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# Utilising functional imaging to predict survival in paediatric brain tumours

Grist, James; Withey, Stephanie; Powell, Stephen; Peet, AC

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**Title:** Utilising functional imaging to predict survival in paediatric brain tumours.

**Authors:** James T. Grist<sup>1</sup>, Stephanie Withey<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Lesley MacPherson<sup>4</sup>, Adam Oates<sup>4</sup>, Stephen Powell<sup>1</sup>, Jan Novak<sup>2,5</sup>, Laurence Abernethy<sup>6</sup>, Barry Pizer<sup>7</sup>, Richard Grundy<sup>8</sup>, Simon Bailey<sup>9</sup>, Dipayan Mitra<sup>10</sup>, Theodoros N. Arvanitis<sup>1,2,11</sup>, Dorothee P. Auer<sup>12,13</sup>, Shivaram Avula<sup>6</sup>, Andrew C Peet<sup>1,2</sup>

- 1. Institute of Cancer and Genomic Sciences, School of Medical and Dental Sciences, University of Birmingham, Birmingham, UK.
- 2. Oncology, Birmingham Women's and Children's NHS foundation trust, Birmingham, United Kingdom.
- 3. RRPPS, University Hospitals Birmingham NHS foundation trust, Birmingham, United Kingdom.
- 4. Radiology, Birmingham Women's and Children's NHS foundation trust, Birmingham, United Kingdom.
- 5. Department of Psychology, School of Life and Health sciences, Aston University, Birmingham, United Kingdom.
- 6. Radiology, Alder Hey Children's NHS foundation trust, Liverpool, United Kingdom.
- 7. Oncology, Alder Hey Children's NHS foundation trust, Liverpool, United Kingdom.
- 8. The Children's Brain Tumour Research Centre, University of Nottingham, Nottingham, United Kingdom.
- 9. Sir James Spence Institute of Child Health, Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle upon Tyne, United Kingdom
- 10. Neuroradiology, Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle Upon Tyne, United Kingdom.
- 11. Institute of Digital Healthcare, WMG, University of Warwick, Coventry, United Kingdom.
- 12. Sir Peter Mansfield Imaging Centre, University of Nottingham Biomedical Research Centre, Nottingham, United Kingdom.
- 13. NIHR Nottingham Biomedical Research Centre, Nottingham, United Kingdom.

# Intro

Brain tumours are a common cause of death in the paediatric population. We have previously shown that MR imaging and spectroscopy can be used to non-invasively differentiate between tumour types. Here, we demonstrate that functional imaging can be highly predictive of survival and grade in a paediatric cohort.

#### Methods

Perfusion (PWI) and diffusion weighted imaging (DWI) were performed in a multi-site (Birmingham Children's Hospital, Royal Victoria Infirmary, Alder Hey, Nottingham) cohort ([grade, 5-year survival alive:dead number] = [I,15:1],[II,5:1],[III,2:3],[IV,8:11]). ROIs were drawn on T<sub>2</sub> imaging and functional imaging features (mean, standard deviation, skewness, and kurtosis) were derived. Supervised machine learning was used to predict 5-year survival and tumour grade from features. ANOVA and post-hoc tests were used to assess differences in features between grade and 5-year survival status.

### **Results**

5-year survival was predicted with 89%, 85%, and 87% accuracy with all imaging, perfusion, or diffusion features, respectively.

A significant difference in perfusion was found between surviving and diseased participants  $(1.71 \pm 0.82 \text{ vs } 2.62 \pm 1 \text{ mL/}100\text{g/min}$ , respectively, p < 0.05). A significant difference in ADC (mm<sup>2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>) between tumour grades was found (1 vs 4 (1533 ± 458 vs 857 ± 239), 4 vs 3 (857 ± 239 vs 1197 ± 137), 4 vs 2 (857 ± 239 vs 1440 ± 557), corrected p < 0.05).

## Conclusion

We have shown that perfusion and diffusion imaging features can be used to non-invasively assess tumour grade and estimate 5-year survival status in a cohort of paediatric brain tumours.