

# Regional Kinetic Constants and Cerebral Metabolic Rate for Glucose in Normal Human Volunteers Determined by Dynamic Positron Emission Tomography of [ $^{18}\text{F}$ ]-2-Fluoro-2-deoxy-D-glucose

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**Summary:** Using dynamic [ $^{18}\text{F}$ ]fluorodeoxyglucose (FDG) positron emission tomography with a high-resolution, seven-slice positron camera, the kinetic constants of the original three-compartment model of Sokoloff and co-workers (1977) were determined in 43 distinct topographic brain regions of seven healthy male volunteers aged 28–38 years. Regional averages of the cerebral metabolic rate for glucose ( $\text{CMR}_{\text{glu}}$ ) were calculated both from individually fitted rate constants ( $\text{CMR}_{\text{glu}}^{\text{kinetic}}$ ) and from activity maps recorded 30–40 min after FDG injection, employing a four-parameter operational equation with standard rate constants from the literature ( $\text{CMR}_{\text{glu}}^{\text{autoradiographic}}$ ). Metabolic rates and kinetic constants varied significantly among regions and subjects, but not between hemispheres.  $k_1$  ranged between  $0.0485 \pm 0.00778 \text{ min}^{-1}$  in the oval center and  $0.0990 \pm 0.01347 \text{ min}^{-1}$  in the primary visual cortex.  $k_2$  ranged from  $0.1198 \pm 0.01533 \text{ min}^{-1}$  in the temporal white matter to  $0.1472 \pm 0.01817 \text{ min}^{-1}$  in the cerebellar dentate nucleus.  $k_3$  was lowest ( $0.0386 \pm 0.01482 \text{ min}^{-1}$ ) in temporal white matter and highest ( $0.0823 \pm 0.02552 \text{ min}^{-1}$ ) in the caudate nucleus. Maximum likelihood cluster analysis revealed four homogeneous groups of

brain regions according to their respective kinetic constants: (1) white matter and mixed brainstem structures; (2) cerebellar gray matter and hippocampal formations; (3) basal ganglia and frontolateral and primary visual cortex; and (4) other cerebral cortex and thalamus. Across the entire brain,  $k_1$  and  $k_2$  were positively correlated ( $r = 0.79$ );  $k_1$  and  $k_3$  showed some correlation ( $r = 0.59$ ); but no significant linear association was found between  $k_2$  and  $k_3$ . A strong correlation with  $\text{CMR}_{\text{glu}}$  could be demonstrated for  $k_1$  ( $r = 0.88$ ) and  $k_3$  ( $r = 0.90$ ), but  $k_2$  was loosely correlated ( $r = 0.56$ ).  $\text{CMR}_{\text{glu}}^{\text{kinetic}}$  ranged from  $17.0 \pm 2.45 \text{ } \mu\text{mol}/100 \text{ g}/\text{min}$  in the occipital white matter to  $41.1 \pm 5.62 \text{ } \mu\text{mol}/100 \text{ g}/\text{min}$  in the frontolateral cortex. In most regions the mean values of  $\text{CMR}_{\text{glu}}^{\text{kinetic}}$  did not differ significantly from  $\text{CMR}_{\text{glu}}^{\text{autoradiographic}}$ . With few exceptions, however, within-region variance was significantly less for  $\text{CMR}_{\text{glu}}^{\text{kinetic}}$  than for  $\text{CMR}_{\text{glu}}^{\text{autoradiographic}}$ , suggesting greater individual reliability of results obtained by the kinetic approach. **Key Words:** Cluster analysis—Dynamic positron emission tomography—[ $^{18}\text{F}$ ]-2-Fluoro-2-deoxy-D-glucose—Normal values—Regional cerebral glucose metabolism—Regional rate constants.

Advanced multislice equipment for positron emission tomography (PET) with improved spatial resolution permits the determination of isotope concentrations in rather small brain regions. Using the [ $^{18}\text{F}$ ]-2-fluoro-2-deoxy-D-glucose (FDG) method, the cerebral metabolic rate for glucose ( $\text{CMR}_{\text{glu}}$ ) can be estimated (Reivich et al., 1979) in distinct anatom-

ical structures of the central nervous system. Those computations commonly have been based on a standard lumped constant and on rate constants determined in healthy volunteers for gray and white matter regardless of regional variability. It is to be expected, though, that differences in the cytoarchitecture and function of cortex, basal ganglia, cerebellum, and brainstem are paralleled by differences in the kinetic constants for transport and metabolism characteristic of the respective structures. Therefore, estimates of metabolic rates obtained with standard rate constants derived mainly from cortical tissue and the oval center may be substantially biased, especially in deeper brain regions. Al-

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**Abbreviations used:**  $\text{CMR}_{\text{glu}}$ , cerebral metabolic rate for glucose; CT, computerized tomography; FDG, [ $^{18}\text{F}$ ]-2-fluoro-2-deoxy-D-glucose; FWHM, full width at half-maximum; PET, positron emission tomography.

though the lumped constant has not been measured regionally in humans, the error caused by employing inappropriate standard rate constants can be minimized. It was the purpose of this study to determine individual kinetic constants in small brain regions of healthy volunteers by dynamic scanning to derive least biased estimates of  $CMR_{glu}$  for various parts of the central nervous system.

## METHODS

### Subjects

The study was performed on seven healthy male medical doctors aged 28–38 years, who were familiar with the examination procedure and showed only minimal tension, apprehension, or excitement. Volunteers were comfortably placed on a reclining chair in a room with low ambient light and noise, eyes closed and ears unplugged. Approximately 15 min before starting the examination, short catheters were inserted into one cubital vein for injection and into a vein of the contralateral hand that was subsequently kept in a thermostat-controlled water bath at 44°C for blood sampling as described by Phelps et al. (1979). Subjects were instructed to relax and not to move or speak during the study. All stayed awake and their plasma glucose levels, averaging  $5.4 \pm 0.48$  mmol/L, remained stable throughout the examination.

### Materials and scanning procedure

FDG of a specific activity of 10–20 mCi (370–740 MBq)/mg at the time of injection was synthesized according to the method of Ido et al. (1977) using a remote-controlled synthesis system (Barrio et al., 1981; Fowler et al., 1981). Radiochemical purity, as assessed by thin-layer chromatography, was >95%, the impurity being partly hydrolyzed protected glucopyranosylfluoride. Each subject received a rapid intravenous bolus injection of ~5 mCi FDG in 5 ml sterile, pyrogenfree, normal saline solution, and recording was started immediately. Seven equally spaced parallel planes, centered from the canthomeatal line up to 81 mm above it, were simultaneously scanned for 40 min at consecutive intervals, gradually increasing from 1 to 5 min, using a four-ring positron camera (Scanditronix PC 384) with a spatial resolution of ~8 mm full width at half-maximum (FWHM) in 11-mm slices (Eriksson et al., 1982). This procedure yielded dynamic information on tracer accumulation in virtually all major structures of the brain. During the last run, 35–40 min after FDG injection, the number of coincidence counts from the largest scanned slice was >1,300,000 in all cases. Data from the tomographic device and from a sample changer used for plasma counting, as well as

plasma glucose values determined in duplicate by a standard enzymatic method, were stored in the memory of a VAX 11/780 (DEC) computer for later processing.

