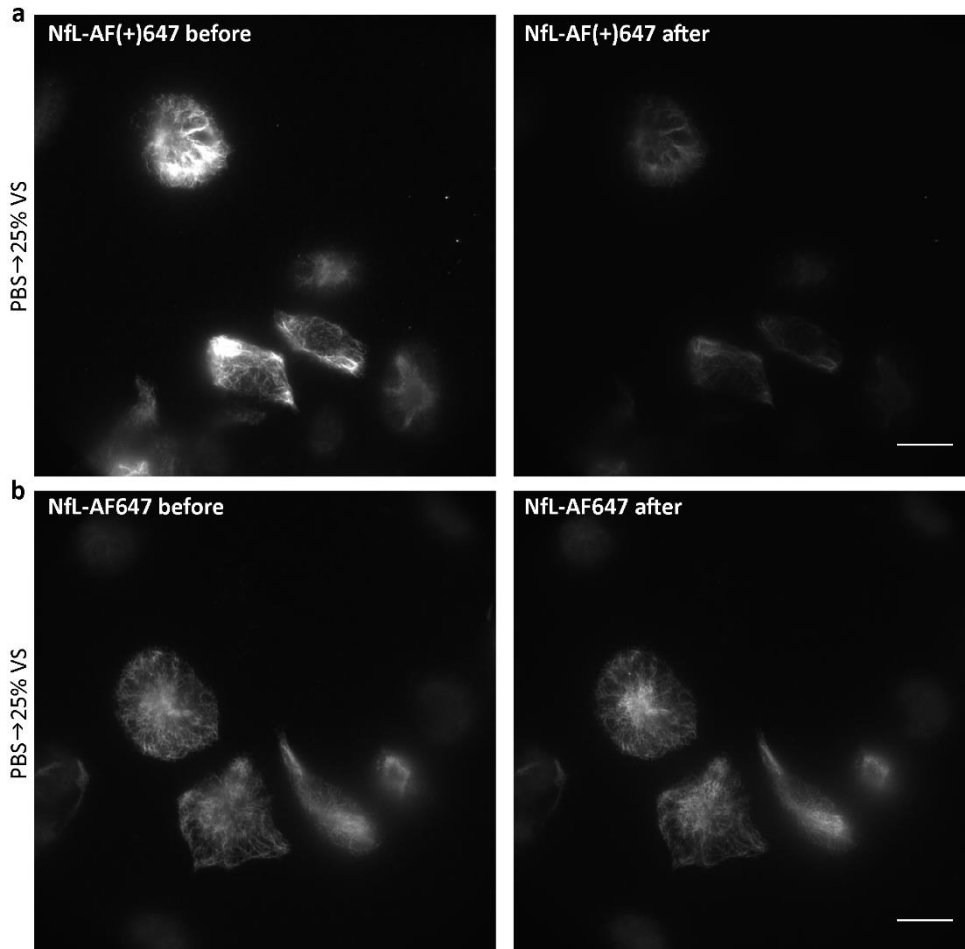
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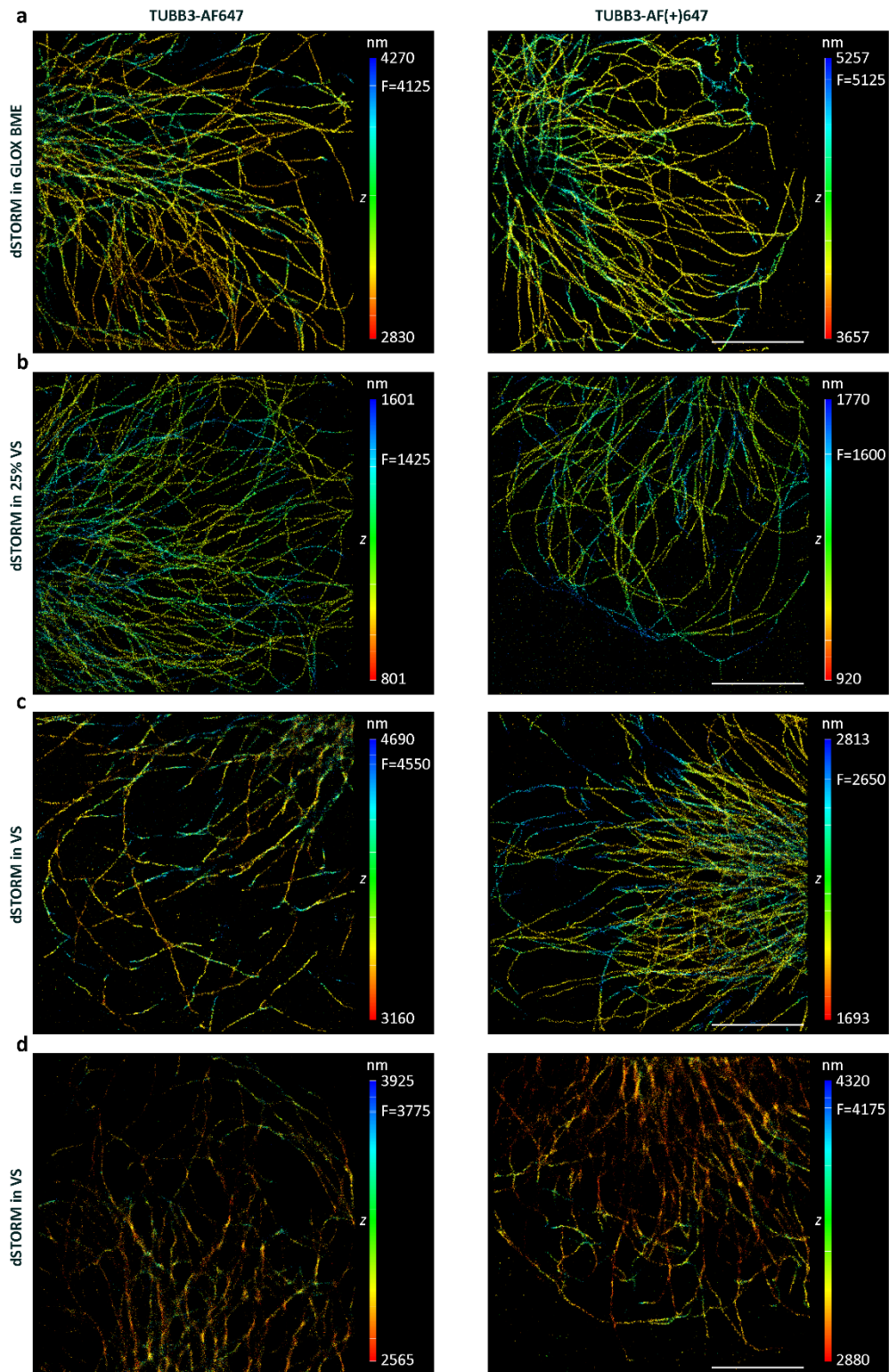
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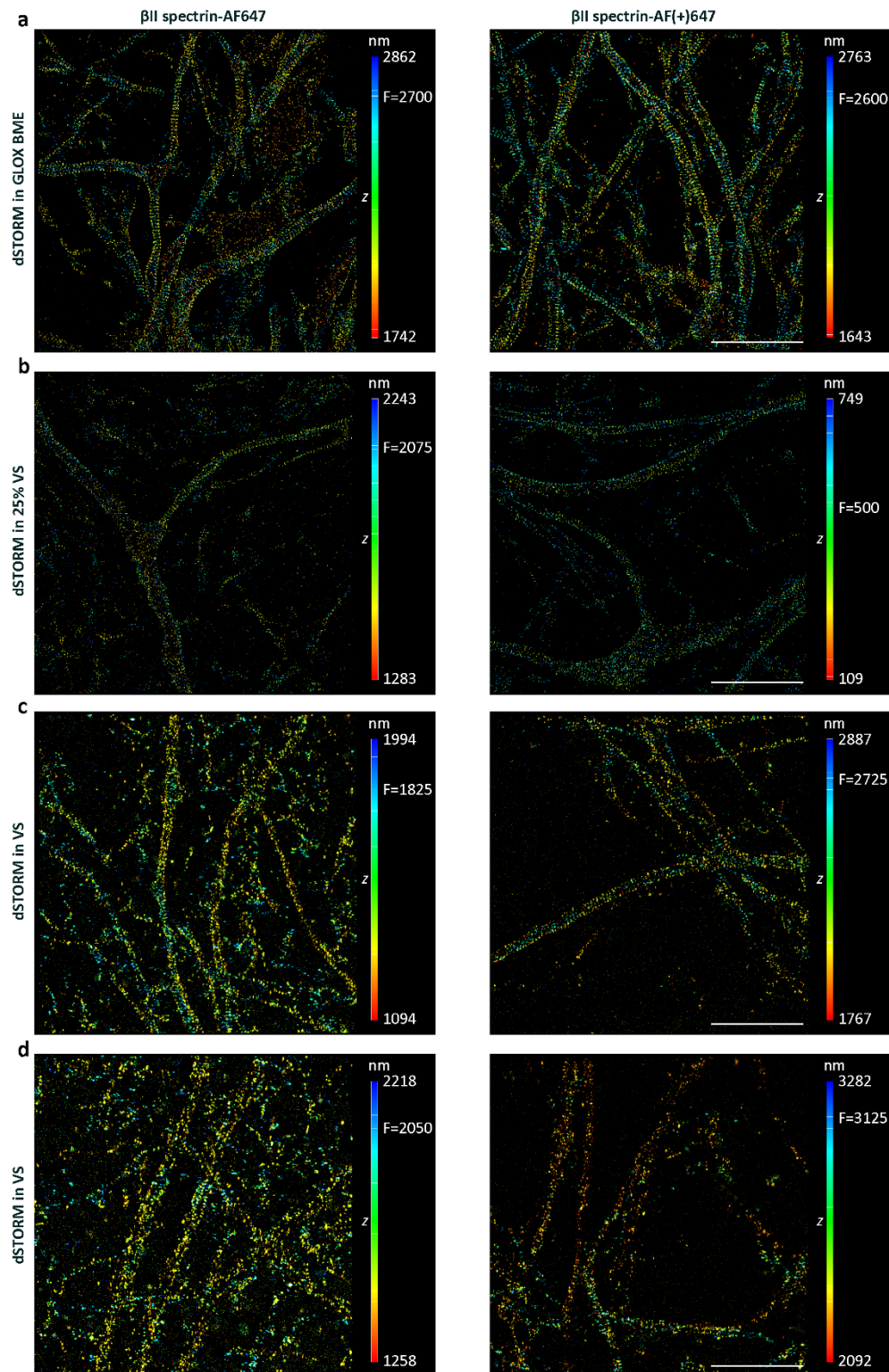
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Supplementary Figure 7. Comparison of 25% Vectashield (25% VS) effect on AF(+)- and AF- labelled neurofilaments. ND7/23 cells labelled with anti-neurofilament light chain (NfL) primary antibody, followed by AF(+)-647- (a) or AF647-conjugated secondary antibody (b). Widefield images of cells before medium change in PBS (left panels) and in after medium change in 25% Vectashield (right panels). In (a) and (b), brightness and contrast are linearly adjusted to show the same display range for images taken before and after media change. Scale bars: 20 μ m (a,b).

