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1 **Preclinical validation of [¹⁸F]2FNQ1P as a specific PET radiotracer of 5-HT₆ receptors**
2 **in rat, pig, non-human primate and human brain tissue**

3
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13

14 **Abbreviated title:** [¹⁸F]2FNQ1P, a 5-HT₆ PET radiotracer

15

16 **Key words:** PET radiotracer development; serotonin; 5-HT₆ receptor

17

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21

22 **Abstract**

23 **Introduction** The aim of this study was to perform in-vitro and in -vivo radiopharmacological
24 characterizations of [¹⁸F]2FNQ1P, a new PET radiotracer of 5-HT₆ receptors, in rat, pig, non-
25 human primate and human tissues. The 5-HT₆ receptor is one of the more recently identified
26 serotonin receptors in central nervous system and, because of its role in memory and cognitive
27 processes, is considered as a promising therapeutic target.

28 **Methods** In-vitro autoradiography and saturation binding assays were performed in
29 postmortem brain tissues from rat, pig, non-human primate and human caudate nucleus,
30 completed by serum stability assessment in all species and cerebral radiometabolite and
31 biodistribution studies in rat.

32 **Results** In all species, autoradiography data revealed high binding levels of [¹⁸F]2FNQ1P in
33 cerebral regions with high 5-HT₆ receptor density. Binding was blocked by addition of
34 SB258585 as a specific antagonist. Binding assays provided K_D and B_{max} values of
35 respectively 1.34 nM and 0.03 pmol.mg⁻¹ in rat, 0.60 nM and 0.04 pmol.mg⁻¹ in pig, 1.38 nM
36 and 0.07 pmol.mg⁻¹ in non-human primate, and 1.39 nM and 0.15 pmol.mg⁻¹ in human caudate
37 nucleus. In rat brain, the proportion of unmetabolized [¹⁸F]2FNQ1P was greater than 99% 5
38 minutes after iv injection and 89% at 40 minutes. The biodistribution studies found maximal
39 radioactivity in lungs and kidneys (3.5 ± 1.2% ID/g and 2.0 ± 0.7% ID/g, respectively, 15 min
40 post-injection).

41 **Conclusion** These radiopharmacological data confirm that [¹⁸F]2FNQ1P is a specific
42 radiotracer for molecular imaging of 5-HT₆ receptors and suggest that it could be used as a
43 radiopharmaceutical in humans.

44

45

46 **Introduction**

47 Serotonin (5-HT) is a neurotransmitter involved in a variety of central nervous system (CNS)
48 functions and behaviors, including sleep, cognitive processes, nociception, appetite and
49 sexuality [1].

50 Serotonin receptor subtype-6 of (5-HT₆) is one of the more recently identified serotonin
51 receptors, first in rat striatum [2,3] and then in human brain [4]. It is a G-protein-coupled
52 receptor that has recently emerged as a new target for neuropsychopharmacology. 5-HT₆
53 receptor is expressed in the CNS, playing a vital role in memory and cognitive processes [5,6]
54 and in the regulation of food intake [7,8], reinforcing its status as an emerging target in
55 dementia and obesity therapy.

56 Distribution in humans is mainly in the striatum, but also prefrontal cortex and hippocampus
57 [9,10]. It was also shown that the 5-HT₆ receptor is expressed at neuronal level in striatum, on
58 astrocytes and pyramidal neurons of the cortex and on pyramidal neurons of the hippocampus.
59 It therefore seems that the human 5-HT₆ receptor is expressed in different cell types
60 depending on the brain region studied. 5-HT₆ receptors in the CNS are exclusively expressed
61 in regions that play a key role in cognitive processes [11,12]. In preclinical studies, 5-HT₆
62 receptor antagonists were shown to improve cognitive performance [13,14]; recent clinical
63 studies failed to confirm the pro-cognitive effects of 5-HT₆ antagonists idalopirdine and
64 SAM-760 in Alzheimer's disease [15,16], but other 5-HT₆ receptor antagonists are still being
65 investigated, such as SUVN-502, currently in Phase II trials [17]. Paradoxically, 5-HT₆
66 receptor agonists have also been shown to have cognitive-enhancing properties [18,19].