### Image processing

The spatial activity distribution in the scanned slices was reconstructed employing: (1) an edge-finding algorithm to determine the skull contour for attenuation correction (Bergström et al., 1982); (2) a deconvolution for subtraction of scattered radiation (Bergström et al., 1983); and (3) a filtered backprojection algorithm. This resulted in a  $128 \times 128$  matrix that was displayed as an interpolated  $256 \times 256$  pixel image. Activities measured in tissue and in plasma were corrected for decay and adjusted by cross-calibration of the respective counters.

On each tomographic image an average of 15 regions of interest was outlined, representing distinct anatomical structures according to standard neuroanatomical and computerized tomography (CT) atlases (Matsui and Hirano, 1978) and individual X-ray CT scans. Cortical regions were largely contiguous, but great care was taken to keep the bias caused by partial volume effect at the borders between white and gray matter, or cerebrospinal fluid space, at a minimum. Larger topographic units were formed by lumping matching regions of interest from different slices. The model equation described by Sokoloff et al. (1977) was fitted to the time-activity data sequentially sampled within each of those regions, utilizing an advanced system for fast function minimization (James and Roos, 1976). In this fit procedure, only the tomographic information obtained after the third minute, i.e., after plasma concentration had dropped below tissue level (see Fig. 2), was used to exclude influences of bolus shape. In view of the small proportion of intracerebral vascular volume and the comparatively low plasma FDG concentration after the fourth minute, background activity in the tissue was considered negligible. Because measuring time was restricted to 40 min after FDG injection, no attempt was made to determine the dephosphorylation rate constant,  $k_4$  (Phelps et al., 1979). In addition to the dynamic approach, regional activities recorded 30–40 min after FDG injection were used to compute metabolic rates ( $CMR_{glu}$  autoradiographic) according to the *in vivo* autoradiographic method employing a four-parameter operational equation with standard rate constants (Phelps et al., 1979).

### Mathematical model

The Sokoloff model assumes three distinct compartments: FDG in plasma, tissue pool of free FDG, and FDG-6-phosphate trapped in the tissue. The temporal distribution of the regional tissue activity of  $^{18}F$ ,  $C_i^*$ , and the plasma FDG concentration as a function of time,  $C_p^*$ , are related by the rate constants  $k_1$ ,  $k_2$ , and  $k_3$ , describing the kinetics of regional FDG turnover:

$$C_i^*(\tau) = [k_1 k_3 / (k_2 + k_3)] \left\{ \int_0^\tau C_p^*(t) dt - \exp[-(k_2 + k_3)\tau] \int_0^\tau C_p^*(t) \exp[(k_2 + k_3)t] dt \right\} + k_1 \exp[-(k_2 + k_3)\tau] \int_0^\tau C_p^*(t) \exp[(k_2 + k_3)t] dt \quad (1)$$

In this operational equation the individual rate constants represent the transport of FDG from plasma to brain tissue ( $k_1$ ), back from tissue to plasma ( $k_2$ ), and FDG phosphorylation in the tissue ( $k_3$ ). Once the regional set of kinetic constants is known, the corresponding metabolic rate for glucose can be calculated according to

$$\text{CMR}_{\text{glu kinetic}} = \frac{C_p}{\text{LC}} \times \frac{k_1 k_3}{k_2 + k_3} \quad (2)$$

where  $C_p$  denotes plasma glucose concentration. In the present series an estimated average value of 0.42 (Huang et al., 1980) was used for the lumped constant, LC, to correct for differences in the behavior of glucose and FDG with respect to transport and phosphorylation.

### Statistical analysis

Reported averages represent the arithmetic mean  $\pm$  SD or, when indicated, the coefficient of variation. Rate constants as well as metabolic rates in all topographic regions, consisting of up to five contiguous regions of interest from various slices, were compared by means of factorial analyses of variance with regard to differences between corresponding regions on either hemisphere, among subjects and regions, and between methods of determining  $\text{CMR}_{\text{glu}}$ . Relative variance components were estimated following standard procedures applicable to mixed models, and tests of significance were performed according to the most conservative method described by Greenhouse and Geisser (1959) for unknown variance-covariance matrices. Instead of listing all simultaneous comparisons among regions, the 95% confidence limits of each region mean were computed to allow an inferential assessment of individual interregional differences. Variances were compared using a paired  $F$  test. To reduce the number of sets of regional kinetic constants for ease of future application, all compound topographic units were grouped into an optimum number of homogeneous classes by an iterative partitioning cluster analysis with maximum likelihood criterion (Mardia et al., 1979).