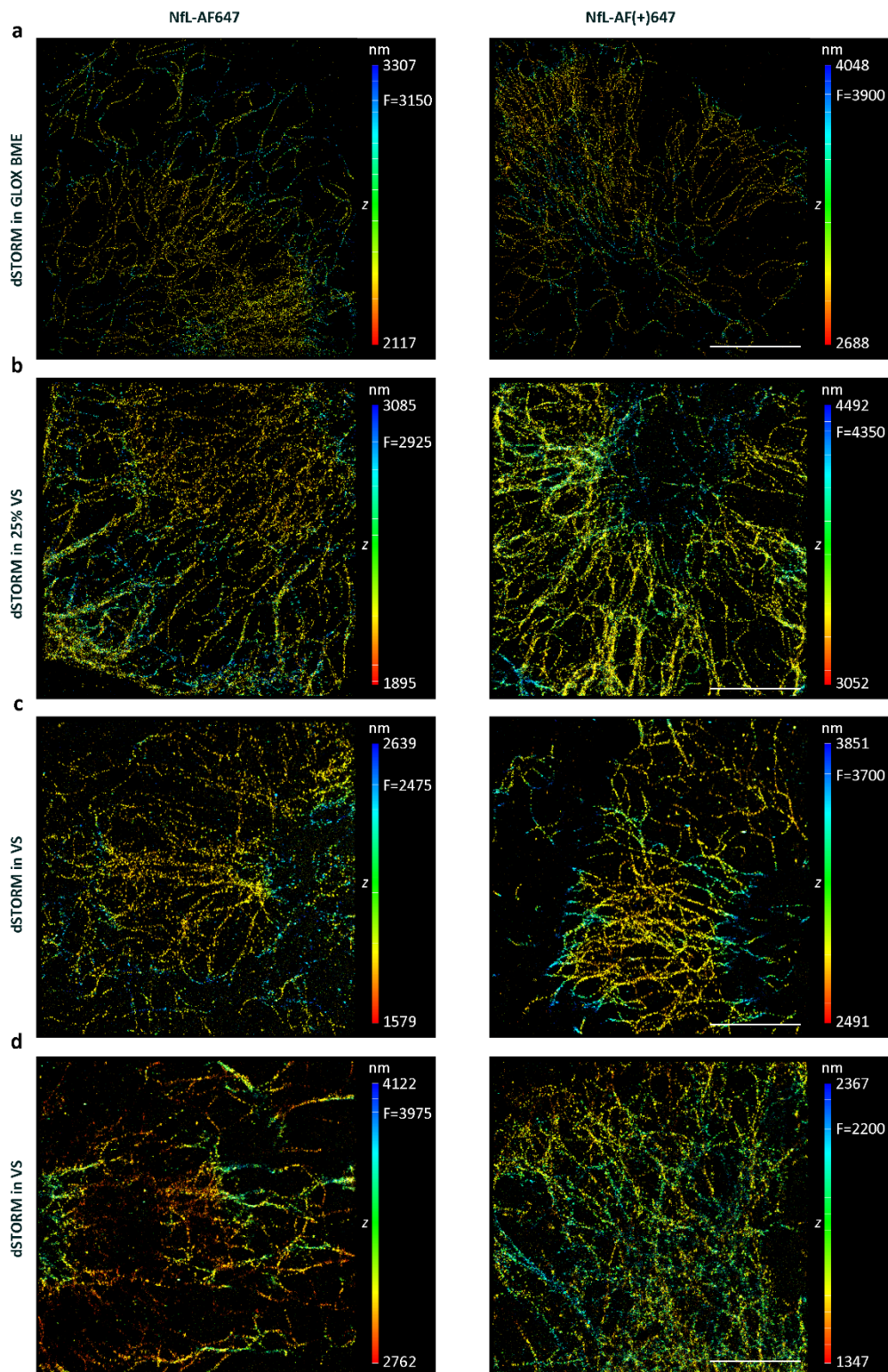


Supplementary Figure 8. Representative images of tubulin β 3 used for quantification of dSTORM parameters. ND7/23 cells immunolabelled with anti-tubulin β 3 primary antibody, followed by AF647- (TUBB3-AF647; left panels) or AF(+647)-conjugated secondary antibody (TUBB3AF(+647); right panels). 3D dSTORM images were acquired in (a) GLOX BME, (b) 25% Vectashield (25% VS), (c,d) Vectashield (VS). In some instances, the quality of dSTORM in VS is comparable to GLOX BME and 25% VS (c), while in some (d) the quality is lower. The z positions in the dSTORM images are colour-coded according to the height maps shown on right. Height maps contain minimal, maximal and focal (F) z position values. Scale bars: 5 μ m (a-d).



