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► **To cite this version:**

Enrica Cavedo, Bruno Dubois, Olivier Colliot, Simone Lista, Bernard Croisile, et al.. Reduced Regional Cortical Thickness Rate of Change in Donepezil-Treated Subjects With Suspected Prodromal Alzheimer's Disease. *Journal of Clinical Psychiatry*, Physicians Postgraduate Press, 2016, 10.4088/JCP.15m10413 . hal-01388951

**HAL Id: hal-01388951**

**<https://hal.inria.fr/hal-01388951>**

Submitted on 12 Nov 2016

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## Reduced regional cortical thickness rate of change in donepezil treated subjects with suspected prodromal Alzheimer's disease

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**Abstract**

**OBJECTIVES:** Cortical thinning, previously identified during prodromal stages of AD, is a “candidate” biomarker implemented in AD clinical therapy trials. We have investigated the effect of donepezil treatment on cortical thickness in mild cognitively impaired subjects with the amnesic syndrome of the hippocampal type, a prodromal at risk group for progression to AD dementia.

**METHODS:** Longitudinal analysis of a community-based multi-centric suspected prodromal AD cohort (92 placebo versus 81 donepezil) enrolled in a double-blind, randomized, placebo-controlled parallel group design using donepezil (10mg/day) has been conducted. The study started in November 2006 and was concluded in August 2010. All subjects underwent two brain structural Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) scans, at baseline and at the end of the trial. Structural MRI images have been processed using the automated pipeline for longitudinal segmentation and surface reconstruction implemented in FreeSurfer. The primary outcome measure of this post-hoc study was the cortical thickness annualized percentage change (APC).

**RESULTS:** The donepezil group exhibited reduced APC cortical thinning compared to placebo in the Rostral Anterior Cingulate (right:  $p = 0.048$ ; and left:  $p = 0.032$ ), the Orbitofrontal (right:  $p = 0.012$  and left  $p < 0.048$ ), and the right Inferior Frontal ( $p = 0.022$ ) cortices and in the right Insula ( $p = 0.010$ ). These results were not statistically significant after Bonferroni correction likely due to insufficient power for cortical thickness measurements in the study group powered for the predefined hippocampus outcome.

**CONCLUSIONS:** Our findings support the hypothesis that cortical thickness is a reliable candidate surrogate outcome in early pre-dementia AD trials. In addition, donepezil treatment may have an impact on cortical structure/morphology in areas

innervated by the medial and lateral cholinergic pathways.

Clinical Trial Registration: [ClinicalTrials.gov](https://clinicaltrials.gov) NCT00403520

Key words: Cortical Thickness, Alzheimer's Disease, MRI, Donepezil, Cholinergic system, Clinical Trials, prodromal AD, Mild Cognitive Impairment, Progression

## Introduction

The current approved treatments with cholinesterase inhibitors are generally considered as moderately and only symptomatically beneficial for late-stage AD dementia patients <sup>1</sup>. Evidence of potential biological and disease-modifying properties of cholinesterase inhibitors is controversially and critically discussed. No agent tested in randomized clinical trials in Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI) has met its primary efficacy objectives, measured by clinical rating instruments <sup>2-10</sup>.

To date, only one study investigating the use of *in vivo* biomarkers of AD in Donepezil clinical trial has been conducted <sup>11</sup>. On the other hand, further clinical studies on structural imaging markers in MCI subjects have reported conflicting results <sup>12-14</sup>.

Although cortical-thickness represents a promising structural imaging end point in clinical trials, as it offers a direct assessment of effect sizes expressed in a meaningful metric, <sup>15-17</sup> no study has investigated the donepezil effect on the cortical mantle yet.

This is a post hoc study based on the data collected in the context of the Hippocampus Study Clinical Trial (NCT00403520). The first aim of the trial was to investigate the effect of Donepezil treatment using the hippocampal rate of changes as primary outcome <sup>14</sup>. Here, we are going to consider the impact of donepezil treatment on the thickness rate of change in suspected prodromal AD patients diagnosed using the Free and Cued Selective Reminding Test (FCSRT), a test allowing prognostication of prodromal AD within the group of MCI individuals <sup>18, 19</sup>.

## **Methods**

### *Study Population*

Participants included in the present study were all the patients who performed a baseline and a follow-up MRI scan during the Hippocampus Study Clinical Trial (NCT00403520)<sup>14</sup>. The primary efficacy outcome of the Hippocampus Study was the annualized percentage change (APC) of total hippocampal volume measured by an automated segmentation method. In this post hoc analysis, we explored the effect of Donepezil on the cortical thickness. Each patients received at least 1 dose of double-blind study medication, and had baseline and follow-up clinical and Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) assessment.

The details of the patient characteristics have been previously described <sup>14</sup>. Briefly, a total of 332 patients were screened within the national network of Memory Resources and Research Centres (MRRC) consisting of 28 regional university expert centres with neurologists, geriatricians, neuropsychologists, biological and neuroimaging resources in each centre.