67 In this context, the development of a new 5-HT₆ radiopharmaceutical for positron emission
68 tomography (PET) seems relevant. PET is an imaging modality used in nuclear medicine to

69 study the function and neurochemistry of the human brain that relies on injection of a specific
70 radiotracer [20–22]. PET provides incomparable molecular specificity and sensitivity in
71 imaging, shedding light on pathophysiological mechanisms involving serotonergic receptors
72 or evaluating the pharmacological action of new drug candidates [23–26]. Several PET
73 radiotracers have already been developed for serotonin receptor imaging, but there are as yet
74 no in-vivo biomarkers that unequivocally distinguish serotonin receptor subtype 6. Some
75 teams addressed this by synthesizing different compounds: [¹⁸F]12ST05 is non-specific for
76 5HT₆R [27] and [¹¹C] GSK215083 is not selective (with affinity for 5-HT_{2A}) [28].
77 [¹¹C]399885 has low cerebral penetration [29], which makes it incompatible with peripheral
78 injection. Currently, no specific fluorinated radiotracer is available for PET imaging of 5-HT₆
79 receptors in humans [30]. A specific radiotracer suitable for routine medical use could
80 confirm 5-HT₆ receptor involvement in cognitive disorders and many pathologies [31],
81 enabling monitoring of disease progression, to optimize future treatments. Our laboratory
82 recently proposed a radiotracer-candidate, 2FNQ1P, inspired by the quinolone core of
83 GSK215083 and proposed as the first ¹⁸F-labeled radiotracer capable of specific and selective
84 binding to 5HT₆R. In initial studies, the cerebral distribution of [¹⁸F]2FNQ1P was analyzed in
85 several animal models[23,32,33]. The present article completes the radiopharmacological and
86 pharmacokinetics knowledge of [¹⁸F]2FNQ1P and provides new experimental data obtained
87 in postmortem rat, pig, non-human primate and human caudate tissues.

88

89 **Materials and Methods**

90 *[¹⁸F]2FNQ1P radiosynthesis*

91 2FNQ1P precursor was synthesized in the Institute of Chemistry and Biochemistry (Lyon,
92 France), and radiolabeling was performed in the radiopharmacy unit of the CERMEP imaging

93 platform, according to our recently published protocol [32,33]. Quality control consisted in
94 determining radiochemical purity and molar activity by analytical HPLC assay of an aliquot
95 of the radiolabeled product, with comparison to the calibration curve generated from solutions
96 at known concentrations.

97

98 *Drugs*

99 Cyclosporin (Sandimmun[®]), used to inhibit the P-glycoprotein (P-gp), was obtained from
100 Novartis. SB258585 hydrochloride, a 5-HT₆ serotonin receptor antagonist, was obtained from
101 Sigma-Aldrich.

102

103 *Animals and human tissues*

104 Adult male Sprague-Dawley rats (Charles River Laboratories; 250g ± 50 g) and two pigs (30-
105 35 kg) were used. Two healthy male cynomolgus monkeys (*Macaca fascicularis*), 4 and 5
106 years old (young adults) and weighing 4 and 7 kg respectively, were used. All studies were
107 carried out in accordance with European Communities Council Directive (2°10/63/EU) and
108 the recommendations of the French National Committee (2013/113) and local animal ethics
109 committee (CELYNE, C2EA-43). For the in-vitro part of the study, following the “3Rs” rule
110 (Reduction, Refinement, and Replacement) rule for animal experimentation, frozen tissues
111 from previous studies were used [23,33].

112 Fresh tissues and adjacent unstained frozen slides (30µm-thickness) from healthy human
113 caudates were obtained respectively from the Medical Research Council (Lyon) bank
114 (CardioBioTec, Lyon Hospitals) and Medical Research Council (London) Neurodegenerative
115 Diseases Brain Bank after approval by the hospital department’s review committee.

116

117 *In-vitro autoradiography*

118 In-vitro autoradiography study was performed on brain tissues from rats (n=2), pigs (n=2),
119 non-human primates (n=2) and human caudates (healthy controls, n=3). Briefly, adjacent 30
120 μm -coronal brain slices unfixed by paraformaldehyde were mounted on glass slides, and
121 allowed to air-dry before storage at -80°C until use. On the day of radiotracer synthesis, the
122 slides were allowed to reach room temperature and were then incubated for 60 min in a buffer
123 containing 50 mM Tris-HCl, 10 μM pargyline, 5 mM MgCl_2 , 5 mM ascorbate and 0.5 mM
124 EDTA (pH 7.4), and 37 kBq/mL [^{18}F]2FNQ1P. For competition experiments, the slides were
125 placed in the same buffer supplemented with SB258585 at a concentration of 1 μM . After
126 incubation, slides were dipped in cold buffer (4°C), then in cold distilled water (4°C), and
127 dried and placed on a phosphor imaging plate for 60 min (BAS-5000; Fujifilm).

