

STELLINGEN/PROPOSITIONS

belonging to the PhD dissertation

"Magnetic Resonance Imaging and Multi-Detector Computed Tomography Angiography of the Atherosclerotic Plaque at the Carotid Artery: Optimization, Validation, and Clinical Implication."

1. Plaque characteristics are more important than the degree of stenosis in the diagnosis and management of carotid disease. (this dissertation)
2. MRI is better suited for the analysis of carotid atherosclerotic disease than CT. (this dissertation)
3. Presence of a lipid core is in itself insufficient for trustworthy prediction of acute myocardial and cerebral events – a multifactoral plaque characteristic analysis will prove to be necessary. (this dissertation)
4. The carotid arteries are a better testing ground for the "vulnerable" plaque hypothesis than the coronary arteries. (this dissertation)
5. Given similar dimensions, a quadrature MRI coil design gives better image quality than a phased-array MRI coil design. (this dissertation)
6. When clinicians suspect carotid atherosclerosis, image-based assessment of plaque characteristics should be mandatory.
7. Real progress in the diagnosis and treatment of atherosclerotic disease will be made when research focuses on the association between imaging features of atherosclerosis and imaging endpoints like brain infarcts, rather than on the association between clinical determinants and clinical outcomes.
8. More important than studying carotid atherosclerosis patients, is studying these patients when they are still asymptomatic. Establishing the natural history of atherosclerotic plaque will enable preventive treatment instead of 'damage control'.
9. It takes at least one year for a radiology fellow to become expert in reading coronary CT-angiography.
10. MRI physics can not be learned using donkey bridges.
11. Shimon Peres once said: "If you want to serve the future, don't be afraid to belong to a minority". I am proud to belong to the Amazigh people.