Supplementary Figure 9. Representative images of β II spectrin used for quantification of dSTORM parameters. Mouse cortical neurons (MCN) labelled with anti- β II spectrin primary antibody, followed by AF647- (β II spectrin-AF647; left panels) or AF(+)-647-conjugated secondary antibody (β II spectrin-AF(+)-647; right panels). 3D dSTORM images of β II spectrin were acquired in (a) GLOX BME, (b) 25% Vectashield (25% VS), or (c, d) 100% Vectashield (VS). The periodic pattern of β II spectrin can be readily resolved in GLOX BME and 25% VS. On the contrary, the periodic pattern of β II spectrin can be resolved only in some instances in VS (c). In most of the cases (d) the periodic pattern cannot be resolved and quality of dSTORM images is lower. The z positions

in the dSTORM images are colour-coded according to the height maps shown on right. Height maps contain minimal, maximal and focal (F) z position values. Scale bars: 5 μm (**a-d**).



Supplementary Figure 10. Representative images of NfL used for quantification of dSTORM parameters. ND7/23 cells labelled with anti-NfL primary antibody, followed by AF647- (NfL-AF647; left panels) or AF(+)-647-conjugated secondary antibody (NfL-AF(+)-647; right panels). 3D dSTORM images of NfL were acquired in (a) GLOX BME, (b) 25% Vectashield (25% VS), or (c, d) 100% Vectashield (VS). In Vectashield, in some instances (c) the quality of dSTORM images is comparable to GLOX BME and 25% VS, while in some (d) the quality is lower. The z positions in the dSTORM images are color-coded according to the height maps shown on right. Height maps contain minimal, maximal and focal (F) z position values. Scale bars: 5 μm (a-d).

Supplementary Tables

Supplementary Table S1. Detailed overview of immunocytochemistry staining steps in ND7/23 cell line

Target	NLS-mCherry	Neurofilament light chain (NfL)	Tubulin β 3	Actin
Fixation	2% PFA, 10min RT	2% PFA, 15min RT	-20°C methanol for 10min	2% PFA, 15min RT
Blocking solution and duration	10% goat serum (GS)/0.5% Triton/PBS, 1h RT	3% GS/0.3% Triton/TBS, 40min RT	5% BSA/PBS, 1h RT	5% BSA/0.3% Triton/PBS, 1.5h RT
Primary antibody or dye	Rabbit anti-tRFP (Evrogen, AB233)	Mouse anti-NfL 70 kDa, clone DA2 (Merck Millipore, MAB1615)	AF647-conjugated anti-tubulin β 3 (801210), AF488-conjugated anti-tubulin β 3 (801203), mouse anti-tubulin β 3 (801202)**	phalloidin-AF647 (A22287)
Primary antibody dilution and incubation time	1:500 in 5% GS/0.1% Triton/PBS (at least 18h, 4°C)	1:250 in 1% GS/0.3% Triton/TBS, 2.5h RT, followed by overnight incubation at 4°C	1:100 or 1:1000*** in blocking serum, directly conjugated antibodies 3h RT; non-conjugated antibody ON at 4°C	0.25 μ M/PBS, ON at 4°C, followed by 4h RT
Washing steps	All in 0.01M PBS	All in 0.01M TBS	All in 0.01M PBS	All in 0.01M PBS
Secondary antibody*	Goat anti-rabbit AF647 (A21245), AF(+)647 (A32733) or AF488 (A11034)	Goat anti-mouse AF(+)647 (A32728), AF(+)488 (A32723), AF647 (A21236), AF555 (A21424) or AF633 (A21052)	Goat anti-mouse AF(+)647 (A32728) or AF647 (A21236)	
Secondary antibody dilution and incubation time	1:500 in 5% GS/0.1% Triton/PBS, 1h RT	1:500 in 1% GS/0.3% Triton/TBS, 1h RT	1:500 in blocking serum, 1h RT	
Remarks		Used TBS instead of PBS	Extraction in 0.5% Triton/microtubule stabilization buffer, 10s, before fixation	

*all secondary antibodies and phalloidin-AF647 were purchased from Thermo Fisher. Product numbers are indicated in brackets.

**antibodies against tubulin β 3 were obtained from BioLegend. Product numbers are indicated in brackets.

***dilution 1:100 was used for the images shown in Supplementary Figure 1, while dilution 1:1000 was used for quantitative 3D dSTORM imaging (Figure 7a, Supplementary Figure 8).

Supplementary Table S2. Detailed overview of imunocytochemistry staining steps in primary mouse cortical neurons

Target	Voltage-gated sodium channels	Ankyrin G	β II spectrin
Antibody	Mouse anti-pan sodium channel (Sigma Aldrich, S8809)	Mouse anti-ankyrin G (Santa Cruz, 12719)	Mouse Beta-Spectrin II Clone 42 (BD Bioscience)
Fixation	4% EM grade PFA/PEM, 15min RT	4% EM grade PFA/PEM, 15min RT	4% EM grade PFA/PEM, 15min RT
Quenching (optional step)	0.1% sodium borohydride/PBS, 7min RT	0.1% sodium borohydride/PBS, 7min RT	0.1% sodium borohydride/PBS, 7min RT
Blocking	10%GS/0.2% Triton/PBS, 1h RT	10% GS/3% BSA/0.2% Triton/PBS, 1h RT	10% GS/5% BSA/0.3% Triton/PBS, 1h RT
Primary antibody dilution	1:50 in 5% GS/0.1% Triton/PBS, ON at 4°C	1:50 in blocking serum, ON at 4°C	1:200 in blocking serum, ON at 4°C
Washing steps	All in 0.01M PBS	All in 0.01M PBS	All in 0.01M PBS
Secondary antibody	Goat anti-mouse AF(+) ₆₄₇ (A32728) or AF ₆₄₇ (A21236)	Goat anti-mouse AF(+) ₆₄₇ (A32728)	Goat anti-mouse AF(+) ₆₄₇ (A32728) or AF ₆₄₇ (A21236)
Secondary antibody dilution	1:500 in 5% GS/0.1% Triton/PBS, 1h RT	1:500 in 3% BSA/PBS, 1h RT	1:500 in blocking serum, 1h RT

*all secondary antibodies were purchased from Thermo Fisher. Product numbers are indicated in brackets.