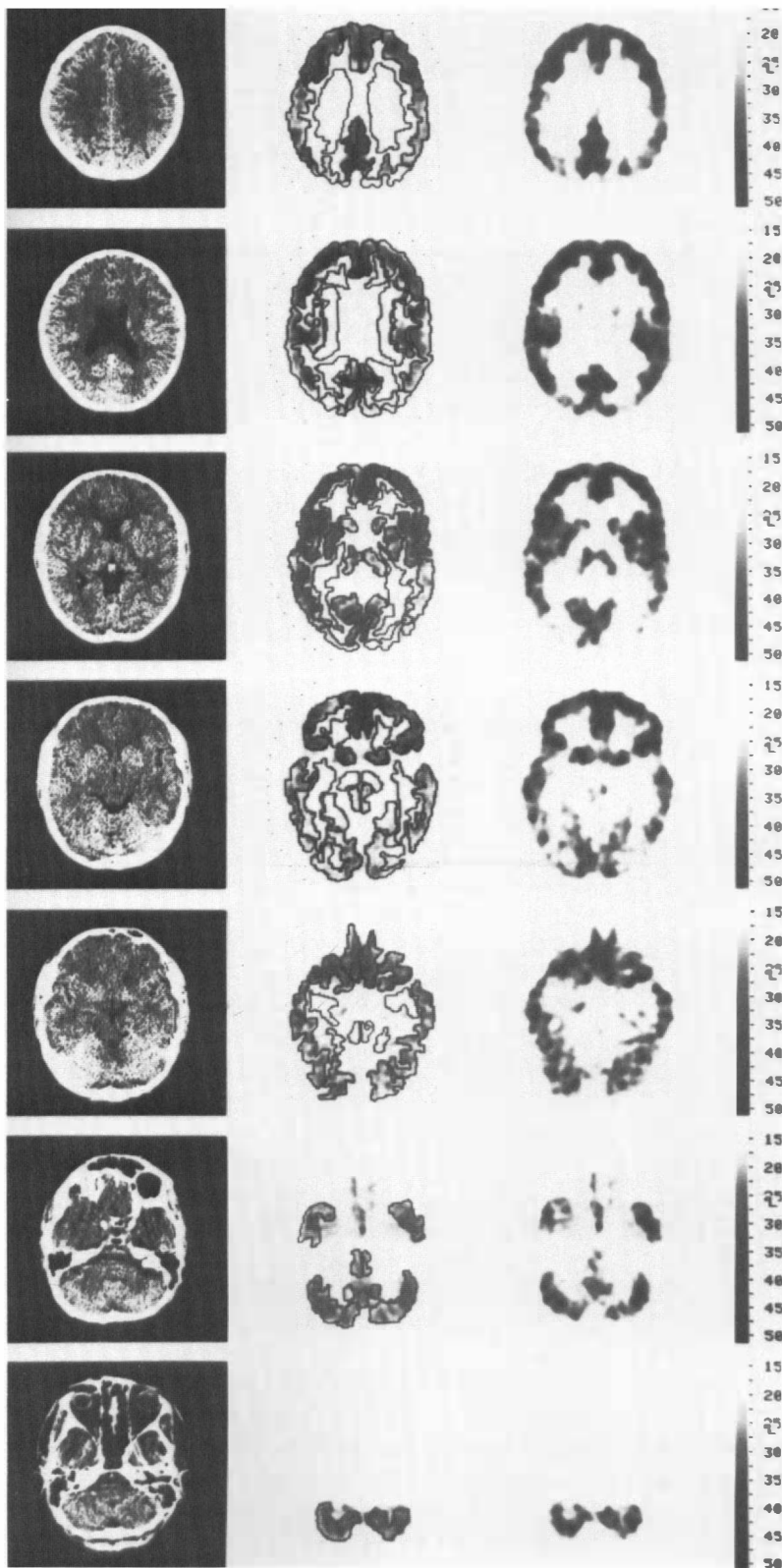
## RESULTS

Figure 1 shows typical regions of interest on seven transverse PET slices of a healthy volunteer in comparison with corresponding CT images. Similar cross-sectional images were obtained from all subjects, and in all of them major topographical units could easily be outlined. Decay-corrected  $^{18}\text{F}$  accumulation took a distinct time course in each of the selected regions, as demonstrated in Fig. 2 which shows original activity data, as well as fitted curves, in plasma and in some representative brain structures of the same individual.

Summary statistics on the fitted rate constants in 43 topographic regions are listed in Table 1. Since no significant asymmetries could be detected, data from corresponding regions of the two hemispheres were pooled. For all three  $k$  values, variation among subjects was highly significant ( $p < 0.001$ ) and contributed in variable proportion to the overall

variance. On the average,  $k_2$  showed the least scatter both among regions (range  $0.1198 \text{ min}^{-1}$  in temporal white matter to  $0.1472 \text{ min}^{-1}$  in dentate nucleus) and, as indicated by small coefficients of variation, among pooled subregions or subjects (range 8.0% in thalamus to 19.9% in cerebral peduncle). Although interregional differences in  $k_2$  were statistically significant ( $p < 0.05$ ), they accounted for only 12.3% of the total variation as compared with relative variance components of 34.1 and 52.5% owing to variation among subjects and within regions, respectively.  $k_1$ , by contrast, was more varied not only among regions ( $p < 0.001$ ; range  $0.0485 \text{ min}^{-1}$  in centrum semiovale to  $0.0990 \text{ min}^{-1}$  in primary visual cortex) but, to a lesser degree, also among subjects, with the average coefficient of variation ranging between 10.6% in vermis and 24.0% in occipital white matter. While the added variance component owing to interregional differences was 58.9%, variation among subjects contributed 24.0%, and within-region variability only 13.7% to the overall variance. The rate of transport from plasma to the tissue precursor pool was quite similar in cerebellum and supratentorial gray matter as opposed to white matter or mixed regions. The largest variation among structures, however, was found for  $k_3$  ( $p < 0.005$ ; range  $0.0386 \text{ min}^{-1}$  in temporal white matter to  $0.0822 \text{ min}^{-1}$  in caudate nucleus). Similarly, the average differences between corresponding regions of either hemisphere and among subjects were most marked for the latter rate constant, resulting in large coefficients of variation (range 9.1% in vermis to 43.5% in cerebral peduncle). Interregional variability of  $k_3$  added 36.4%, variation among subjects 26.9%, and within regions 31.6% to the total variance. The phosphorylation rate constant was comparable in posterior fossa structures and in cerebral white matter.

Figure 3 shows all 22 average topographic regions in three-dimensional rate-constant space. It also illustrates the maximum likelihood grouping obtained by cluster analysis, indicating an optimum of four classes of brain regions: one with the lowest  $k_1$  and  $k_3$  comprising all the white matter and brainstem structures; another one with  $k_1$  values similar to those of cerebral cortex and basal ganglia, but with rather high  $k_2$  and low  $k_3$  values, formed by cerebellar gray matter and hippocampal structures; a third group including the thalamus and most of the cerebral cortex; and one other, consisting of basal ganglia and the frontolateral and primary visual cortex, distinguished from the third class mainly by somewhat higher values for  $k_1$  and  $k_3$ . Some of the metric similarities within each cluster may not be



**FIG. 1.** X-ray computerized tomographic (left column) and corresponding [ $^{18}\text{F}$ ]-2-fluoro-2-deoxy-D-glucose positron emission tomographic (right column) images of seven equally spaced transaxial sections across the brain of a 35-year-old healthy male volunteer, from the canthomeatal line (bottom row) up to 81 mm above it (top row). Center column shows contours of all regions of interest superimposed on activity maps. Reference gray scales on metabolic maps indicate local cerebral metabolic rate for glucose according to *in vivo* autoradiographic model in  $\mu\text{mol}/100\text{ g}/\text{min}$ .