Inclusion criteria were: 1) more than 50 years of age; 2) a progressive hippocampal amnesic syndrome defined by Free Recall  $\leq 17$  or Total Recall  $< 40$  on the FCSRT; and 3) no dementia with a CDR stage of 0.5 and preserved cognition and functional performance. Subjects who met the eligibility criteria were enrolled in the randomization phase beginning with Visit 1. From the total population of individuals randomized in the clinical trial (103 Placebo and 113 Donepezil), for the present study we considered exclusively patients who performed MRI at baseline and at the end of the treatment (Placebo=92 and Donepezil= 82).

### *Study Design*

This was a multi-centre double-blind, randomized, placebo-controlled trial with a treatment period of 12 months. The sample power of the study was calculated according to the primary aim of the Hippocampus Study Clinical Trial, and not for the aim of the present study. The study started in November 2006 and was concluded in August 2010. At baseline visit, patients underwent a baseline MRI scan and a cognitive evaluation including: the Alzheimer's Disease Assessment Scale-cognitive subscale, MCI version (ADAS-COG-MCI)<sup>20</sup>, Mini-Mental State Examination (MMSE), Modified Isaacs test score, California Verbal Learning Test (CVLT)<sup>21</sup>, Trial Making Tests (TMT) A and B<sup>22</sup>, and the Benton Test<sup>23</sup>. Following baseline evaluation, patients were randomly assigned to one group out of two, corresponding to either active treatment or placebo (1 capsule of 5-mg donepezil daily for Weeks 0 to 6, then 2 capsules of 5-mg donepezil [i.e., 10 mg] daily from Week 6 to Month 12 for double-blind treatment; or 1 placebo capsule daily for Weeks 0 to 6, then 2 capsules daily from Week 6 to Month 12 for double-blind treatment, respectively). The study protocol was approved by the institutional review board of each site, and informed consent was obtained from all subjects.

#### *Acquisition of MR images*

Brain MRI scans were acquired in each centre at baseline and after at the end of treatment period. All the MRI were performed using 1.5 Tesla or 3 Tesla MRI scanners qualified by the central MRI analysis core at the Cogimage team, Centre de Recherche de l'institut du Cerveau et de la Moelle Épineière (CRICM). The sequences used in the present manuscript were 3D T1-weighted images. The 3D T1-weighted scan parameters for scans at 1.5T were: TR = 10 ms, TE = minimum, flip angle: 10, PREP time: 600, bandpass: 12.50 khz, axial orientation; 1.3mm slice thickness, contiguous (124 slices), Imaging matrix size: 256 x 256, Field of view: 240 x 240 ; for scans at 3T

were: TR = 3.9 ms, TE = 2100 ms, flip angle: 15, PREP time: 1100 ms, sagittal orientation with 1 mm slice thickness, contiguous (144 slices), Acquisition matrix size: 256 x 192, Field of view: 256 x 192. The expert neuroradiologist in charge of quality control verified artifacts of movements, ringing, wrap around and metal artifacts, moreover they attested that the sequences were acquired according to protocol parameters. After the quality control of images, one 3D T1-weighted scan was identified as corrupted and it was excluded from the all statistical and the neuroimaging analysis.

### *Cortical Thickness Reconstruction and Surface Analysis*

To extract reliable thickness estimates, images were automatically processed with the longitudinal stream<sup>24</sup> in FreeSurfer (<http://surfer.nmr.mgh.harvard.edu/>) version 5.1. Details on the longitudinal pipeline used to analyzing data are described at the following link (<https://surfer.nmr.mgh.harvard.edu/fswiki/LongitudinalProcessing>). Specifically an unbiased within-subject template space and image is created using robust, inverse consistent registration<sup>25</sup>. Several processing steps, such as skull stripping, Talairach transforms, atlas registration as well as spherical surface maps and parcellations are then initialized with common information from the within-subject template, significantly increasing reliability and statistical power<sup>26</sup>. Based on gyral and sulcal anatomy, the cortex was segmented using the Desikan–Killiany Atlas<sup>27</sup>. For each of cortical regions, mean cortical thickness was calculated as the distance (in mm) between the pial and gray/white matter surfaces. A quality control of data was performed, the Pial and the white matter Surfaces were checked in order to remove any non brain tissue and non-white matter tissue respectively. The cortical thickness was smoothed with 10 mm FWHM Gaussian kernel to improve the signal-

to-noise ratio and statistical power.

### *Statistical Analysis*

Demographic, clinical and neuropsychological features were compared between subject groups (Placebo vs Donepezil). Chi-square test was performed on categorical variables, while the one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) was utilized for continuous variables. Since the assumption of normality was violated, baseline cortical thicknesses measures were transformed according to a Two-Step Approach for Transforming Continuous Variables to Normal. The first step involves transforming the original variable toward statistical uniformity (i.e., satisfies the preponderance of diagnostics tests for uniformity) by calculating the fractional rank of each score, then fractional rank obtained from the previous step were transformed to normal using the inverse normal distribution function <sup>28</sup>. Normalized baseline cortical thickness measures have been compared between groups using the ANOVA. Annualized Percentage Change (APC) of cortical thickness, in all the regions extracted from FreeSurfer pipeline, were computed as follows:

$$APC = \frac{\text{change from baseline}}{\text{value at baseline}} \times \frac{365}{MRI \text{ delay}} \times 100$$

Then, the cortical thickness APC were compared between placebo and donepezil using the Wilcoxon-Mann-Whitney test.

