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Research Services

Clinical Sciences



Abstract

In vivo Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy (MRS) is a technique that allows the visualisation and measurement of chemicals, including lipids, metabolites and carbohydrates in the human brain in the region chosen to interrogate. The use of MRS clinically has been limited to 1D spectroscopy. As technology has improved the use of 2D Correlated SpectroscopY (COSY), a technique that has been used since the 70's on cell and animal models, has become viable for in vivo use. To date, in vivo 2D COSY of the brain has been used to investigate brain tumours and damage resultant to repetitive head trauma or blast injury. The aim of this thesis is to evaluate, and where necessary refine, 2D COSY protocols now possible because of recent hardware and software improvements. This thesis has a single theme applied to four human populations. The theme is: What is the role played by changes in neurochemistry in the human brain during adolescent development or in front-line defenders as a result of different trauma. Four different populations (developing adolescents, healthy adult controls, adults with PTSD and adults with blast injury) will be scanned using 2D COSY and neurochemical changes measured. All data will be analysed using existing techniques and new methods of analysis will be explored to ultimately enable 2D COSY to be utilized in the clinical environment.