



Plenary Lecture 3,4

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Are Relaxation Times Useful?

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T1 and T2 weighted images provide the exquisite soft tissue contrast which has made MRI the technique of choice for most clinical applications in brain. Since the early days of MRI, numerous investigators have believed that accurate measurement of T1 and T2 times could provide additional more specific information about brain pathology. While there has been significant progress, relaxation time measurements are still rarely, if ever, used in the clinic although there have been many interesting research applications.

This talk will cover the most accurate ways to measure T1 and T2 times, review current understanding about what determines these times and highlight a few interesting applications of relaxation time measurements.

Finally, there will be speculations about the future research and clinical value of T1 and T2 times.

Keywords: T1 and T2 relaxation, brain pathology