Diffusion Tensor Imaging Tractography: Neural Structural Connectivity analysis for Olfactory Attention Deficit in Alzheimer’s Patients

Geethanjali Vinodhanand, Ganesh Elumalai, Jessica Dasari, Hari Krishna Kurra, Kevin Andrew Douglas and Nitya Akarsha Surya Venkata Ghanta
Team NeurON, Texila American University, Guyana

Alzheimer’s Disease (AD) is a neurodegenerative disorder, and like most neurodegenerative and neuropsychiatric disorders, olfactory dysfunction is a clinical marker appearing years before the decline in motor and cognitive functions. According to the results of a study comparing the odor-visual association between a controlled group and AD-affected group, a conclusion was drawn regarding degeneration in the central olfactory nervous system, but the specific structure affected remained unknown. The present study includes Diffusion tensor images (DTI) datasets of 25 control and 25 Alzheimer patients from both the sexes, with age group from 50 to 75 years. This study is aimed towards identifying the structural connectivity for Olfactory Attention Deficit in Alzheimer’s Patients by identifying the structural connectivity extension between the Olfactory Cortex (OC) and Frontal Eye Field (FEF), using DTI fiber tractography for Olfactory – Saccadic pathways.

**Results:** A rigid pattern was not noted, but among control groups, a number of fibers in Olfactory–Saccadic pathways for female subjects was much higher in proportion (in numbers and volumes) than male. In Alzheimer patients, it was observed that females displayed a much drastic deterioration in (numbers and volumes) Olfactory–Saccadic pathways compared with male patients.

**Conclusion:** Olfactory dysfunction is the earliest clinical symptom, and an inexpensive and practical diagnostic method is urgently needed for early diagnosis. This study provides a significant finding in the identification of structural degeneration, for Olfactory Attention Deficit in Alzheimer patients. But, the confirmation of finding with functional MRIs analysis is crucial.

**Fig-1:** Olfactory-Saccadic Pathway - Control Group

**Fig-2:** Olfactory-Saccadic Pathway - Alzheimer Patient’s

**Biography**

Geethanjali Vinodh Anand, she is a medical student in an Eminent University in the Caribbean region – Guyana, the Texila American University. She is an outstanding Junior Young Researcher in “Team NeurON” group from the same University. She is basically from India, migrated to Guyana for her Medicine study and Research activities. Her area of interest is Neuroscience and Imaging tractography. She is leading a research sub-group with in the Team NeurON. She also involved in more than 15 research actives in Team NeurON, and also, she has been serving as Secretary and coordinator for the same Team NeurON group in Texila America University.

teamneuron@hotmail.com