128

129 *In-vitro binding assays*

130 Caudate tissues from adult rat (n=1), pig (n=2), non-human primate (n=1) and healthy
131 controls (n=3) were used. Tissues were preserved in phosphate-buffered saline (PBS) EDTA
132 0.1% with buffer (50 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.4 at 25°C). Homogenates were centrifuged for 20
133 minutes at 35,000 g (Discovery M150 SE ultracentrifuge, Hitachi). The pellet was
134 resuspended in 50 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.4 at 25°C) and incubated for 15 minutes at 37°C .
135 Following two further centrifugation steps (as above), the membranes were finally
136 resuspended and stored at -80°C until use. Brain tissues were preserved in a buffer containing
137 50 mM Tris-HCl, 10 μM pargyline, 5 mM MgCl_2 , 5 mM ascorbate and 0.5 mM EDTA (pH
138 7.4). Binding assay used 50 μL displacing compound (SB258585 1 μM) or buffer, 100 μL
139 membrane suspension (corresponding to approximately 60 μg protein per well of brain tissue)
140 and 50 μL [^{18}F]2FNQ1P (molar activity, 59.2 GBq/ μmol). [^{18}F]2FNQ1P was used at a

141 concentration of 0.05 to 10 nM. Membranes were incubated with the radioligand at 25°C for
142 60 minutes. Bound radiolabeled tracer was separated from free tracer by filtration under
143 reduced pressure (Multiscreen HTS-FB, Millipore). Filters were washed 6 times with 200 µL
144 PBS. Washed filters were assayed for radioactivity by γ -counter (Gamma Wizard 2480,
145 Perkin Elmer).

146

147 *Serum stability study*

148 The serum stability study was carried out using a procedure similar to that described by
149 Kronauge et al. [34]. In all species, 3.0-3.7 MBq of [¹⁸F]2FNQ1P in 20 µL 10% ethanol/PBS
150 was added to 200 µL of serum in a borosilicate culture tube equilibrated to 37°C in a water
151 bath. The tubes were shaken and the samples were placed back in the water bath. At time
152 points t=0 and t=2h, enzymatic hydrolysis was stopped by addition of cold (4°C) absolute
153 ethanol (1 mL); the samples were cooled in an ice bath to precipitate serum proteins and
154 centrifuged (15 min, 2500×g, 4°C), and the supernatant was analyzed by HPLC.

155

156 *Brain metabolite analysis*

157 Rats (n=2 per step) were anesthetized by intraperitoneal injection of urethane (1.25 g/kg) and
158 a catheter was inserted in the caudal vein. The rats were pre-injected with cyclosporin (50
159 mg/kg i.v., 30 min prior to administration of ~~15.0 ± 0.5 mg~~ [¹⁸F]2FNQ1P). The rats were
160 killed by decapitation 5, 10, 20 or 40 min after bolus injection of [¹⁸F]2FNQ1P (36 ± 2 MBq).
161 The brains were carefully removed; each hemisphere was homogenized in 400 µL perchloric
162 acid at 0.4 mol/L and centrifuged at 1,000 g for 10 min. The supernatant was neutralized by
163 120 µL 4 M potassium acetate and filtered (0.45 µm) before HPLC. The HPLC system
164 consisted of a C-18 reversed phase column (C18 Nucleodur 5 µm, 4.6 × 250 mm column;

165 elution with H₃PO₄ (20 mM) 77%/THF 23%) at a flow rate of 0.9 mL.min⁻¹. During elution,
166 1-min fractions were collected and counted for radioactivity with an automated γ -counter
167 (Gamma Wizard 2480, Perkin Elmer).

168

169 *Biodistribution studies*

170 Rats (n=4 per step) were anesthetized by intraperitoneal injection of urethane (1.25 g/kg) and
171 a catheter was inserted in the caudal vein. **56 \pm 19 MBq were injected per rats (represented**
172 **0.65 \pm 0.22 nmol of radiotracer).** Rats were euthanized at selected times up to 1 h after
173 injection (15, 30, 45 min and 1h) by decapitation, and blood was immediately collected by
174 cardiac puncture. Different samples from each rat were measured with a γ -counter (Gamma
175 Wizard 2480, Perkin Elmer).