The cortical thickness APC comparisons were supplemented post hoc by the linear mixed effects regression model with random intercepts, controlling for scanner platforms, to compare the difference in the cortical thickness change between placebo and donepezil patients in relation to treatment. Bonferroni correction for

multiple comparisons was applied to the cortical thickness APC comparisons and to the mixed effect regression model results. The statistical analyses were performed using SPSS v.22.00.

Surface analyses were performed using MATLAB (<http://fr.mathworks.com>) and the QDEC toolbox of FreeSurfer ([www.surfer.nmr.mgh.harvard.edu](http://www.surfer.nmr.mgh.harvard.edu)). One-year changes in bilateral cortical structures were investigated using the Linear Mixed Effects Models. The results were projected onto the template. The surface analyses were re-thresholded using a two-stage false discovery rate of 0.05 ( $FDR2 < 0.05$ ).

#### *Power analysis*

Since the original Hippocampus Study trial was not designed for examine cortical thickness, an estimation of samples size needed to detect a thickness change of a certain number of millimetres between placebo and treatment patients was estimated. Sample size requirements were estimated using the following formula:

$2 \times K \times \left( \frac{\sigma}{\mu_1 - \mu_2} \right)^2$ , where K = constant, which is a function of  $\alpha$  (0.05) and  $\beta=0.2$

(80%) ;  $\sigma$  is the standard deviation of cortical thickness APC in the untreated group,  $\mu$  are the mean values of cortical thickness APC in the treatment and placebo groups.

The following modification was included: the sample size thus derived was increased by 10% to allow for losses at follow-up.

## Results

From the total sample of 316 individuals (103 Placebo and 113 Donepezil) randomized in the trial, 174 individuals (92 Placebo and 82 Donepezil) underwent both baseline and follow-up MRI scans. One subject of them was excluded from analysis due to a corrupted scan.

No significant differences were found at baseline sociodemographic as well as in cognitive features between groups (Table 1). The Apolipoprotein E (*APOE*) genotype was present in 18 (47.3%) patients in the placebo group and 18 (60%) in the donepezil showing no substantial differences ( $p = 0.215$ ) between the two groups.

The baseline cortical thickness, for all brain regions considered, did not show any significant statistical differences between the two groups (Table 2).

As detailed in the Figure 1, a significant difference in the regional cortical thickness APC was observed between groups. In particular, the Placebo group compared with the Donepezil showed a higher APC in the right and left Rostral Anterior Cingulate Cortex  $-1.14\%$  vs  $-0.38\%$  ( $p = 0.048$ ) and  $-1.28\%$  vs  $0.07\%$  ( $p = 0.032$ ) respectively, in the left Caudal Anterior Cingulate Cortex  $-1.07\%$  vs  $0.16\%$  ( $p = 0.033$ ), in the right and left Orbitofrontal Cortex  $-1.04\%$  vs  $-0.001\%$  ( $p = 0.012$ ) and  $-0.54\%$  vs  $0.43\%$  ( $p < 0.048$ ) respectively, in the right Inferior Frontal Cortex  $-0.94\%$  vs  $0.23\%$  ( $p = 0.022$ ), and in the right Insula  $-1.06\%$  vs  $0.013\%$  ( $p = 0.010$ ).

Post-hoc analysis by the mixed effects model (Figure 2) revealed that, during the 12 months of treatment period, cortical thickness was significantly decreased in the Placebo group compared with the Donepezil in the in the right Lateral Orbitofrontal cortex (difference in slope  $0.0023$ ;  $p = 0.026$ ), in the right Middle temporal Cortex (difference in slope  $0.0027$ ;  $p = 0.027$ ) and in the right Insula (difference in slope  $0.0027$ ;  $p = 0.015$ ). Both the cortical thickness APC comparisons and the results on

the mixed effect model did not survive after Bonferroni correction.

Surface differences were described in Figure 3 revealing a cortical thinning of Placebo group compared to the Donepezil in the Left Superior Temporal, Left Orbitofrontal, Right Supramarginal and Right Insula cortices. This result did not survive after FDR correction.