TABLE 1. Regional rate constants of Sokoloff model<sup>a</sup> in normal human subjects

Region (n)	Side	$k_1$					$k_2$	
		Mean $\pm$ SD (min <sup>-1</sup> )	Mean of both sides (min <sup>-1</sup> )	95% CL of mean (min <sup>-1</sup> )	Av. CV (%)	Av. difference between sides (mean $\pm$ SD) (% of larg- er value)	Mean $\pm$ SD (min <sup>-1</sup> )	Mean of both sides (min <sup>-1</sup> )
Cerebellar cortex (30)	R	0.0911 $\pm$ 0.01313	0.0906	0.0859–0.0954	14.1	3.4 $\pm$ 2.72	0.1421 $\pm$ 0.01375	0.1418
	L	0.0902 $\pm$ 0.01292					0.1416 $\pm$ 0.01277	
Dentate nucleus (23)	R	0.0896 $\pm$ 0.02108	0.0901	0.0825–0.0977	19.5	8.8 $\pm$ 5.60	0.1462 $\pm$ 0.02204	0.1472
	L	0.0906 $\pm$ 0.01467					0.1481 $\pm$ 0.01472	
Vermis (11)	M	0.0939 $\pm$ 0.01000	0.0939	0.0872–0.1006	10.6		0.1423 $\pm$ 0.01583	0.1423
Pons (18)	R	0.0674 $\pm$ 0.01177	0.0653	0.0599–0.0706	16.4	10.6 $\pm$ 6.85	0.1329 $\pm$ 0.02859	0.1312
	L	0.0631 $\pm$ 0.00976					0.1295 $\pm$ 0.01403	
Midbrain (24)	R	0.0711 $\pm$ 0.01024	0.0729	0.0688–0.0770	13.4	8.6 $\pm$ 4.82	0.1370 $\pm$ 0.01989	0.1412
	L	0.0746 $\pm$ 0.00937					0.1454 $\pm$ 0.02031	
Cerebral peduncle (14)	R	0.0671 $\pm$ 0.01083	0.0667	0.0608–0.0725	13.8	5.4 $\pm$ 4.36	0.1481 $\pm$ 0.02958	0.1351
	L	0.0662 $\pm$ 0.00830					0.1220 $\pm$ 0.01765	
Thalamus (14)	R	0.0905 $\pm$ 0.01131	0.0886	0.0828–0.0944	11.4	5.0 $\pm$ 2.76	0.1338 $\pm$ 0.01272	0.1329
	L	0.0867 $\pm$ 0.00923					0.1321 $\pm$ 0.00901	
Lentiform nucleus (22)	R	0.0953 $\pm$ 0.01989	0.0917	0.0837–0.0997	19.7	7.6 $\pm$ 5.30	0.1423 $\pm$ 0.01709	0.1382
	L	0.0881 $\pm$ 0.01616					0.1341 $\pm$ 0.01102	
Caudate nucleus (23)	R	0.0896 $\pm$ 0.01497	0.0880	0.0814–0.0946	17.4	6.0 $\pm$ 4.36	0.1378 $\pm$ 0.01996	0.1378
	L	0.0865 $\pm$ 0.01606					0.1379 $\pm$ 0.02406	
Frontal white matter (48)	R	0.0526 $\pm$ 0.01218	0.0527	0.0491–0.0562	23.1	8.4 $\pm$ 6.05	0.1202 $\pm$ 0.01838	0.1213
	L	0.0528 $\pm$ 0.01243					0.1223 $\pm$ 0.01652	
Temporal white matter (20)	R	0.0577 $\pm$ 0.01137	0.0590	0.0542–0.0638	17.5	9.4 $\pm$ 7.13	0.1171 $\pm$ 0.01439	0.1198
	L	0.0603 $\pm$ 0.00954					0.1225 $\pm$ 0.01651	
Occipital white matter (26)	R	0.0556 $\pm$ 0.01285	0.0544	0.0491–0.0597	24.0	9.3 $\pm$ 6.17	0.1274 $\pm$ 0.01931	0.1271
	L	0.0532 $\pm$ 0.01363					0.1268 $\pm$ 0.01473	
Oval center (24)	R	0.0491 $\pm$ 0.00771	0.0485	0.0452–0.0518	16.0	5.7 $\pm$ 4.18	0.1284 $\pm$ 0.01509	0.1251
	L	0.0479 $\pm$ 0.00815					0.1219 $\pm$ 0.01176	
Cingulate gyrus (38)	R	0.0953 $\pm$ 0.01295	0.0971	0.0936–0.1006	11.1	7.2 $\pm$ 7.16	0.1359 $\pm$ 0.01584	0.1366
	L	0.0989 $\pm$ 0.00801					0.1373 $\pm$ 0.01485	
Hippocampal structures (28)	R	0.0825 $\pm$ 0.01314	0.0833	0.0781–0.0884	15.9	6.2 $\pm$ 4.08	0.1434 $\pm$ 0.01075	0.1457
	L	0.0840 $\pm$ 0.01374					0.1480 $\pm$ 0.02514	
Frontomesial cortex (72)	R	0.0937 $\pm$ 0.01080	0.0923	0.0895–0.0951	12.7	5.4 $\pm$ 4.26	0.1407 $\pm$ 0.01326	0.1381
	L	0.0909 $\pm$ 0.01261					0.1355 $\pm$ 0.01408	
Frontolateral cortex (66)	R	0.0912 $\pm$ 0.01160	0.0901	0.0874–0.0928	12.1	5.2 $\pm$ 3.22	0.1376 $\pm$ 0.01348	0.1368
	L	0.0890 $\pm$ 0.01024					0.1359 $\pm$ 0.01155	
Insular cortex (30)	R	0.0905 $\pm$ 0.01102	0.0900	0.0860–0.0941	12.0	4.2 $\pm$ 3.49	0.1383 $\pm$ 0.01287	0.1380
	L	0.0895 $\pm$ 0.01096					0.1376 $\pm$ 0.01327	
Temporal cortex (52)	R	0.0831 $\pm$ 0.01024	0.0828	0.0801–0.0856	11.9	4.7 $\pm$ 3.79	0.1350 $\pm$ 0.01255	0.1356
	L	0.0826 $\pm$ 0.00962					0.1361 $\pm$ 0.01118	
Parietal cortex (32)	R	0.0867 $\pm$ 0.00934	0.0864	0.0830–0.0898	11.0	3.6 $\pm$ 2.55	0.1363 $\pm$ 0.01294	0.1378
	L	0.0862 $\pm$ 0.00994					0.1393 $\pm$ 0.01237	
Occipital cortex (58)	R	0.0827 $\pm$ 0.01356	0.0827	0.0792–0.0863	16.2	6.7 $\pm$ 5.96	0.1407 $\pm$ 0.01445	0.1405
	L	0.0828 $\pm$ 0.01351					0.1403 $\pm$ 0.01093	
Primary visual cortex (35)	R	0.0979 $\pm$ 0.01373	0.0990	0.0943–0.1036	13.6	7.6 $\pm$ 6.59	0.1405 $\pm$ 0.01479	0.1407
	L	0.1000 $\pm$ 0.01354					0.1409 $\pm$ 0.01663	

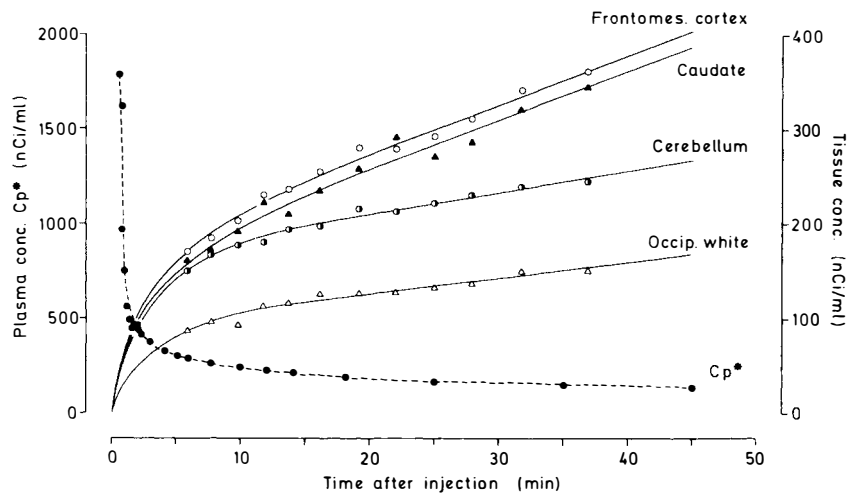
<sup>a</sup> Sokoloff et al. (1977).