176

177 *Data analysis*

178 In radioligand binding studies, K_D and B_{max} values were calculated using GraphPad Prism
179 software (Graph Pad Software, Prism 6). **B_{max} values were expressed in pmol of [¹⁸F]2FNQ1P**
180 **per mg of protein.** Data were expressed as mean \pm standard error of mean (SEM) of at least
181 three separate experiments.

182

183 **Results**

184 *[¹⁸F]2FNQ1P radiosynthesis and quality controls*

185 Automated radiolabeling of 2FNQ1P leading to [¹⁸F]2FNQ1P was performed from its nitro-
186 precursor at 150°C in DMSO, on a Neptis synthesizer, with a radiochemical yield range of

187 25-36% corrected for decay and 72-78 min radiosynthesis time (including HPLC purification
188 and formulation) (Fig.1). No radioactive by-products were observed and the HPLC conditions
189 ensured good separation of the radiotracer from its nitro-precursor, as confirmed on quality
190 control. Radiochemical purity was better than 99% and [¹⁸F]2FNQ1P molar activity was
191 between 264 and 372 GBq/μmol, corrected at end of synthesis.

192

193 *In-vitro autoradiography*

194 The autoradiography experiments revealed [¹⁸F]2FNQ1P binding to various brain regions in
195 postmortem tissues for all species (Fig. 2).

196 In rat and non-human primate, binding levels were especially high in the frontal cortex,
197 cingulate cortex, basal ganglia, hippocampus and thalamus. In pig, binding levels were high in
198 the frontal cortex and high-to-moderate in putamen and hippocampus. In these three species,
199 binding levels were lower in other cortical regions. In human caudate, autoradiography data
200 showed wide-scale binding. Uptake was ~~substantially~~ diminished from 20 to 40 % in all
201 regions after competition with SB258585 at 1 μM (Fig. 2). These results demonstrated the
202 sensitivity of [¹⁸F]2FNQ1P toward 5-HT₆ receptors.

203

204 *In-vitro binding assays*

205 [¹⁸F]2FNQ1P bound with high affinity to 5-HT₆ receptors localized in various caudate
206 membranes in rats, pigs, non-human primates and healthy controls. Saturation analysis of
207 [¹⁸F]2FNQ1P binding to native 5-HT₆ receptors revealed a single binding site in all species
208 (Fig.3). Non-specific binding was shown in presence of SB258585 at 1 μM. Radioligand
209 equilibrium dissociation constants (K_D) were 1.34 nM in rat, 0.60 ± 0.09 nM in pig, 1.38 nM

210 in non-human primate, and 1.39 ± 0.46 nM in healthy controls. Total receptor density (B_{\max})
211 in the various tissues was 0.03 pmol.mg⁻¹ in rat, 0.04 ± 0.01 pmol.mg⁻¹ in pig, 0.07 pmol.mg⁻¹
212 in non-human primate, and 0.15 ± 0.05 pmol.mg⁻¹ in healthy controls. Examples of saturation
213 binding curves and Scatchard plots are shown in Fig.3.

214

215 *Serum stability study*

216 The data clearly showed that [¹⁸F]2FNQ1P was not hydrolyzed at t=2h in comparison with
217 t=0 in rat, pig, non-human primate and human sera. Stability in human serum at each time
218 point is seen in the chromatogram in Figure 4. As expected, there was no decomposition of
219 the control sample in PBS.

220

221 *Brain metabolite analysis*

222 With pre-injection of cyclosporin, the radiochromatograms of brain activity in rat plasma at
223 various times (5, 10, 20 and 40 min) after injection of [¹⁸F]2FNQ1P showed negligible
224 amounts of radioactive metabolite. The amount of radioactivity from unmetabolized
225 [¹⁸F]2FNQ1P was greater than 99.5% at 5 min and decreased to 98.8% at 10 min, 95.5% at 20
226 min and 88.6% at 40 min (Fig.5).