Supplementary Table S3. Summary table of antibodies used in the manuscript

Figure	Primary and secondary antibodies used
Figure 1	a: mouse anti-NfL; goat anti-mouse AF(+)647 b: mouse anti-NfL; goat anti-mouse AF(+)488 c: mouse anti-panNav; goat anti-mouse AF(+)647 d: mouse anti-AnkG; goat anti-mouse AF(+)647
Figure 2	a,b,c,: rabbit anti-tRFP; goat anti-rabbit AF647 d: rabbit anti-tRFP; goat anti-rabbit AF647, AF(+)647 or AF488
Figure 3	a: AF647 anti-tubulin β 3 b: AF488 anti-tubulin β 3
Figure 4	a, b: mouse anti-NfL; goat anti-mouse AF(+)647
Figure 5	a, b: mouse anti-ankG; goat anti-mouse AF(+)647 c, d: mouse anti-panNav; goat anti-mouse AF(+)647
Figure 6	a: mouse anti-panNav; goat anti-mouse AF647 b: mouse anti-panNav; goat anti-mouse AF(+)647
Figure 7	a: mouse anti- tubulin β 3; goat anti-mouse AF647 or AF(+)647 b: mouse anti- β II spectrin; goat anti-mouse AF647 or AF(+)647 c: mouse anti-NfL; goat anti-mouse AF647 or AF(+)647
Supplementary Figure 1	a: AF647 anti-tubulin β 3 b: mouse anti- tubulin β 3; goat anti-mouse AF(+)647
Supplementary Figure 2	a: mouse anti-NfL; goat anti-mouse AF(+)647 b: mouse anti-NfL; goat anti-mouse AF647 c: mouse anti-panNav; goat anti-mouse AF(+)647 d: mouse anti-panNav; goat anti-mouse AF647
Supplementary Figure 3	a: mouse anti-NfL; goat anti-mouse AF(+)647 b: mouse anti-NfL; goat anti-mouse AF647 c: mouse anti-NfL; goat anti-mouse AF(+)488
Supplementary Figure 4	a: mouse anti-NfL; goat anti-mouse AF555 b: mouse anti-NfL; goat anti-mouse AF633
Supplementary Figure 5	a, b: rabbit anti-tRFP; goat anti-rabbit AF647 c, d: rabbit anti-tRFP; goat anti-rabbit AF488
Supplementary Figure 6	a,b: phalloidin-AF647
Supplementary Figure 7	a: mouse anti-NfL; goat anti-mouse AF(+)647 b: mouse anti-NfL; goat anti-mouse AF647
Supplementary Figure 8	a-d: mouse anti-tubulin β 3; goat anti-mouse AF647 or AF(+)647
Supplementary Figure 9	a-d: mouse anti- β II spectrin; goat anti-mouse AF647 or AF(+)647
Supplementary Figure 10	a-d: mouse anti-NfL; goat anti-mouse AF647 or AF(+)647

Supplementary Material and Methods

Cell culture

For experiments, ND7/23 cells were seeded on a four-well Lab-Tek II chambered #1.5 German coverglass (Thermo Fisher Scientific, cat. no. 155382), 70,000 cells per well. Lab-Teks were coated with poly-D-lysine (Sigma Aldrich, cat. no. P6407) diluted in ddH₂O at a 10 µg/ml concentration, and incubated at least 4 h at room temperature (RT). Before seeding wells were washed twice with Dulbecco's phosphate-buffered saline (DPBS; Thermo Fisher Scientific, cat. no. 14190169) or ddH₂O and left in the hood to dry completely. Cells were passaged every 2-3 days up to passage 18-20 and were not differentiated.

Imaging of actin (phalloidin-AF647), NfL and tubulin β3 labelled cells

Phalloidin-AF647, neurofilament light chain (NfL) and tubulin β3 labelled cells were first checked in PBS, using fluorescent light source (Lumencor Sola SE II) and Cy5 filter cube or 488 filter cube with 10 ms exposure time and 5 % excitation light intensity. Up to 40 fields of view (positions) per well were picked and xyz coordinates of each field of view were saved in NIS-Elements AR software. Widefield image acquisition was performed automatically by using NIS-Elements ND multipoint acquisition module at 30 ms exposure time and 10 % of fluorescent light source. Both, brightfield and fluorescence images were acquired. Afterwards, PBS was replaced with Vectashield, left 2 minutes to completely cover the sample and acquisition was repeated. Upon the addition of Vectashield we noticed a change in focus, so before acquiring images in Vectashield, every field of view needed to be manually refocused. During the imaging, autoscaling look-up table (LUT) was on, which allowed us to see what would approximately be the correct focus plane, despite the quenching of fluorescent signal.

Imaging media for dSTORM

25% Vectashield was made by mixing Vectashield (VS) with Tris-Glycerol in 1:4 v/v ratio. Tris-glycerol was obtained by adding 5 % v/v 1 M Tris, pH 8 to glycerol (Sigma Aldrich, cat. no. G2025), as described previously¹. For preparation of GLOX buffer, we used Buffer A (10 mM Tris, pH 8, 50 mM NaCl), Buffer B (50 mM Tris, pH 8, 10 mM NaCl) and GLOX solution. GLOX solution was made by mixing 14 mg glucose oxidase (Sigma Aldrich, cat. no. G2133), 50 µl catalase (17 mg/ml; Sigma Aldrich, cat. no. C3155) and 200 µl Buffer A. Aliquots of GLOX solution were kept at -20 °C. GLOX buffer was prepared fresh, prior to use by mixing 7 µl GLOX solution with 690 µl Buffer B containing 10 % w/v glucose (Sigma Aldrich, cat. no. D9559) on ice. For 3D STORM imaging 7 µl of β-mercaptoethanol (Sigma Aldrich, cat. no. M3148) were added to GLOX buffer (GLOX BME).

Image analysis and intensity measurements

For the purpose of analysis, we made a macro that allowed us to stack and align all images of each field of view and perform the intensity measurements in same regions of interest (ROIs). Images from mCherry channel were used for alignment and thresholding, while intensity measurements were done in images from AF647, AF(+)-647 and AF488 channels, respectively.

In all of our experiments (except recovery of AF647) each field of view was imaged two times: in 561 (mCherry) and either 647 (AF647 or AF(+)-647) or 488 (AF488) channel, before and after medium change. As result, for each field of view we had four fluorescent pictures, mCherry and AF647, AF(+)-647

or AF488 before and after medium change. In AF647 fluorescence recovery experiments each field of view was imaged three times: in mCherry and AF647 channel, before medium change, after changing to Vectashield and after washing in PBS. Consequently, for each field of view in recovery experiments we had six fluorescent pictures, mCherry and AF647 before medium change, in Vectashield and after washing in PBS.

For the purpose of image analysis and intensity measurements we designed macro to open and stack images from mCherry channel, align them using MultiStackReg (developed by Brad Busse <http://bradbusse.net/sciencedownloads.html>) and TurboReg plugin², and save the alignment information in a form of transformation matrices. After that, macro was opening and stacking images from AF647 channel. AF647 images were aligned using transformation matrices that were saved after alignment of mCherry images. This way we ensured that images from 647 channel would be properly aligned even in the case when one of them has very low intensity (e.g. images taken in Vectashield). After alignment both mCherry and AF647 image stacks were cropped to exclude empty space. Same procedure was done for AF(+)-647 and AF488 images.

Region of interest for intensity measurements was created by thresholding in mCherry image stack, using Otsu Dark thresholding algorithm. Thresholding was performed in the image that was taken after medium change to exclude cells that were washed away during the change of imaging media. Resulting ROI contained fluorescently labelled nuclei and we refer to it as nuclear ROI. At this point, user intervention was required, to choose ROI that contains no cells, only background noise (background ROI). Afterwards, intensity measurements (mean intensity and integrated density) of nuclear and background ROIs were performed in AF647, AF(+)-647 and AF488 stacks, respectively.

As a result of analysis, macro saved intensity measurement results (in a form of a text file), mCherry before/after image stacks, AF488, AF647 or AF(+)-647 before/after image stacks and nuclear ROIs. Oversaturated images, poorly aligned images and images where all cells were washed away during imaging media change were excluded from further analysis.