CL, confidence limits; CV, coefficient of variation.

TABLE 1—(Continued)

Region (n)	Side	$k_2$			$k_3$				
		95% CL of mean (min <sup>-1</sup> )	Av. CV (%)	Av. difference between sides (mean $\pm$ SD) (% of larg- er value)	Mean $\pm$ SD (min <sup>-1</sup> )	Mean of both sides (min <sup>-1</sup> )	95% CL of mean (min <sup>-1</sup> )	Av. CV (%)	Av. difference between sides (mean $\pm$ SD) (% of larg- er value)
Cerebellar cortex (30)	R L	0.1370–0.1467	9.2	4.4 $\pm$ 3.45	0.0468 $\pm$ 0.00547 0.0452 $\pm$ 0.00693	0.0460	0.0437–0.0483	13.5	7.6 $\pm$ 8.43
Dentate nucleus (23)	R L	0.1393–0.1551	12.3	13.5 $\pm$ 8.67	0.0519 $\pm$ 0.01335 0.0500 $\pm$ 0.01143	0.0509	0.0457–0.0562	23.8	24.1 $\pm$ 15.23
Vermis (11)	M	0.1317–0.1530	11.1		0.0414 $\pm$ 0.00377	0.0414	0.0388–0.0439	9.1	
Pons (18)	R L	0.1203–0.1421	16.7	15.3 $\pm$ 13.43	0.0490 $\pm$ 0.01438 0.0475 $\pm$ 0.01473	0.0483	0.0412–0.0553	29.3	32.7 $\pm$ 9.99
Midbrain (24)	R L	0.1327–0.1497	14.3	15.6 $\pm$ 7.44	0.0561 $\pm$ 0.02022 0.0530 $\pm$ 0.01064	0.0545	0.0478–0.0612	29.1	26.2 $\pm$ 12.02
Cerebral peduncle (14)	R L	0.1180–0.1522	19.9	18.5 $\pm$ 17.32	0.0487 $\pm$ 0.02198 0.0332 $\pm$ 0.00831	0.0409	0.0296–0.0522	43.5	27.2 $\pm$ 22.96
Thalamus (14)	R L	0.1268–0.1391	8.0	5.5 $\pm$ 4.40	0.0624 $\pm$ 0.01297 0.0652 $\pm$ 0.01596	0.0638	0.0557–0.0720	22.0	13.0 $\pm$ 7.31
Lentiform nucleus (22)	R L	0.1317–0.1447	10.6	11.5 $\pm$ 10.07	0.0748 $\pm$ 0.01676 0.0755 $\pm$ 0.02475	0.0752	0.0660–0.0843	27.4	18.6 $\pm$ 14.98
Caudate nucleus (23)	R L	0.1285–0.1472	15.7	12.2 $\pm$ 12.27	0.0837 $\pm$ 0.02490 0.0808 $\pm$ 0.02732	0.0822	0.0711–0.0933	31.2	17.1 $\pm$ 14.59
Frontal white matter (48)	R L	0.1162–0.1263	14.3	12.4 $\pm$ 9.60	0.0503 $\pm$ 0.01699 0.0512 $\pm$ 0.01906	0.0508	0.0456–0.0560	35.2	25.3 $\pm$ 18.39
Temporal white matter (20)	R L	0.1126–0.1270	12.8	9.5 $\pm$ 6.54	0.0406 $\pm$ 0.02007 0.0367 $\pm$ 0.00725	0.0386	0.0317–0.0456	38.4	30.3 $\pm$ 13.88
Occipital white matter (26)	R L	0.1203–0.1339	13.2	12.3 $\pm$ 6.50	0.0417 $\pm$ 0.01194 0.0454 $\pm$ 0.01522	0.0436	0.0381 $\pm$ 0.0490	31.1	23.9 $\pm$ 15.71
Oval center (24)	R L	0.1194–0.1309	10.9	7.6 $\pm$ 6.50	0.0512 $\pm$ 0.01440 0.0496 $\pm$ 0.01025	0.0504	0.0453–0.0556	24.3	12.0 $\pm$ 10.32
Cingulate gyrus (38)	R L	0.1316–0.1416	11.1	7.3 $\pm$ 5.89	0.0701 $\pm$ 0.01570 0.0668 $\pm$ 0.01403	0.0685	0.0636–0.0733	21.6	12.3 $\pm$ 8.00
Hippocampal structures (28)	R L	0.1382–0.1531	13.1	8.6 $\pm$ 10.10	0.0597 $\pm$ 0.02531 0.0559 $\pm$ 0.01540	0.0578	0.0498–0.0658	35.7	16.8 $\pm$ 13.08
Frontomesial cortex (72)	R L	0.1348–0.1413	10.0	7.7 $\pm$ 6.29	0.0707 $\pm$ 0.01943 0.0711 $\pm$ 0.01575	0.0709	0.0668–0.0750	24.8	15.1 $\pm$ 9.90
Frontolateral cortex (66)	R L	0.1337–0.1399	9.1	5.3 $\pm$ 5.63	0.0769 $\pm$ 0.01582 0.0756 $\pm$ 0.01789	0.0763	0.0721–0.0804	22.0	8.8 $\pm$ 6.47
Insular cortex (30)	R L	0.1333–0.1427	9.3	5.1 $\pm$ 3.56	0.0711 $\pm$ 0.01681 0.0743 $\pm$ 0.01901	0.0727	0.0661–0.0793	24.3	12.7 $\pm$ 8.27
Temporal cortex (52)	R L	0.1323–0.1389	8.7	5.9 $\pm$ 4.85	0.0668 $\pm$ 0.01537 0.0654 $\pm$ 0.01607	0.0661	0.0618–0.0704	23.6	11.9 $\pm$ 7.77
Parietal cortex (32)	R L	0.1333–0.1423	9.1	6.0 $\pm$ 4.26	0.0715 $\pm$ 0.01255 0.0716 $\pm$ 0.01640	0.0716	0.0664–0.0767	20.1	9.4 $\pm$ 6.76
Occipital cortex (58)	R L	0.1372–0.1439	9.0	5.0 $\pm$ 4.04	0.0672 $\pm$ 0.02020 0.0649 $\pm$ 0.02130	0.0660	0.0606–0.0715	31.2	11.8 $\pm$ 8.94
Primary visual cortex (35)	R L	0.1354–0.1460	11.0	9.0 $\pm$ 7.11	0.0684 $\pm$ 0.01473 0.0613 $\pm$ 0.01286	0.0647	0.0599–0.0696	21.7	17.9 $\pm$ 11.04

**FIG. 2.** Characteristic time courses of decay-corrected isotope concentrations in plasma, frontomesial cortex, caudate nucleus, cerebellar cortex, and occipital white matter of a normal volunteer. Individual symbols represent original data. Respective curves were least-squares fitted according to original three-parameter equation of Sokoloff et al. (1977).



evident from the plot, e.g., the assignment of visual cortex to the fourth group, because of lack of resolution in the  $k_2$  dimension. The mean vectors of those four kinetic categories of topographic regions are given in Table 2.