227

228 *Biodistribution studies*

229 The concentration of radioactivity in rat tissues (%ID/g) at selected times after i.v. injection of
230 [¹⁸F]2FNQ1P (44.5 ± 9 MBq) is shown Fig.6. Concentration was highest in the lungs (up to
231 $3.5 \pm 1.2\%$ ID/g) and kidneys (up to $2.0 \pm 0.7\%$ ID/g) at 15 minutes post-injection, but
232 decreased over a 60 minute period to $0.7 \pm 0.1\%$ ID/g and $0.9 \pm 0.1\%$ ID/g, respectively. The

233 next highest concentrations were in the spleen, liver and intestines ($1.3 \pm 0.1\%ID/g$, 1.2 ± 0.5
234 $\%ID/g$, and $0.8 \pm 0.2 \%ID/g$ at 15 minutes post-injection, respectively), and were stable after
235 60 minutes. There was no accumulation of radioactivity in bone (0.3 to $0.2\%ID/g$). Uptake
236 was low ($\leq 0.1\%ID/g$) in the brains of healthy rats at all time points.

237

238

239 **Discussion**

240 There is currently no specific fluorinated antagonist of 5-HT₆ receptors available for clinical
241 PET imaging. In this context, our team developed [¹⁸F]2FNQ1P as the first 5-HT₆ antagonist
242 PET radiotracer for imaging [33]. The initial strategy was to select [¹⁸F]2FNQ1P for its 5-HT₆
243 receptor affinity and selectivity toward 5-HT_{2A} receptors, as determined on CHO cells [32]. It
244 is now necessary to have more in-vitro data in order to better understand the characteristics of
245 this radiopharmaceutical candidate, particularly with a view to future use in humans.

246 The present study systematically evaluated the pharmacokinetics of [¹⁸F]2FNQ1P and
247 explored its potential for PET imaging in different species and human tissues. Results
248 confirmed that [¹⁸F]2FNQ1P is a high-affinity reversible radioligand for 5-HT₆ receptors. In
249 rat, pig, non-human primate brain and human caudate, autoradiography assay showed 5-HT₆
250 receptor distributions similar to those in the literature [35–37]. ~~The few differences in binding~~
251 ~~site concentrations in the present study may be attributable to the poorer resolution of the~~
252 ~~autoradiographic assay in comparison with immunohistochemistry.~~ To further confirm the
253 binding specificity of [¹⁸F]2FNQ1P for 5-HT₆ receptors, in-vitro displacement experiments
254 were performed by treatment with unlabeled SB258585 as a selective 5-HT₆ receptor
255 antagonist. A previous study had demonstrated that [¹²⁵I]SB258585 binding matched the brain

256 localization of 5-HT₆ receptors reasonably closely [38]. The present study showed strong
257 displacement, indicating high binding specificity of [¹⁸F]2FNQ1P for 5-HT₆ receptors.

258 [¹⁸F]2FNQ1P's high affinity for 5-HT₆ receptors was confirmed on in-vitro binding assay.
259 Pharmacokinetic analysis showed that [¹⁸F]2FNQ1P binds with nanomolar affinity ($K_D \approx 1$
260 nM) to a single binding site in membranes prepared from rat, pig, non-human primate and
261 healthy controls. These results confirmed those previously obtained with recombinant human
262 5-HT₆ receptors ($K_i=0.9$ nM) [32]. In addition, the binding site density in a sample of healthy
263 control caudate tissue was concordant with the 5-HT₆ receptor density reported in the
264 literature [38,39].

265 The pharmacological profile of [¹⁸F]2FNQ1P as a novel 5-HT₆ receptor PET radiotracer did
266 not show any notable differences between rat, pig, non-human primate and human tissue,
267 suggesting that the radiopharmacological properties of the 5-HT₆ receptor are conserved
268 between species. The 5-HT₆ subtype is one of the most recently cloned serotonin receptors
269 [2,3,40], with 89% amino acid sequence homology between humans and rats [4]. In the serum
270 stability study, [¹⁸F]2FNQ1P was stable in all species in vitro.

271 Brain metabolite analyses are a crucial step in the development of a new radiotracer. In the
272 case of [¹⁸F]2FNQ1P, our previous study revealed a lack of brain penetration in the rat model
273 [33]. We proposed that blood-brain P-gp interacts with [¹⁸F]2FNQ1P and strongly regulates
274 its brain penetration [41]. The lack of brain penetration in the rodent model is not
275 disqualifying for future radiopharmaceutical application, given the evidence of good brain
276 penetration in larger animals, including non-human primates [20,23,33]. It was nevertheless
277 useful to check whether the radiotracer tends to be found in metabolized form in the brain.
278 Because of the invasiveness of ex-vivo measurement in brain tissue, this approach can only be
279 used in small animals. We therefore pretreated rats with cyclosporin, used here as a P-gp