Text files with intensity measurement results were imported in Excel and corrected total cell fluorescence (CTCF) was calculated.

$CTCF = \text{Integrated Density of nuclear ROI} - (\text{area of nuclear ROI} \times \text{mean fluorescence of the background})$

In addition to CTCF, we calculated average fluorescence by dividing CTCF with the area of nuclear ROI. Calculated values were exported to Excel and then SPSS files for statistical analysis.

Supplementary Details on Statistical Analysis

Preparation of data analysis based on pilot work

The dependent variable was the difference (delta) between the fluorescence intensities before and after media change, where the starting medium is always PBS and the change is represented by removing PBS and adding another medium (delta intensity = (intensity PBS – intensity new medium)). Based on prior assumptions, this difference will become minimal in the control condition, where PBS is first removed and the added new medium is again PBS. If another medium is added, delta will be larger and take on an either positive or negative value, depending on whether the intensity in the new medium is smaller or larger than the intensity of PBS.

The dependent variable (delta intensity) delivers continuous values and is on interval scale level, which is a prerequisite to carry out an analysis of variance (ANOVA). The independent variables (factors) were different dyes (AF647 and AF488), different imaging media (PBS, Vectashield, 25% Vectashield, GLOX) and different experiments (1, 2 and 3).

Power calculations, randomization and design

Prior to the actual experiments, it was necessary to carry out power calculations to specify the optimal sample size. These analyses needed to take into account multiple analyses, including the different experiments and post-hoc comparisons. Our main focus was to compare delta intensities between different imaging media applying ANOVA. Our defined type 1 error level was 0.05 (including two sided testing for post-hoc, multiple comparisons). We aimed for a power of 0.95 (which equals a type 2 error level of 0.05). Based on pilot work, we had estimated to find at least an effect size between 0.45 and 0.5 and more realistic an effect size between 0.8 and 0.9. For the lowest effect of 0.45 we would need 23 measurements per condition, for the large effect size of 0.9 we would only need 7 measurements per group to reach the pre-specified power of 0.95. To fulfil the assumptions of ANOVA and post-hoc tests in terms of required distributions, we decided for 20 measurements per condition, which lies within the range of 7 to 23 measurements. We decided in favour of a value at the upper limit of this range because the smaller the sample size, the more likely are violations to the assumptions of parametric tests such as ANOVA. We did not go beyond this range, though, to avoid having over-powered statistical tests, where tiniest differences would become statistically significant. In our pilot work, we also realized that if images are taken truly at random, a minority of the images could not be measured because no cells appeared after changing media (they got washed away), or some of the images were oversaturated. Because randomization was an absolute requirement for our statistical tests, we needed to have a bigger number than 20 images randomly taken to get a total of 20 measurements. To be safe, we decided a priori that 30 images are taken at random and the first 20 valid images (i.e. those that contained cells before and after media change and that did not contain oversaturated pixels) were included in the analysis. The remaining images were not considered in the analysis. This resulted in the following design:

In each experiment, 20 delta intensities were measured for all 4 different imaging media ($20 * 4 = 80$). Because they were measured for both dyes, AF647 and AF488, there were 160 delta intensities ($80 * 2$) per experiment. Because we carried out 3 experiments, there were 480 delta intensities in total ($160 * 3$).

As a result, there was a 2 (dye) * 4 (imaging media) * 3 (experiment) ANOVA on delta intensities. Following our a priori assumptions, we assumed the two dyes would deliver different delta intensities. In addition, we assumed the 4 imaging media would differ in terms of their delta intensities. Because each experiment took place on a different day with new cells (that were freshly transfected and labelled, etc.), we also expected that the 3 experiments would differ in terms of their delta intensities. In case the 3 experiments indeed differ, different ANOVAs are necessary for each experiment separately, in order to show that the differences between the imaging media point in the same direction and the same post-hoc comparisons are significant in each individual experiment. In these individual ANOVAs, the delta intensities for all imaging media are directly compared to each other for each experiment separately and for each dye separately. Multiple post-hoc comparisons (Bonferroni) are subsequently carried out to demonstrate that all post-hoc analyses show the same type of significant differences between the compared imaging media. These multiple comparisons correct the significance levels for multiple tests, i.e. they avoid an accumulation of statistical error which would

otherwise occur if multiple significance tests were carried out. To give us maximum trust in our results, we chose the strictest of all post-hoc comparisons, which is the Bonferroni correction. Bonferroni delivers the most conservative results, i.e. the least likely to become statistically significant.

Deriving hypotheses based on prior observations

Based on pilot experiments, our primary focus was dye AF647, because only in AF647 we noticed an intensity drop in image medium Vectashield compared to PBS. We expected that this drop was shown in all 3 experiments. We did not expect such a drop for dye AF488. We do, however, also expect intensity changes on other imaging media for dye AF488. Based on pilot work, we expected medium sized effects relating to a delta intensity increase for Vectashield and 25% Vectashield. If this increase is robust, it should appear in all three experiments. This also requires multiple post-hoc comparisons (Bonferroni), to demonstrate that the significant differences between the compared imaging media are the same for all 3 experiments.

Based on pilot data, we had yet another hypothesis. We realized an intensity drop seen for dye AF647 after adding Vectashield and found out that the intensity will recover after washing. This would be in contrast to the previously assumed dye cleavage effect, where no recovery would be expected. In order to test whether the AF647 intensity drop seen in Vectashield can actually recover, we carried out a repeated measurement ANOVA. In this ANOVA, we compared 3 intensities (1. at PBS baseline, 2. after removing PBS and adding Vectashield, 3. after replacing Vectashield with PBS and waiting 2.5 hours in PBS imaging medium).

Data analyses

In a first step, we carried out a 2 (dye) * 4 (imaging media) * 3 (experiment) ANOVA with the dependent variable delta intensities. There was a significant main effect for dye, $F(1, 456)=819.14$, $p<0.001$, effect size partial $\eta^2=0.64$, Mean AF647=3596.45, Mean AF488=-2569.74, $SE(\text{Means})=152.34$. Similarly, there was a significant main effect for imaging media, $F(3, 456)=424.15$, $p<0.001$, effect size partial $\eta^2=0.74$, Mean PBS=420.74, Mean Vectashield=6239.29, Mean_25% Vectashield=-4583.83, Mean GLOX=-22.79, $SE(\text{Means})=215.45$. In addition, there was a significant main effect for experiment, $F(2, 456)=17.58$, $p<0.001$, effect size partial $\eta^2=0.07$, Mean expt 1=864.28; Mean expt 2=-383.07; Mean expt 3=1058.85, $SE(\text{Means})=186.58$. Finally, all possible combinations of interactions between the factors were significant, $p<0.001$. In summary, the delta intensity values differ between dyes, between imaging media, between experiments and the combination of these factors influence each other differently depending on the chosen combination. Consequently, this analysis including all possible factors and their combinations does not permit conclusions, calling for separate ANOVAs in each of the two dyes and separate ANOVAs in each of the 3 experiments. From a biological point of view, it would also not make sense to carry out one ANOVA across both dyes and all conditions.