Regional metabolic rates ( $\text{CMR}_{\text{glu}}$  kinetic) calculated according to Eq. 2 from individually fitted rate constants and pertinent statistics are presented in Table 3. Although differences between hemispheres nowhere reached any acceptable level of significance and no preference of any subject(s) for higher glucose consumption on either side could be demonstrated, variation both among individuals ( $p < 0.001$ ) and regions ( $p < 0.001$ ) was quite marked. Interregional differences accounted for 74.1% of the total variance as compared with 10.7% contributed by variation among subjects and 10.5% added by within-region variability. In accordance with the relation of kinetic constants described above, the lowest metabolic rates ( $\sim 17 \mu\text{mol}/100 \text{ g}/\text{min}$ ) were found in white matter and mixed structures of the brainstem, followed by cerebellar gray matter and hippocampal structures ( $\sim 28 \mu\text{mol}/100 \text{ g}/\text{min}$ ). All other regions exhibited greater metabolic activity, with maximum values in the cingulate and frontolateral cortex ( $\sim 41 \mu\text{mol}/100 \text{ g}/\text{min}$ ).

As can be seen in Table 3, the metabolic rates ( $\text{CMR}_{\text{glu}}$  autoradiographic) determined according to the *in vivo* autoradiographic model showed a tendency toward higher values as compared with the kinetic approach. However, differences between the two methods with respect to their regional metabolic averages usually were small and became statistically significant in brainstem, oval center, and temporal and parietal cortex only. In all except three regions the scatter of results was significantly larger when standard rate constants were used; i.e., metabolic rates determined by the autoradiographic

method were less reliable in almost any individual case. For comparison with the present results, Table 4 shows standardized estimates of regional  $\text{CMR}_{\text{glu}}$  autoradiographic and the respective coefficients of variation recalculated from data published in the literature. Because of the wide range of variation among laboratories and sometimes very small numbers of regions analyzed, particularly in the posterior fossa, comparison is difficult, but the order of regional glucose consumption as stated above still emerges as a general trend.

## DISCUSSION

### Rationale and methodology

The operational equation of the deoxyglucose model (Sokoloff et al., 1977) and its FDG modification (Reivich et al., 1979) was set up in such a way that influences on  $\text{CMR}_{\text{glu}}$  estimates of rate constants deviating from the norm determined for cerebral gray and white matter were minimized. Nevertheless, contrary to the findings of others (Sokoloff et al., 1977; Phelps et al., 1979), data from this study suggest that the reliability of individual rates of glucose consumption, calculated from tomographic activity maps according to the autoradiographic method, can be substantially improved by utilizing more than two standard sets of rate constants, even in normal brain tissue. Uncontrolled variability among subjects and within the same anatomical structures of the same individual is already large enough, and it is further increased by simplifying assumptions concerning kinetic constants, although the above-mentioned robustness of the metabolic model may fully apply to average values of a group of subjects because of balancing random effects. Undoubtedly the most accurate results are obtained from dynamic recordings and individually

**TABLE 2.** Mean vectors of kinetic constants ( $\text{min}^{-1}$ ) in maximum likelihood clusters of topographical brain regions

Region	$k_1$	$k_2$	$k_3$
Pons	0.0599	0.1287	0.0467
Midbrain			
Cerebral peduncle			
Frontal white matter			
Temporal white matter			
Occipital white matter			
Oval center			
Cerebellar cortex	0.0895	0.1443	0.0490
Dentate nucleus			
Vermis			
Hippocampal structures			
Thalamus	0.0886	0.1371	0.0685
Cingulate gyrus			
Frontomesial cortex			
Insular cortex			
Temporal cortex			
Parietal cortex			
Occipital cortex			
Lentiform nucleus	0.0922	0.1384	0.0746
Caudate nucleus			
Frontolateral cortex			
Primary visual cortex			

fitted regional rate constants. This approach, however, is not only time consuming and requires a fast, highly efficient, high-resolution, multislice tomographic device with proper dead time correction and appropriate computational facilities, but in some patient studies it may not be feasible at all. Even scanning periods beyond 40 min in a fixed supine position usually are not well tolerated by neurological patients; therefore, in the present

study measurements in volunteers were also restricted for the same duration. Whenever the experimental protocol or the subject examined does not permit continuous recording over prolonged periods of time, for optimum accuracy of results it would appear reasonable to use the four described sets of average rate constants. These were determined by cluster analysis as being appropriate for all brain regions, including brainstem and cerebellum, in the operational equation of the autoradiographic model.

### Regional rate constants

Increased reliability of  $\text{CMR}_{\text{glu}}$  values may not be the only advantage of individually fitting regional rate constants. If the basic assumptions of the three-compartment model of FDG turnover in the brain are sound, accumulation data are not too scattered, and an advanced fit algorithm is employed, this procedure may very well yield relevant information on regional characteristics of the physiological processes described by those kinetic constants. One of the most unexpected findings of this study was the narrow range of variation, among both regions and individuals, of the rate constant representing the transport kinetics of free FDG from tissue to plasma. This observation is in contrast with data published by Phelps et al. (1979) and Huang et al. (1980), who found coefficients of variation among subjects for  $k_2$  of 50.8 and 40.4% in cerebral gray and white matter, respectively, and by Friedland et al. (1983), who found a coefficient of variation in cerebral cortex of 31.8%. Discrepancies may be largely explained by differences in