280 inhibitor [41], in order to reach a significant concentration of [¹⁸F]2FNQ1P in the brain. The
281 amount of total radioactivity was found to correspond mainly to unmetabolized [¹⁸F]2FNQ1P,
282 even at the latest time point of 40 min post-injection, ruling out any significant contribution of
283 radiometabolites to brain uptake. These results showed that [¹⁸F]2FNQ1P is also very stable
284 in the brain, more than 88% being intact even 40 min after probe injection. This indicates that
285 [¹⁸F]2FNQ1P radiometabolites in plasma do not greatly cross the BBB, a characteristic
286 favourable to the specificity of brain targeting.

287 In the whole body biodistribution study, the bone radioactivity accumulation of a fluorinated
288 radiotracer is a very sensitive index of defluorination [42,43]. In the present case, there was no
289 in-vivo bone accumulation of radioactivity between 15 and 60 minutes post-injection (0.29 to
290 0.16% ID/g). Biodistribution studies highlighted tissue-dependent [¹⁸F]2FNQ1P accumulation
291 rates. The highest radioactivity concentrations were found in kidney and liver, probably due to
292 their involvement in the metabolism and excretion of the injected exogenous compound.
293 Tracer fixation in lung can be explained by the presence of 5-HT₆ receptors in this organ. A
294 study demonstrated high expression of 5-HT₆ receptors in the murine airway, tracheal muscle,
295 main bronchus and lung [44]; the brain showed a very low tissue concentration, confirming
296 that [¹⁸F]2FNQ1P was not able to penetrate rat brain (0.11 to 0.05%ID/g).

297 Finally, these encouraging results, added to those of a previous PET study in non-human
298 primate [23], confirm the selectivity of [¹⁸F]2FNQ1P toward 5-HT₆ receptors and reinforce
299 the idea that this radiotracer has a pharmacological profile suitable for in-vivo study in
300 humans. [¹⁸F]2FNQ1P **could** be useful tool for studying 5-HT₆ receptor density and
301 distribution in animal disease models and in human brains from patients suffering from
302 schizophrenia or Alzheimer's disease.

303

304 **Conclusions**

305 The interest of the development of a new PET radiotracer for 5-HT₆ receptors no longer needs
306 to be demonstrated [45]. According to the experimental data available on [¹⁸F]2FNQ1P, it
307 may be useful for imaging 5-HT₆ receptors. The present study described the characterization
308 of [¹⁸F]2FNQ1P, which selectively binds to native 5-HT₆ receptors with high affinity. Future
309 experiments, such as in-vivo radiometabolite analyses with input functions and imaging
310 studies in non-human primates or humans, should demonstrate the suitability of [¹⁸F]2FNQ1P
311 as a new PET radiotracer.

312

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320

321 **Conflict of Interest Statement**

322 The authors declared no potential conflicts of interest with respect to the research, authorship,
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324

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455

456

457 **Fig. 1.** Synthesis of [¹⁸F]2FNQ1P

458

459 **Fig. 2.** Representative in-vitro autoradiograms of [¹⁸F]2FNQ1P binding in rat (A), pig (B),
460 non-human primate (C) and human brain tissues (D) (sagittal brain sections for pig, coronal
461 brain sections for rat and non-human primate, and caudate sections for healthy controls).
462 [¹⁸F]2FNQ1P distribution in cerebral regions was processed under baseline condition (total
463 binding) and in presence of cold SB258585 (non-specific binding) (at 1μM). **Arrows show**
464 **frontal cortex (FC), cingulate cortex (Cg), caudate (Cd), putamen (Pu) and hippocampus**
465 **(HIP).**

466

467 **Fig. 3.** In-vitro binding assays in rat (A), pig (B), non-human primate (C), and human caudate
468 (D). Examples of saturation binding curves and Scatchard plots of [¹⁸F]2FNQ1P binding to
469 caudate membrane.

470

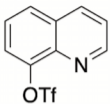
471 **Fig. 4.** Human serum stability. HPLC analysis of [¹⁸F]2FNQ1P following in-vitro incubation
472 at 37°C at t=0 (red curve) and at t= 2h (blue curve) showed radiotracer stability for up to 2h in
473 human serum.