Separate ANOVA for AF647 in each of the 3 experiments

For dye AF647, there was a main effect for imaging media in all 3 experiments, Experiment 1: $F(3, 76)=164.46$, $p<0.001$, effect size partial $\eta^2=0.87$; Experiment 2: $F(3, 76)=182.45$, $p<0.001$, effect size partial $\eta^2=0.88$; Experiment 3: $F(3, 76)=114.06$, $p<0.001$, effect size partial $\eta^2=82$. Looking at the multiple, post-hoc comparisons (Bonferroni), the same result was shown in all three experiments:

there was a significant ($p < 0.05$) drop of delta intensity from PBS to Vectashield (PBS→VS): Experiment 1 mean delta intensity drop=19348.86, SE(mean intensity drop)=1150.76, Experiment 2 mean delta intensity drop=10163.16, SE(mean intensity drop)=564.35, Experiment 3 mean delta intensity drop=13821.93, SE(mean intensity drop)=975.89). The other media (25% Vectashield and GLOX) did not differ significantly from PBS in all 3 experiments, i.e. there was no significant intensity drop. Consequently, the results in all 3 experiments support the notion of an intensity drop only from PBS to Vectashield. This was the result we had expected based on our pilot data. The results are robust because we did not rely on experiment 1 alone, but replicated the results in experiments 2 and 3. In all 3 experiments, exactly the same main effects were observed and exactly the same post-hoc comparisons reached statistical significance.

Analysis of AF647 recovery

In addition, we carried out a repeated measurement ANOVA to test whether the intensity drop seen in Vectashield can actually recover. We had hypothesized this recovery based on earlier observations we had made in our laboratory when running pilot experiments. Now, we could not rely on delta intensities from 2 measurements, but were rather interested in intensities at 3 different time points. We compared three intensities (1. at PBS baseline, 2. after removing PBS and adding Vectashield, 3. after replacing Vectashield with PBS and waiting for 2.5 hours in PBS imaging medium). We again performed these comparisons for all three experiments separately. In this example, we had a repeated measurement with three consecutive measurements. In this case, the respective analysis depends on a prerequisite for a repeated measurement ANOVA: if sphericity can be assumed based on the Mauchly's Test of Sphericity, no corrections need to be performed. Otherwise, the Greenhouse-Geisser Test of an overall "within subjects effect" with corrected degrees of freedom has to be applied. Because the Mauchly's Test of Sphericity revealed a significant result for all three experiments ($p < 0.001$), sphericity could not be assumed and the Greenhouse-Geisser Test was applied in all three experiments. In all three experiments, intensity differences between the 3 repeated conditions were statistically significant (1. PBS baseline, 2. after removing PBS and adding Vectashield, 3. after replacing Vectashield with PBS and waiting for 2.5 hours in PBS imaging medium), Experiment 1: $F(1.01, 19.26)=162.68$, $p < 0.001$; effect size partial $\eta^2=0.895$; Experiment 2: $F(1.03, 19.48)=175.17$, $p < 0.001$, effect size partial $\eta^2=0.9$; Experiment 3: $F(1.18, 22.38)=104.28$, $p < 0.001$, effect size partial $\eta^2=0.85$. Given that all three experiments showed a significant overall effect for the repeated conditions, we carried out multiple, post-hoc tests with Bonferroni correction to evaluate which of the three time points significantly differed from each other. In each of the three experiments, there was a significant intensity drop from 1. PBS baseline to 2. after removing PBS and adding Vectashield (PBS→VS; in each experiment, $p < 0.05$). Similarly, there was a significant recovery from 2. after removing PBS and adding Vectashield to 3. after replacing Vectashield with PBS and waiting for 2.5 hours in PBS imaging medium (VS→PBS:recovery, in each experiment, $p < 0.05$). In all three experiments, the recovery was never as strong as to reach the original intensity (in each experiment, $p < 0.05$). Consequently, the results demonstrating the recovery effect were very robust. The drop as well as the recovery effect was not only shown in Experiment 1, but replicated in Experiments 2 and 3. In addition, all other post-hoc tests revealed the same results in all three experiments.

Detailed results are as follows:

Experiment 1 had a PBS baseline intensity mean=24036.37, SE(mean)=1928.87, a drop after removing PBS and adding Vectashield with a mean=3638.06, SE(mean)=359.85, and a recovery after replacing Vectashield with PBS and waiting for 2.5 hours with a mean=16554.7, SE(mean)=1394.89.

Experiment 2 had a PBS baseline intensity mean=12270.01, SE(mean)=921.22, a drop after removing PBS and adding Vectashield with a mean=1855.48, SE(mean)=151.16, and a recovery after replacing Vectashield with PBS and waiting for 2.5 hours with a mean=9834.3, SE(mean)=758.21.

Experiment 3 had a PBS baseline intensity mean=16984.29, SE(mean)=1589.18, a drop after removing PBS and adding Vectashield with a mean=2376.21, SE(mean)=247.32, and a recovery after replacing Vectashield with PBS and waiting for 2.5 hours with a mean=13369.76, SE(mean)=1367.025.

Separate ANOVA for AF488 in each of the 3 experiments

For dye AF488, there was also a main effect for imaging media in all 3 experiments, Experiment 1: $F(3, 76)=144.36$, $p<0.001$, partial $\eta^2=0.85$; Experiment 2: $F(3, 76)=160.66$, $p<0.001$, partial $\eta^2=0.86$; Experiment 3: $F(3, 76)=101.86$, $p<0.001$, partial $\eta^2=0.8$. Looking at the multiple, post-hoc comparisons (Bonferroni), the same result was demonstrated in all three experiments: both Vectashield (PBS→VS) and 25% Vectashield (PBS→25% VS) showed an increase in delta intensity, which was significantly different from the delta intensity of PBS and GLOX ($p<0.05$), while the delta intensities of PBS and GLOX did not differ significantly from each other. From our pilot work, we had assumed a medium effect size. We did not expect an effect as large as it turned out in our analysis, which came as a surprise to us. The effect was already big in experiment 1 and replicated in experiments 2 and 3. In detail, the results were as follows:

In experiment 1, there were no significant delta intensity differences between both PBS imaging media and between PBS and GLOX, but delta intensity showed an increase from PBS to Vectashield with a mean=3906.7 and an increase from PBS to 25% Vectashield with a mean=9579.34, SE(means)=400.53 (with post-hoc Bonferroni $p<0.05$). The increase was stronger for 25% Vectashield than for Vectashield (with post-hoc Bonferroni $p<0.05$)

In experiment 2, there were no significant delta intensity differences between both PBS imaging media and between PBS and GLOX, and delta intensity showed an increase from PBS to Vectashield with a mean=1781.265 and an increase from PBS to 25% Vectashield with a mean=10930.1, SE(means)=415.99 (with post-hoc Bonferroni $p<0.05$). The increase was once again stronger for 25% Vectashield than for Vectashield (with post-hoc Bonferroni $p<0.05$).

In experiment 3, there were once again no significant delta intensity differences between both PBS imaging media and between PBS and GLOX, and delta intensity showed an increase from PBS to Vectashield with a mean=2297.175 and an increase from PBS to 25% Vectashield with a mean=3959.1, SE(means)=199.99 (with post-hoc Bonferroni $p<0.05$). The increase was again stronger for 25% Vectashield than for Vectashield (with post-hoc Bonferroni $p<0.05$).