#### *Power analysis*

The mean (SD) cortical thickness APC for Donepezil group was -0.51 (2.18), while in the Placebo group was -0.95 (2.10). Based on these values, to have 80% power to detect a drug effect at 5% significance level ( $\alpha = 0.05$ ), 187 patients would be needed for each treatment arm. This assumes a 1 year-placebo-controlled trial with a 10% patients drop-out rate

## Discussion

To our knowledge, this is the first study investigating the effect of donepezil treatment on regional brain cortical thickness in suspected prodromal AD patients with amnesic syndrome of hippocampal type. Our results highlight the presence of a trend of stability in the cortical thickness APC in the Anterior Cingulate Cortex, in the left Orbitofrontal Cortex, in the Inferior Frontal Cortex, and in the right Insula in suspected prodromal AD patients treated with donepezil. These findings have been furthermore supported by data obtained from the Longitudinal Mixed Model and the cortical surface comparison of cortical thickness APC between groups. Indeed, we have found a trend of reduced cortical surface in the placebo group compared with the donepezil after one year of Donepezil treatment in the following regions:

Orbitofrontal, Superior, and Caudal Middle Frontal Cortices, Superior Temporal, Supra Marginal, Precuneus, Inferior Parietal, and Insula. Some of these areas have been recognised to be of key importance since they are supposed to represent the cortical signature of Prodromal AD patients <sup>29, 30</sup>. Although our results did not survive after multiple comparisons, they still remain promising since they have showed a statistical trend toward a significant impact of donepezil treatment in preserving cortical thickness in suspected prodromal AD patients. One possible reason explaining why our results did not survive to multiple comparison corrections might be due to the fact that the sample power of the current study was not calculated for the present purpose but for the original aim of the Hippocampus Study Trial. Indeed, the necessary sample size to obtain a statistically significant effect in the cortical thickness APC between Placebo and Donepezil should be substantially higher, 187 patients for each arm, as revealed by the sample power analysis.

Notably, in line with a previous study revealing an increased resting state metabolism

in the left prefrontal cortex (and in the right hippocampus) of AD patients treated with Donepezil <sup>11</sup>, we also found a significant reduced cortical thinning in left Orbitofrontal Cortex and Anterior Cingulate Cortex in this group.

Previous studies investigating the donepezil effect on different structural imaging markers, such as the hippocampus, the brain lateral ventricles, and the whole brain volumes, showed contrasting results. A randomized double-blind, placebo-controlled mono-center study on 67 patients with mild-to-moderate AD found a small decrease in left hippocampal volume after 24-week of donepezil compared with the placebo-treated subjects <sup>31</sup>. Results from the Alzheimer's Disease Cooperative Study (ADCS) MCI Donepezil/Vitamin E study conducted on 131 MCI patients showed a statistical trend towards a possible slowing of the hippocampal atrophy rate by donepezil <sup>12</sup>. A more recent study conducted by Schuff and colleagues <sup>32</sup> on aMCI subjects reported significant differences in favour of the donepezil group for the total ventricular region and the cortical region (whole brain volumes) but not for the hippocampal volume. Recently, our group confirmed the data by Schuff and colleagues <sup>32</sup> for ventricular and whole brain volumes. In addition, we observed a significant reduction in the annual rate of hippocampal atrophy in suspected prodromal AD patients treated with donepezil <sup>33</sup>.

Regional cortical thickness reduction is used as a predictive indicator of AD-related neurodegeneration in MCI subjects <sup>30, 34</sup>. Our results revealed unilateral treatment differences in several brain regions that might be due to normal variation and specialization of function and structure. Brain asymmetry is believed to be evolutionally adaptive, reducing possible interference between hemispheres <sup>35</sup>.

Based on the hypothesis that donepezil may attenuate amyloid-induced neuronal

toxicity<sup>36, 37</sup>, it is conceivable that 12 months of donepezil treatment might have a neuroprotective effect on the cortex. *In vitro* studies demonstrated that lesions of the cholinergic nucleus basalis of Meynert promote the *ex vivo* synthesis of A $\beta$  precursor protein (A $\beta$ PP) in the cerebral cortex<sup>38</sup>. Recently, an *in vivo* neuroimaging study described a correlation between basal forebrain atrophy and elevated cortical amyloid load in preclinical and pre-dementia stages of AD<sup>39</sup>, thus reflecting the association found in several human autopsy studies between amyloid pathology and cholinergic atrophy in AD<sup>40, 41, 42</sup>. Cortical amyloid accumulation might induce cholinergic cell death involving alterations in the levels of intracellular calcium and/or production of toxic and inflammatory mediators such as nitric oxide, cytokines, and reactive oxygen intermediates<sup>43</sup>. On the other hand, a cholinergic stimulation alters positively the mechanisms of amyloid processing, thus protecting neurons from neurodegeneration induced by A $\beta$ <sup>36</sup>.

In this study, we found a trend toward a statistical significance for cortical thinning reduction in the cortical areas innervated by the medial and lateral cholinergic pathways<sup>44</sup> in suspected prodromal AD patients receiving one year of donepezil treatment.

One of the main strengths of the present study is the refined target population deriving from a large-scale community-based multi-centre cohort of subjects included on the basis of the FCSRT, a memory test reported to be highly correlated with hippocampal volume and CSF levels changes of the Alzheimer type<sup>18, 19</sup>.