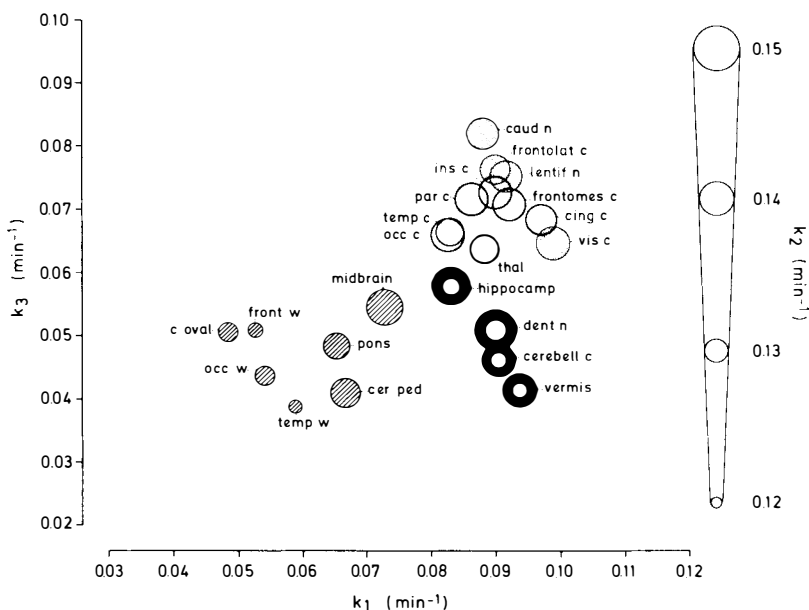
**FIG. 3.** Topographic brain regions of seven normal human subjects forming four distinct maximum likelihood clusters (hatched, dotted, fine-lined, and heavy-lined circles) in three-dimensional rate-constant space. Only regional mean vectors are shown.



TABLE 3. Regional cerebral metabolic rates for glucose ( $CMR_{glu}$ ) in normal human subjects—kinetic approach

Region	Size (mean $\pm$ SD) (cm <sup>3</sup> )	No. regions of interest evaluated	Side	CMR <sub>glu</sub> kinetic ( $\mu$ mol/100 g/min)		95% CL of mean	Av. CV (%)	Av. difference between sides (mean $\pm$ SD) (% of larg- er value)	CMR <sub>glu</sub> auto- radiographic (mean) ( $\mu$ mol/100 g/min)	Av. CV (%)	Significance of differences between CMR <sub>glu</sub> kinetic and CMR <sub>glu</sub> autoradio- graphic (p value)	
				Either side (mean $\pm$ SD)	Both sides (mean)						Means	Variances
Cerebellar cortex	19.2 $\pm$ 5.74	30	R L	29.0 $\pm$ 3.88 28.2 $\pm$ 4.15	28.6	27.1–30.1	13.9	5.2 $\pm$ 5.69	28.6	19.2	(>0.1)	<0.001
Dentate nucleus	2.1 $\pm$ 1.07	23	R L	29.3 $\pm$ 4.71 29.1 $\pm$ 3.35	29.2	27.5–30.9	13.6	11.4 $\pm$ 7.96	29.0	19.8	(>0.1)	<0.002
Vermis	3.6 $\pm$ 1.66	11	M	27.6 $\pm$ 2.02	27.6	26.3–29.0	7.3		28.8	14.8	(>0.1)	<0.001
Pons	2.7 $\pm$ 0.99	18	R L	22.8 $\pm$ 4.67 21.3 $\pm$ 4.45	22.1	19.8–24.3	20.4	13.4 $\pm$ 7.10	18.8	33.8	<0.05	<0.02
Midbrain	4.3 $\pm$ 1.20	24	R L	26.0 $\pm$ 6.78 25.9 $\pm$ 5.28	26.0	23.4–28.5	22.9	13.0 $\pm$ 8.57	22.7	28.0	<0.01	(>0.1)
Cerebral peduncle	2.3 $\pm$ 0.80	14	R L	20.5 $\pm$ 4.09 17.9 $\pm$ 2.96	19.2	16.8–21.5	19.1	15.2 $\pm$ 9.25	21.4	19.5	<0.05	<0.05
Thalamus	4.0 $\pm$ 1.13	14	R L	37.0 $\pm$ 7.90 36.7 $\pm$ 7.93	36.8	32.4–41.2	20.7	5.9 $\pm$ 3.88	36.9	23.6	(>0.1)	<0.02
Lentiform nucleus	3.9 $\pm$ 1.00	22	R L	41.8 $\pm$ 7.68 39.8 $\pm$ 7.44	40.8	37.5–44.1	18.3	8.5 $\pm$ 7.37	41.6	23.5	(>0.1)	<0.005
Caudate nucleus	2.4 $\pm$ 1.19	23	R L	41.9 $\pm$ 6.65 39.9 $\pm$ 7.79	40.9	37.8–44.0	17.5	10.2 $\pm$ 6.61	40.0	20.7	(>0.1)	<0.02
Frontal white matter	14.5 $\pm$ 4.10	48	R L	19.0 $\pm$ 3.71 18.8 $\pm$ 3.03	18.9	17.9–19.9	17.7	12.1 $\pm$ 10.67	18.4	26.0	(>0.1)	<0.001
Temporal white matter	5.5 $\pm$ 2.84	20	R L	17.8 $\pm$ 4.11 17.8 $\pm$ 2.41	17.8	16.3–19.3	18.4	16.9 $\pm$ 9.60	19.2	20.5	(>0.1)	(>0.1)
Occipital white matter	15.2 $\pm$ 7.15	26	R L	16.8 $\pm$ 3.19 17.1 $\pm$ 1.51	17.0	16.0–17.9	14.4	15.7 $\pm$ 10.19	16.6	29.3	(>0.1)	$\leq$ 0.001
Oval center	20.8 $\pm$ 8.15	24	R L	17.5 $\pm$ 2.65 17.4 $\pm$ 2.29	17.5	16.4–18.5	13.9	4.3 $\pm$ 3.21	15.7	19.8	<0.005	<0.01
Cingulate gyrus	10.3 $\pm$ 3.85	38	R L	40.8 $\pm$ 5.21 41.1 $\pm$ 6.03	41.0	39.2–42.8	13.6	6.0 $\pm$ 5.47	41.8	14.5	(>0.1)	<0.02
Hippocampal structures	7.3 $\pm$ 3.54	28	R L	30.1 $\pm$ 5.28 29.7 $\pm$ 5.74	29.9	27.8–32.0	18.1	8.0 $\pm$ 5.89	28.3	21.9	(>0.1)	<0.05
Frontomesial cortex	22.8 $\pm$ 3.28	72	R L	39.3 $\pm$ 5.40 39.5 $\pm$ 5.24	39.4	38.2–40.7	13.4	6.9 $\pm$ 4.56	39.6	15.8	(>0.1)	(>0.1)
Frontolateral cortex	41.4 $\pm$ 6.55	66	R L	41.6 $\pm$ 5.95 40.6 $\pm$ 5.31	41.1	39.7–42.5	13.7	3.8 $\pm$ 2.81	40.6	16.8	(>0.1)	$\leq$ 0.001
Insular cortex	14.7 $\pm$ 4.05	30	R L	39.1 $\pm$ 5.61 39.8 $\pm$ 5.67	39.5	37.4–41.5	14.1	6.3 $\pm$ 4.94	39.2	17.2	(>0.1)	<0.001
Temporal cortex	32.7 $\pm$ 8.78	52	R L	35.0 $\pm$ 5.67 33.9 $\pm$ 4.72	34.4	33.0–35.8	15.1	5.6 $\pm$ 3.31	33.0	18.6	<0.05	<0.001
Parietal cortex	23.3 $\pm$ 5.88	32	R L	37.7 $\pm$ 4.05 36.6 $\pm$ 3.77	37.2	35.8–38.6	10.4	4.7 $\pm$ 3.85	36.0	12.3	<0.05	<0.05
Occipital cortex	24.3 $\pm$ 6.28	58	R L	33.5 $\pm$ 5.59 32.6 $\pm$ 5.88	33.0	31.5–34.5	17.3	6.2 $\pm$ 3.51	31.8	21.9	(=0.066)	$\leq$ 0.001
Primary visual cortex	7.7 $\pm$ 2.16	35	R L	41.0 $\pm$ 5.94 39.2 $\pm$ 6.18	40.1	38.0–42.2	15.1	8.5 $\pm$ 5.91	42.6	16.8	(=0.079)	<0.001