Introducing dye AF(+)₆₄₇ and comparison with AF₆₄₇

We added a comparison between AF₆₄₇ and AF(+)₆₄₇ with respect to the same imaging media PBS, Vectashield, 25% Vectashield and GLOX. We aimed to test whether AF(+)₆₄₇ gets quenched in both Vectashield and 25% Vectashield, while AF₆₄₇ gets quenched in Vectashield, but not in 25% Vectashield. All three experiments were in line with this assumption:

For dye AF647, there was a main effect for imaging media in all 3 experiments, Experiment 1: $F(3, 76)=207.31$, $p<0.001$, effect size partial $\eta^2=0.65$; Experiment 2: $F(3, 76)=34.64$, $p<0.001$, effect size partial $\eta^2=0.58$; Experiment 3: $F(3, 76)=59.985$, $p<0.001$, effect size partial $\eta^2=0.7$. Looking at the multiple, post-hoc comparisons (Bonferroni), the same result was shown in all three experiments: there was a significant ($p<0.05$) drop of mean delta intensity from PBS to Vectashield (PBS→VS): Experiment 1 mean delta intensity drop=4344.79, SE(mean intensity drop)=233.85, Experiment 2 mean delta intensity drop=3969.99, SE(mean intensity drop)=534.02, Experiment 3 mean delta intensity drop=4586.08, SE(mean intensity drop)=473.81). From PBS to 25% Vectashield, however, there was never a significant mean delta intensity drop (all post-hoc, multiple comparisons with Bonferroni correction had a $p>0.05$ for all three experiments). When performing a direct comparison between the delta intensity drops of Vectashield and 25% Vectashield, there was a significant difference between Vectashield and 25% Vectashield in all three experiments (all post-hoc, multiple comparisons with Bonferroni correction had a $p<0.05$, implying that there was only a significant delta intensity drop from PBS to Vectashield, but not from PBS to 25% Vectashield).

Turning to the dye AF(+)₆₄₇, we again performed three experiments. In all three experiments it turned out that there was not only a mean delta intensity drop from PBS to Vectashield, but also from PBS to 25% Vectashield. In addition, there was no statistically significant difference between the mean delta intensity drops in Vectashield and 25% Vectashield. The detailed results are as follows:

For dye AF(+)₆₄₇, there was a main effect for imaging media in all 3 experiments, Experiment 1: $F(3, 76)=38.47$, $p<0.001$, effect size partial $\eta^2=0.6$; Experiment 2: $F(3, 76)=45.67$, $p<0.001$, effect size partial $\eta^2=0.64$; Experiment 3: $F(3, 76)=30.63$, $p<0.001$, effect size partial $\eta^2=0.55$. Looking at the multiple, post-hoc comparisons (Bonferroni), the same result was shown in all three experiments: there was a significant ($p<0.05$) drop of delta intensity from PBS to Vectashield (PBS→VS): Experiment 1 mean delta intensity drop=5386.5, SE(mean intensity drop)=638.33, Experiment 2 mean delta intensity drop=5421.56, SE(mean intensity drop)=641.07, Experiment 3 mean delta intensity drop=4745.53, SE(mean intensity drop)=734.98). From PBS to 25% Vectashield, there was also a mean delta intensity drop in all three experiments (PBS→25% VS): Experiment 1 mean delta intensity drop=4177, SE(mean intensity drop)=638.33, Experiment 2 mean delta intensity drop=5698.87, SE(mean intensity drop)=641.07, Experiment 3 mean delta intensity drop=5295.31, SE(mean intensity drop)=734.98). Between Vectashield and 25% Vectashield, there was never a significant difference in terms of mean delta intensity drop (all post-hoc, multiple comparisons with Bonferroni correction had a $p>0.05$ for all three experiments), implying that for dye AF(+)₆₄₇, quenching not only took place in imaging medium Vectashield, but also in imaging medium 25% Vectashield.

Quantification of dSTORM parameters in AF647 versus AF(+)₆₄₇

In a next step, our aim was to compare the dyes AF647 and AF(+)₆₄₇ not only in different imaging media (VS, 25% VS, GLOX) in widefield imaging, but also to find out whether there exist differences in dSTORM imaging. To this aim, we analyzed separate dependent variables: “photon counts”, “average localization precision”, “FRC”, and “molecular density”. This analysis was carried out for three targets separately: for the target “tubulin $\beta 3$ ”, for the target “ β II spectrin” and for the target “neurofilament light chain (NfL)”. For each target, this involves a total of 12 separate analyses. There was no a priori assumption whether values are higher in one condition than in another. The primary aim was to find out whether there exist differences in the quantification of dSTORM parameters between the dyes

AF647 and AF(+)₆₄₇. Consequently, an a priori p-value needed to be calculated prior to carrying out each test. Based on an error probability of 5 percent for a Type 1 error in basic statistics ($p=0.05$) and based on the most conservative approach of correcting against Type 1 error accumulation, we carried out a Bonferroni correction by dividing 0.05 by 12. This yielded a value of $p=0.004167$ to gain statistical significance. Independent samples t-tests were carried out with an equal number of measurements per condition (10 measurements for AF647 as well as 10 measurements for AF(+)₆₄₇), resulting in a total of 12 t-tests (the 3 imaging media VS, 25% VS, GLOX BME * the 4 separate dependent variables: “photon counts”, “average localization precision”, “FRC”, “molecular density”).

When carrying out these t-tests for the first target “tubulin $\beta 3$ ”, it turned out that AF647 only had a significantly higher value than AF(+)₆₄₇ in terms of “photon counts”, and this effect only existed for image medium VS ($t(18)=3.43$, $p<0.003$) and image medium GLOX BME ($t(18)=6.13$, $p<0.001$). All other comparisons revealed no significant differences between the dyes AF647 and AF(+)₆₄₇, neither with regard to the different imaging media, nor with regard to the different dependent variables. Detailed results are displayed in the Box and Whiskers plots in Figure 7a.

When carrying out these t-tests for the second target “ β II spectrin” and the third target “NfL”, it turned out that there were no significant differences between the dyes AF647 and AF(+)₆₄₇, neither with regard to any of the imaging media (VS, 25% VS, GLOX BME, nor with regard to any of the dependent variables “photon counts”, “average localization precision”, “FRC”, “molecular density”). Detailed results are displayed in the Box and Whiskers plots in Figure 7b and Figure 7c.

When summarizing the results of the quantification of dSTORM parameters to compare the dyes AF647 and AF(+)₆₄₇, the following conclusions can be made: with the exception of two significant differences in the target “tubulin $\beta 3$ ”, where AF647 exhibited higher photon counts than AF(+)₆₄₇, the general finding is that AF647 and AF(+)₆₄₇ are not significantly different from each other. In particular, there was not a single statistically significant difference between AF647 and AF(+)₆₄₇ with regard to the targets “ β II spectrin” and “NfL” in the imaging media VS, 25% VS and GLOX BME in any of the four dependent variables “photon counts”, “average localization precision”, “FRC”, “molecular density”.

Apart from analysing whether AF647 and AF(+)₆₄₇ differ from each other, we aimed to find out in separate analyses whether different imaging media affect the quality of dSTORM images. In our observations, VS had the lowest image quality. We aimed to test whether this is also reflected in our quantitative analyses, which we carried out separately for both dyes AF647 and AF(+)₆₄₇ and separately for the targets “tubulin $\beta 3$ ”, “ β II spectrin” and “NfL”. To see whether VS had a lower image quality than 25% VS or GLOX BME, we carried out separate analyses of variance (ANOVAs) for the different dependent variables “photon counts”, “average localization precision”, “FRC”, “molecular density”. Prior to that, we had to decide whether we use a parametric or a non-parametric statistical test, such as Kruskal-Wallis (non-parametric) instead of ANOVA (parametric) due to the fact that only 20 measurements could be carried out on each day (due to the sheer length of each measurement, we needed a minimum of three experiments to collect 10 images per condition). Because of the same number of measurements (10) per condition, the results of ANOVA will deliver conservative results even in spite of slight violations to the assumptions of performing parametric statistical tests. To double-check, we also carried out the non-parametric Kruskal-Wallis test and realized that it was by no means more conservative than ANOVA for the respective data set, justifying the choice of ANOVA for our analysis. VS, 25% VS and GLOX BME were the groups we compared in each ANOVA. Post-hoc

Bonferroni comparisons were all made with respect to a Type 1 error probability of 5 percent ($p=0.05$). Detailed results are displayed in the Box and Whiskers plots in Figure 7.