The study presents potential limitations. First of all, the data used in the present research were not specifically powered for the aims of the present study, thus reducing the significance of the results. The protocol of the study did not include information on the settings of the subjects of the population or on race and ethnicity

characteristics or data in terms of lifestyle. The latter, in particular, given its practical aspects – nutrition, hydration, and physical activity – has become significant in terms of AD prevention. We did not collect sufficient data on *APOE*  $\epsilon 4$  genotype to exclude the hypothesis that our results were not significantly impacted by the presence of *APOE*  $\epsilon 4$  genotype. Finally, the subjects have not been followed for a long enough period of time in order to determine the incidence of incipient AD in each group.

Overall, our findings support the hypothesis that cortical thickness might be used as surrogate outcome in pre-dementia AD clinical trials. Moreover, our findings suggest that donepezil may have an impact on cortical morphology in prodromal AD patients. A potentially disease-modifying effect of approved cholinesterase inhibitors represents a result of pivotal clinical interest. Further studies are needed to confirmed this first investigation. Moreover, established measurement of the basal forebrain cholinergic nuclei volume, such as the nucleus basalis of Meynert and its subnuclei, as well as their *in vivo* white matter connections to subcortical and cortical areas, are of interest to detect the specific donepezil effect on the brain's cholinergic system.

## **Acknowledgement**

We would like to acknowledge Prof Touchon and Dr Aimeur who participated in the study. We would like to acknowledge Dr Line Garnero who deceased during the study, without her support and experience this study would never have been undertaken.

**Funding and Disclosure:** The clinical trial with donepezil leading to the analysed dataset was supported by Eisai SAS France. Eisai SAS France supported for data collection and for the investigation of the primary endpoint of the study.

Dr Cavedo has received funding from the grant Conv. n.130/GR-2011-02350494 funded by the Italian Ministry of Health (Bando Giovani Ricercatori 2011-2012) ; Dr Dubois has received consulting fees from Eli Lilly, Dr Dubois have received Grant support from Pfizer in 2012 ; Dr Colliot declares no competing financial interests related to the present article, he has received consulting fees from Guerbet and lecture fees from Lundbeck and Roche. Dr Lista has received lecture fees from Roche. Dr Girard is consulting for OLEA MEDICAL, he has received travel funding for scientific congress (below 10 000 euros per year). Dr Hampel and Dr Lista are supported by the AXA Research Fund, the Université Pierre et Marie Curie and the “*Association pour la Recherche sur Alzheimer*”, Paris, France. Dr Hampel’s research leading to these results has received funding from the program “*Investissements d’avenir*” ANR-10-IAIHU-06. Dr Hampel declares no competing financial interests related to the present article. During the last 36 months Dr Hampel has received lecture honoraria and/or research grants (paid to the institution) and/or travel funding and/or participated in scientific advisory boards and/or as a consultant to diagnostic, biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies involved in the manufacture and marketing of biomarkers and/or diagnostics and/or drugs or medicinal products for

cognitive impairment and Alzheimer's disease including Boehringer-Ingelheim, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Elan Corporation, Novartis, Eisai Inc., Pfizer, Sanofi-Aventis, Roche Pharmaceuticals and Diagnostics, GE Healthcare, Avid, Eli Lilly and Company, GlaxoSmithKline-Biologicals, Jung-Diagnostics, Cytos, Anavex, Axovant, Biogen Idec, Oryzon Genomics. He is co-inventor in patents relating to biological markers and/or diagnostics and has not received any royalties

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### *Clinical Points*

- *Cortical thickness measurements may represent reliable surrogate markers of disease progression and underlying Alzheimer's Disease at prodromal stages*
- *Our data indicate that Donepezil treatment may reduce cortical thickness annualized percent changes mainly in cortical areas associated to the cholinergic system supporting the hypothesis that Donepezil may impact on brain structure/morphology*