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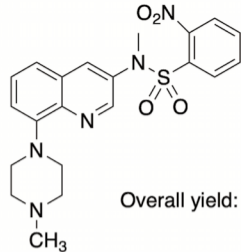
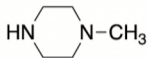
475 **Fig.5.** Brain metabolite analysis. Radiochromatogram of radioactivity from 5 to 40 min after
476 intravenous pre-injection of cyclosporin and injection of [¹⁸F]2FNQ1P in rat. The main
477 amount of radioactivity was eluted between 6 and 7 min, corresponding to the unmetabolized
478 radiotracer (n=2).

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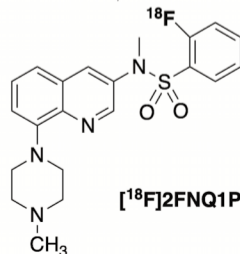
480 **Fig.6.** Biodistribution of [¹⁸F]2FNQ1P in rat at selected times up to 1 h after i.v. injection (tail
481 vein) expressed as percentage injected dose per gram of tissue (%ID/g, mean and standard
482 deviation, n=4).



- 1) NIS, AcOH, 80°C
- 2) sulfonamide, CuI (1eq.), Cs₂CO₃ (2.5 eq.), DMSO, 100°C
- 3) MeI, Cs₂CO₃, DMF
- 4) Pd₂dba₃ (5%), XPhos (10%), Cs₂CO₃, Dioxane, 95°C



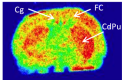
[¹⁸F]KF, K[2.2.2]
DMSO, 150°C
10 min.



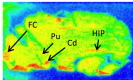
Radiochemical yield (EOB) = 25-36% (n=14)
A_m (EOS) = 264-372 GBq.μmol⁻¹
(Overall time : 72-78 min)

Control

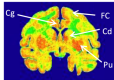
A



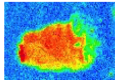
B



C



D

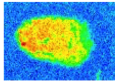
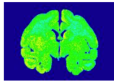
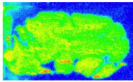
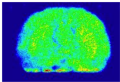


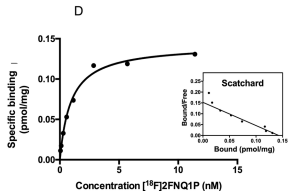
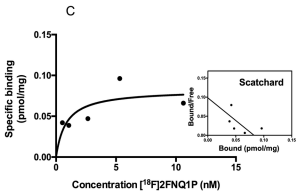
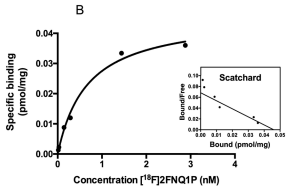
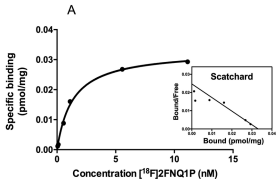
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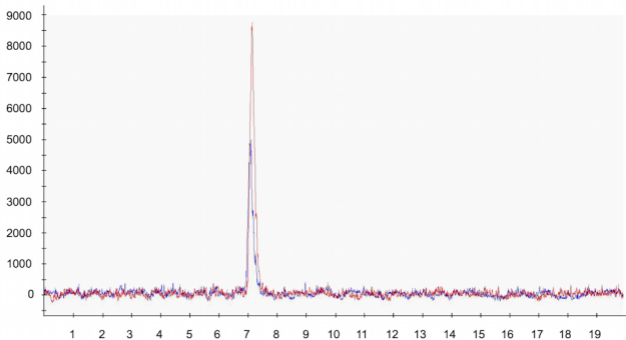
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+ SB258585



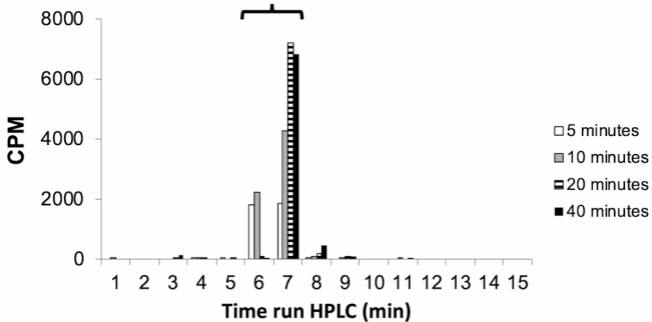


Radioactivity (arbitrary units)



Min

[¹⁸F]2FNQ1P



% ID/g