Dependent variable “photon counts”

Target tubulin $\beta 3$:

The ANOVA for dye AF647 revealed a significant main effect between groups, $F(2, 27)=5.86$, $p=0.008$. In post-hoc Bonferroni comparisons, image medium VS had a significantly larger number of photons than image medium GLOX BME. All other post-hoc comparisons were not significant. The ANOVA for dye AF(+)-647 also revealed a significant main effect between groups, $F(2, 27)=5.41$, $p=0.01$. In post-hoc Bonferroni comparisons, image medium VS had a significantly larger number of photons than image medium GLOX BME and image medium 25% VS also had a significantly larger number of photons than image medium GLOX BME.

Target βII spectrin:

The ANOVA for dye AF647 revealed a significant main effect between groups, $F(2, 27)=85.33$, $p<0.001$. In post-hoc Bonferroni comparisons, image medium VS had a significantly smaller number of photons than 25% VS and GLOX BME. In addition, 25% VS had a significantly larger number of photons than GLOX BME. The ANOVA for dye AF(+)-647 also revealed a significant main effect between groups, $F(2, 27)=32.74$, $p<0.001$. In post-hoc Bonferroni comparisons, image medium VS had a significantly smaller number of photons than image medium 25% VS. In addition, 25% VS had a significantly larger number of photons than GLOX BME.

Target NFL:

The ANOVA for dye AF647 did not reveal a significant main effect between groups, $F(2, 27)=2.973$, $p=0.068$. The ANOVA for dye AF(+)-647 did not reveal a significant main effect between groups, $F(2, 27)=1.016$, $p=0.375$.

Dependent variable “average localization precision”

Target tubulin $\beta 3$:

The ANOVA for dye AF647 revealed a significant main effect between groups, $F(2, 27)=14.09$, $p<0.001$. In post-hoc Bonferroni comparisons, VS had significantly worse localization precision than 25% VS and GLOX BME. The ANOVA for dye AF(+)-647 also revealed a significant main effect between groups, $F(2, 27)=6.08$, $p=0.007$. In post-hoc Bonferroni comparisons, image medium VS had significantly worse localization precision than 25% VS.

Target βII spectrin:

The ANOVA for dye AF647 revealed a significant main effect between groups, $F(2, 27)=124.27$, $p<0.001$. In post-hoc Bonferroni comparisons, VS had significantly worse localization precision than 25% VS and GLOX BME. The ANOVA for dye AF(+)-647 also revealed a significant main effect between groups, $F(2, 27)=25.06$, $p<0.001$. In post-hoc Bonferroni comparisons, image medium VS had significantly worse localization precision than 25% VS and GLOX BME.

Target NFL:

The ANOVA for dye AF647 revealed a significant main effect between groups, $F(2, 27)=20.499$, $p<0.001$. In post-hoc Bonferroni comparisons, VS had significantly worse localization precision than 25% VS and GLOX BME. The ANOVA for dye AF(+)₆₄₇ also revealed a significant main effect between groups, $F(2, 27)=13.541$, $p<0.001$. In post-hoc Bonferroni comparisons, image medium VS had significantly worse localization precision than GLOX BME. In addition, 25% VS had a significantly worse localization precision than GLOX BME.

Dependent variable “FRC”

Target tubulin $\beta 3$:

The ANOVA for dye AF647 revealed a significant main effect between groups, $F(2, 27)=32.11$, $p<0.001$. In post-hoc Bonferroni comparisons, VS had a significantly higher FRC than 25% VS and GLOX BME. The ANOVA for dye AF(+)₆₄₇ also revealed a significant main effect between groups, $F(2, 27)=5.49$, $p=0.01$. In post-hoc Bonferroni comparisons, image medium VS had a significantly higher FRC than 25% VS and GLOX BME.

Target βII spectrin:

The ANOVA for dye AF647 revealed a significant main effect between groups, $F(2, 27)=144.67$, $p<0.001$. In post-hoc Bonferroni comparisons, VS had a significantly higher FRC than 25% VS and GLOX BME. The ANOVA for dye AF(+)₆₄₇ also revealed a significant main effect between groups, $F(2, 27)=48.43$, $p<0.001$. In post-hoc Bonferroni comparisons, image medium VS had a significantly higher FRC than 25% VS and GLOX BME.

Target NfL:

The ANOVA for dye AF647 revealed a significant main effect between groups, $F(2, 27)=14.988$, $p<0.001$. In post-hoc Bonferroni comparisons, VS had a significantly higher FRC than 25% VS and GLOX BME. The ANOVA for dye AF(+)₆₄₇ also revealed a significant main effect between groups, $F(2, 27)=16.70$, $p<0.001$. In post-hoc Bonferroni comparisons, image medium VS had a significantly higher FRC than 25% VS and GLOX BME.

Dependent variable “molecular density”

Target tubulin $\beta 3$:

The ANOVA for dye AF647 revealed a significant main effect between groups, $F(2, 27)=95.02$, $p<0.001$. In post-hoc Bonferroni comparisons, VS had a significantly lower value of molecular density than 25% VS and GLOX BME. In addition, 25% VS had a significantly lower value of molecular density than GLOX BME. The ANOVA for dye AF(+)₆₄₇ also revealed a significant main effect between groups, $F(2, 27)=5.98$, $p=0.007$. In post-hoc Bonferroni comparisons, image medium VS had a significantly lower value of molecular density than GLOX BME. In addition, 25% VS had a significantly lower value of molecular density than GLOX BME.

Target βII spectrin:

The ANOVA for dye AF647 revealed a significant main effect between groups, $F(2, 27)=10.58$, $p<0.001$. In post-hoc Bonferroni comparisons, VS had a significantly higher value of molecular density than 25%

VS. In addition, 25% VS had a significantly lower value of molecular density than GLOX BME. The ANOVA for dye AF(+)647 also revealed a significant main effect between groups, $F(2, 27)=9.36$, $p=0.001$. In post-hoc Bonferroni comparisons, only image medium 25% VS had a significantly lower value of molecular density than GLOX BME. None of the other Bonferroni post-hoc comparisons were statistically significant.

Target Nfl:

The ANOVA for dye AF647 did not reveal a significant main effect between groups, $F(2, 27)=1.153$, $p=0.331$. The ANOVA for dye AF(+)647 did not reveal a significant main effect between groups, $F(2, 27)=1.157$, $p=0.226$.

When summarizing the results of the ANOVAs and the individual post-hoc comparisons, it is possible to draw the following conclusion: With very small exceptions, the general findings are that VS had indeed the lowest image quality. This finding is in line with our prior observations. It is reflected by the fact that VS had worse average localization precision than 25% VS and GLOX BME. In addition, VS had higher values of FRC than 25% VS and GLOX BME. Furthermore, the majority of the findings on molecular density are in line with VS exhibiting a lower image quality, except for Nfl where we did not find significant differences between different media. The only results that remain less clear are the photon counts. In general, one would expect some correlation between a higher image quality and more photon counts. This relationship is not necessarily true, however, as an absolute number of counts does not automatically imply better image quality. This might explain that in some conditions, VS exhibits less photon counts (than for instance in 25% VS or GLOX BME in dye AF647 and target β II spectrin). In other conditions, however, VS can also exhibit more photon counts (than for instance in GLOX BME in dye AF647 and target tubulin β 3). To judge image quality, the sheer number of photon counts should therefore probably not be relied on. Dependent variables such as FRC, average localization precision and molecular density seem better suited to judge image quality.

Supplementary References

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