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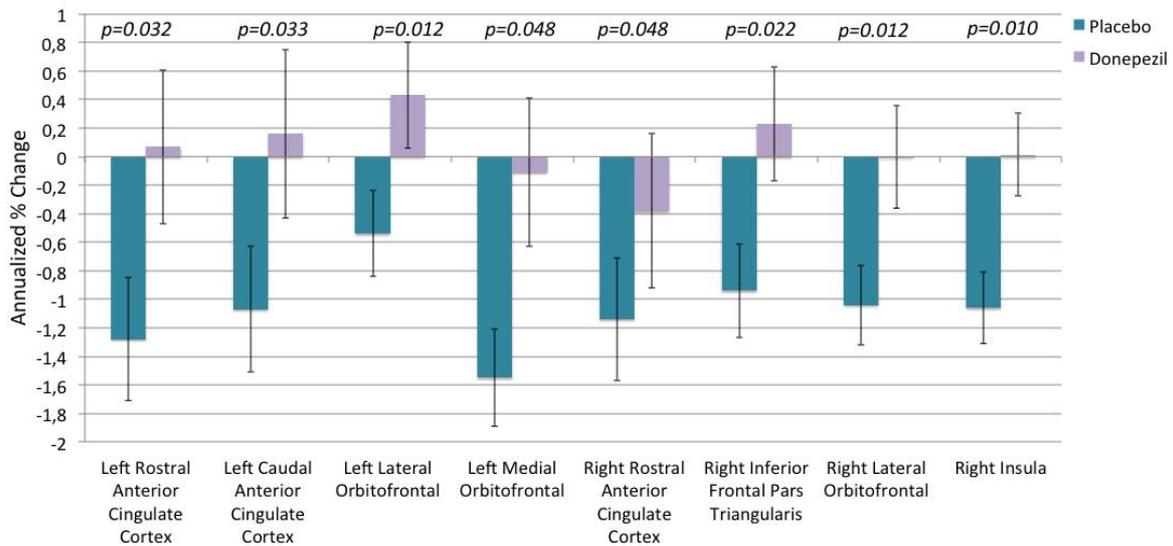
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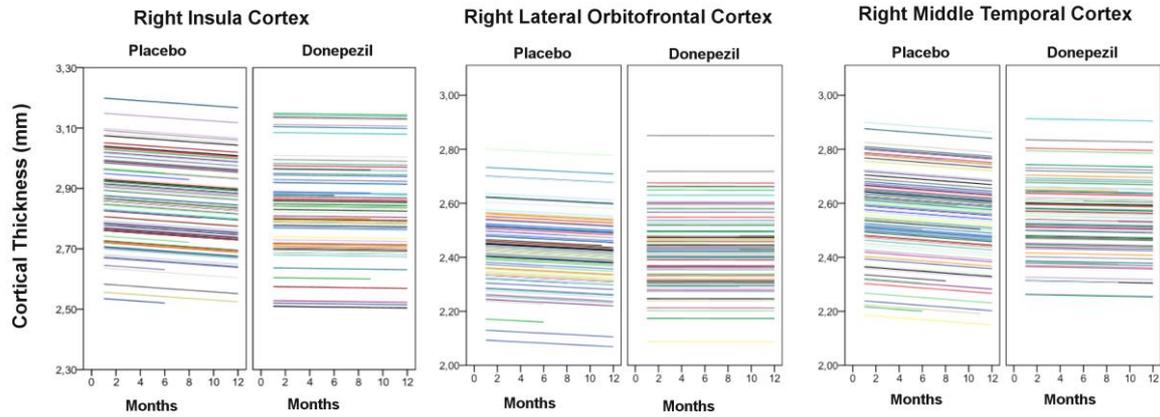
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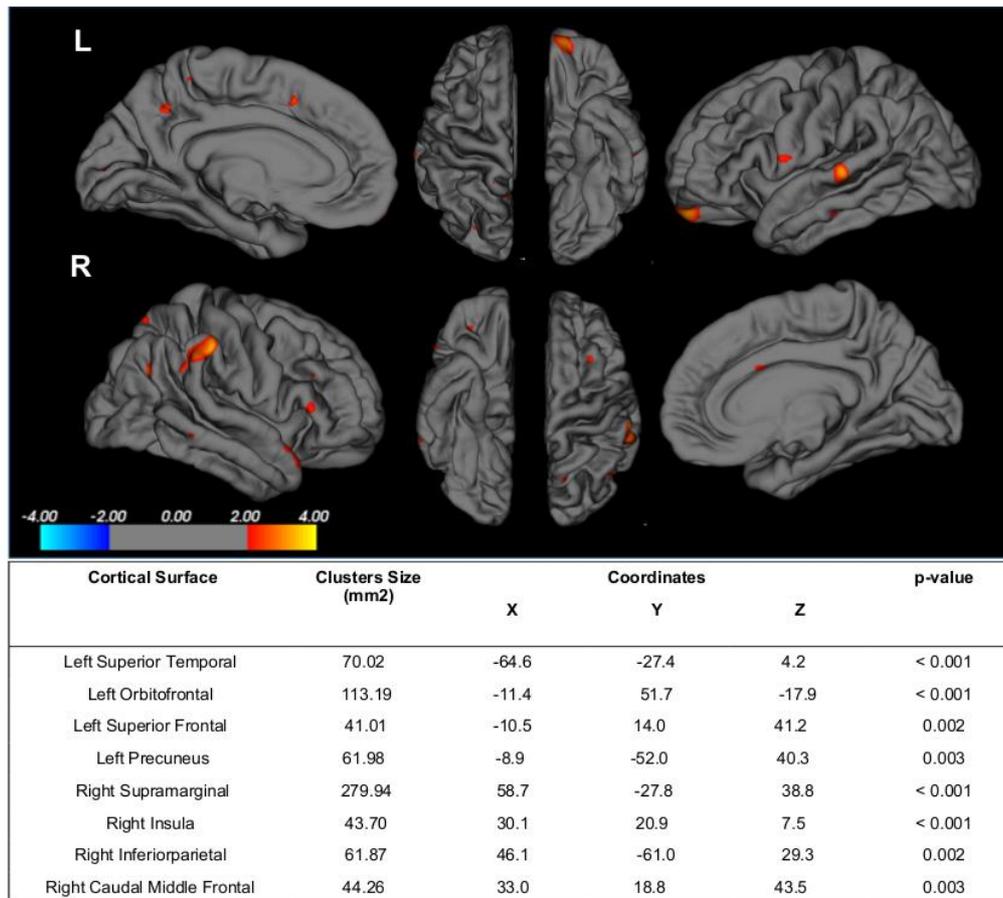
## Figures



**Figure 1. Significant differences in the Left and Right Brain Cortical Thickness Annualized Percentage Changes.** Patients treated with Donepezil showed an increase or stable change of the frontal and insula cortical thicknesses compared to the Placebo group revealing a cortical thinning in all the cortical regions. Numbers indicate means (errors standard) of Annual Percentage Change; p values denote the significance at Wilcoxon-Mann-Whitney test.



**Figure 2. Individual trajectories of Cortical Thickness change.** Graphs display significant changes over time resulted from the Linear Mixed Effects regression Models with random intercepts in the donepezil and placebo groups based on cortical thickness measurements from baseline (Month 0) to follow-up scan.



**Figure 3. Surface differences between placebo and donepezil groups detected by the Linear Mixed Effects Model, results are FDR uncorrected.**

## Tables

**Table 1: Baseline Demographic and Clinical Characteristics of patients performing baseline and follow-up MRI.** Means and standard deviations are reported for continuous variables, numbers and percentages for the dichotomous ones. P-values denote significant differences at ANOVA and Chi-square tests.

|   | <b>Placebo<br/>(n = 92)</b> | <b>Donepezil<br/>(n = 81)</b> | <b>P Value</b> |
|---|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Age, years</b>                           | 73.17 (6.63)                | 73.24 (6.67)                  | 0.966          |
| <b>Sex, n (%)</b>                           |                             |                               |                |
| Male  | 44 (47.8)                   | 39 (48.1)                     | 0.544          |
| Female                                      | 48 (52.1)                   | 42 (51.8)                     |                |
| <b>APOE ε4 carriers, n (%)</b>              | 18 (47.3)                   | 18 (60)                       | 0.215          |
| Missing                                     | 54                          | 43                            |                |
| <b>Education, n (%)</b>                     |                             |                               |                |
| No education                                | 1 (0.01)                    | 0 (0.0)                       | 0.330          |
| Primary                                     | 7 (7.6)                     | 8 (9.8)                       |                |
| Certificate of Primary Education            | 43 (46.7)                   | 30 (37)                       |                |
| Secondary                                   | 14 (15.2)                   | 21 (25.9)                     |                |
| Higher education                            | 27 (29.3)                   | 22 (27.1)                     |                |
| <b>Follow-up MRI (months)</b>               | 9.65 (4.78)                 | 10.07 (4.43)                  | 0.537          |
| <b>FCSRT (Free recall)</b>                  | 11.32 (5.61)                | 12.21 (5.40)                  | 0.289          |
| <b>FCSRT (Total recall)</b>                 | 29.55 (9.93)                | 31.37 (8.91)                  | 0.210          |
| <b>Hamilton Rating Scale for Depression</b> | 3.22 (2.94)                 | 2.83 (2.49)                   | 0.352          |

|                        |              |              |       |
|------------------------|--------------|--------------|-------|
| <b>ADAS-COG-MCI</b>    | 12.32 (4.40) | 12.32 (4.61) | 0.997 |
| <b>MMSE</b>            | 25.86 (2.79) | 25.94 (2.26) | 0.838 |
| <b>3 Tesla MRI (%)</b> | 22 (23%)     | 23 (28%)     | 0.534 |

Abbreviations: APOE= Apolipoprotein E, FCSRT= Free and Cued Selective Reminding Test, MRI= Magnetic Resonance Imaging.

**Table 2: Baseline Right and Left Cortical thickness (mm) of 173 patients.**

Means and standard deviations are reported, P Values denote significant differences at ANOVA.

|                                       | Left Hemisphere     |                       |         | Right Hemisphere    |                       |            |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------|---------------------|-----------------------|------------|
|                                       | Placebo<br>(n = 92) | Donepezil<br>(n = 81) | p-value | Placebo<br>(n = 92) | Donepezil<br>(n = 81) | P<br>Value |
| <b>Cingulate Cortex</b>               |                     |                       |         |                     |                       |            |
| Rostral Anterior                      | 2.74±0.02           | 2.80±0.02             | 0.113   | 2.72±0.02           | 2.75±0.03             | 0.698      |
| Caudal Anterior                       | 2.57±0.03           | 2.60±0.04             | 0.820   | 2.57±0.03           | 2.68±0.03             | 0.064      |
| Posterior                             | 2.31±0.01           | 2.34±0.02             | 0.452   | 2.31±0.02           | 2.34±0.02             | 0.345      |
| Isthimus                              | 2.15±0.02           | 2.17±0.01             | 0.337   | 2.12±0.01           | 2.14±0.02             | 0.538      |
| <b>Frontal Lobe</b>                   |                     |                       |         |                     |                       |            |
| Pre-central                           | 2.32±0.01           | 2.35±0.01             | 0.355   | 2.34±0.01           | 2.35±0.01             | 0.664      |
| Superior Frontal                      | 2.49±0.01           | 2.50±0.01             | 0.996   | 2.51±0.01           | 2.51±0.01             | 0.560      |
| Middle Frontal Caudal                 | 2.33±0.01           | 2.35±0.01             | 0.350   | 2.37±0.01           | 2.38±0.01             | 0.985      |
| Middle Frontal Rostral                | 2.20±0.01           | 2.22±0.01             | 0.472   | 2.21±0.01           | 2.23±0.01             | 0.823      |
| Inferior Frontal Pars<br>Orbitalis    | 2.51±0.02           | 2.54±0.02             | 0.255   | 2.49±0.02           | 2.45±0.02             | 0.239      |
| Inferior Frontal Pars<br>Triangularis | 2.27±0.01           | 2.27±0.01             | 0.941   | 2.26±0.01           | 2.24±0.01             | 0.392      |
| Inferior Frontal Pars<br>Opercularis  | 2.38±0.01           | 2.39±0.01             | 0.557   | 2.40±0.01           | 2.40±0.01             | 0.887      |
| Frontal Pole                          | 2.61±0.03           | 2.65±0.03             | 0.192   | 2.67±0.03           | 2.66±0.03             | 0.916      |
| Orbitofrontal Lateral                 | 2.45±0.01           | 2.44±0.01             | 0.892   | 2.44±0.01           | 2.44±0.01             | 0.607      |

|                      |           |           |       |           |           |       |
|----------------------|-----------|-----------|-------|-----------|-----------|-------|
| Orbitofrontal Medial | 2.36±0.02 | 2.36±0.01 | 0.308 | 2.34±0.01 | 2.36±0.01 | 0.143 |
| <b>Parietal</b>      |           |           |       |           |           |       |
| Post-Central         | 1.95±0.01 | 1.99±0.02 | 0.460 | 1.98±0.01 | 2.00±0.01 | 0.472 |
| Supra Marginal       | 2.31±0.01 | 2.32±0.01 | 0.885 | 2.33±0.01 | 2.34±0.01 | 0.848 |
| Superior Parietal    | 2.01±0.01 | 2.04±0.01 | 0.182 | 2.05±0.01 | 2.06±0.01 | 0.814 |
| Inferior Parietal    | 2.22±0.01 | 2.26±0.01 | 0.166 | 2.22±0.01 | 2.25±0.01 | 0.164 |
| Precuneus            | 2.12±0.01 | 2.14±0.01 | 0.541 | 2.12±0.01 | 2.13±0.01 | 0.798 |
| <b>Temporal</b>      |           |           |       |           |           |       |
| Inferior Temporal    | 2.56±0.01 | 2.58±0.02 | 0.447 | 2.57±0.01 | 2.57±0.01 | 0.986 |
| Superior Temporal    | 2.5±0.1   | 2.5±0.1   | 0.980 | 2.5±0.1   | 2.5±0.1   | 0.852 |
| Transverse Temporal  | 2.25±0.02 | 2.22±0.02 | 0.770 | 2.26±0.02 | 2.27±0.02 | 0.824 |
| Middle Temporal      | 2.59±0.01 | 2.60±0.01 | 0.778 | 2.56±0.01 | 2.55±0.01 | 0.504 |
| Temporal Pole        | 3.3±0.3   | 3.2±0.3   | 0.376 | 3.32±0.04 | 3.31±0.03 | 0.991 |
| Entorhinal           | 2.94±0.04 | 2.88±0.04 | 0.554 | 2.84±0.05 | 2.87±0.04 | 0.669 |
| Para-hippocampal     | 2.38±0.03 | 2.41±0.03 | 0.936 | 2.34±0.02 | 2.28±0.04 | 0.498 |
| Fusiform             | 2.43±0.01 | 2.45±0.01 | 0.322 | 2.41±0.01 | 2.43±0.01 | 0.270 |
| <b>Occipital</b>     |           |           |       |           |           |       |
| Lateral Occipital    | 2.03±0.01 | 2.05±0.01 | 0.713 | 2.02±0.01 | 2.03±0.01 | 0.887 |
| Cuneus               | 1.75±0.01 | 1.78±0.01 | 0.250 | 1.74±0.01 | 1.75±0.01 | 0.725 |
| Peri-Calcarine       | 1.56±0.01 | 1.56±0.01 | 0.940 | 1.51±0.01 | 1.51±0.01 | 0.702 |
| Lingual              | 1.85±0.01 | 1.86±0.01 | 0.718 | 1.83±0.01 | 1.82±0.01 | 0.889 |
| <b>Insula</b>        | 2.81±0.01 | 2.80±0.01 | 0.748 | 2.86±0.01 | 2.82±0.02 | 0.111 |