CL, confidence limits; CV, coefficient of variation.

the fitting procedure, such as start-of-fit time and duration, particularly for the initial runs. The present results indicate a loose, albeit significant, correlation ( $r = 0.56$ ;  $p < 0.05$ ) between  $k_2$  and  $CMR_{glu}$  across the entire brain, a somewhat closer correlation of  $k_2$  with  $k_1$  ( $r = 0.79$ ;  $p < 0.001$ ), but no significant association of  $k_2$  with  $k_3$  ( $r = 0.33$ ;  $p$

$> 0.1$ ). The rate constant characterizing the kinetics of FDG transport from plasma into tissue, and to an even larger extent the rate constant for FDG phosphorylation, varied widely among regions in accordance with the functional activity and complexity of organization of the respective structures. Intersubject variation, however, was again consid-

**TABLE 4.** Regional cerebral metabolic rates for glucose ( $CMR_{glu}$ ) in normal human subjects. Comparison of autoradiographic  $CMR_{glu}$  values from present study with those in the literature

	Present study	Reivich et al. (1979)	Kuhl et al. (1980)	Alavi et al. (1981)	Mazziotta et al. (1981)	Kuhl et al. (1982)	Hawkins et al. (1983)	Rapoport et al. (1983)	Rougemont et al. (1983)	Schwartz et al. (1983)
Cerebellar cortex	28.6/19.2	32.1/—			23.4/4.4					22.8/20.5
Dentate nucleus	29.0/19.8									
Vermis	28.8/14.8									
Pons	18.8/33.8									
Midbrain	22.7/28.0									
Cerebral peduncle	21.4/19.5									
Thalamus	36.9/23.6	41.2/26.0			36.6/19.2	33.4/20.9	24.3/15.2	30.7/26.2	31.5/31.5	28.4/25.0
Lentiform nucleus	41.6/23.5	35.6/7.2			45.2/20.0		36.9/22.8		38.5/14.1	33.3/14.0
Caudate nucleus	40.0/20.7	38.0/7.8	37.2/8.3		39.8/23.5	34.7/21.2	35.5/18.9	30.7/24.2	36.6/20.8	30.0/19.6
Frontal white matter	18.4/26.0	20.2/49.3	23.1/24.0							
Temporal white matter	19.2/20.5									
Occipital white matter	16.6/29.3	23.5/15.6	19.5/16.0							
Oval center	15.7/19.8	20.6/6.5	18.2/18.0		29.0/26.2	15.5/24.6	21.9/28.3	15.2/24.3		14.8/21.4
Cingulate gyrus	41.8/14.5				43.2/27.1			36.1/21.4		34.4/21.6
Hippocampal structures	28.3/21.9	33.5/4.4						24.5/28.9		24.9/28.1
Frontomesial cortex	39.6/15.8	46.0/2.4						31.5/25.9	40.4/25.2	30.5/23.8
Frontolateral cortex	40.6/16.8	47.0/4.8	37.7/13.5	26.4/?	43.0/24.2	32.7/26.3		33.6/24.5	33.3/20.3	32.2/22.9
Insular cortex	39.2/17.2									32.5/21.5
Temporal cortex	33.0/18.6	45.1/—	38.0/6.6	28.3/?	44.1/26.0	34.2/24.2		27.9/23.2	39.2/22.3	23.5/24.7
Parietal cortex	36.0/12.3	37.9/16.9	35.7/12.9	29.1/?	43.1/22.7	33.0/24.7		31.4/23.9	42.1/16.4	30.3/21.2
Occipital cortex	31.8/21.9		35.6/14.4	22.0/?	37.1/24.4	28.7/25.7		26.6/29.2		24.1/21.1
Primary visual cortex	42.6/16.8	57.0/13.4	43.7/11.7	33.2/?	46.6/23.7	40.8/23.2		33.4/21.4	46.6/25.3	30.9/18.9

Values are means ( $\mu\text{mol}/100 \text{ g/min}$ )/coefficient of variations (%).

erably less than that described by Phelps et al. (1979) and Huang et al. (1980) (coefficients of variation of their data:  $k_1$ , gray 27.5%, white 25.9%;  $k_3$ , gray 30.6%, white 42.2%) and by Friedland et al. (1983) (coefficients of variation in cerebral cortex:  $k_1$ , 17.1%;  $k_3$ , 29.5%). Corresponding to the density of the neuropil, microvascular bed, and level of blood flow and metabolism, both  $k_1$  and  $k_3$  were consistently higher in supratentorial gray compared with mixed or white matter structures. A striking disparity, however, was noted in cerebellar gray matter, where  $k_3$  stayed within the range of white matter values while  $k_1$  was rather high, suggesting a wide safety margin of transport systems with respect to metabolic demand at rest. Accordingly, when all analyzed brain regions are considered,  $k_1$  and  $k_3$  show only a poor correlation ( $r = 0.59$ ;  $p < 0.05$ ), whereas both rate constants appear closely correlated with  $CMR_{glu}$  ( $k_1$ ,  $r = 0.88$ ;  $k_3$ ,  $r = 0.90$ ;  $p < 0.001$ ). Comparable correlations between glucose influx and phosphorylation were reported in rats (Cremer et al., 1981; Hawkins et al., 1983a). In both studies considerable differences in  $CMR_{glu}$  and glucose influx rates among various brain structures were observed. Another interesting finding is the obvious similarity in kinetic constants of gray matter structures supplied by the carotid arteries, on the one side, and by the vertebrobasilar system,

on the other, e.g., hippocampal formations and cerebellum.

The mean values of regional rate constants determined in this study are in good agreement with the averages found in Phelps et al. (1979) and Huang et al. (1980) for cerebral gray ( $k_1 = 0.102$ ,  $k_2 = 0.130$ ,  $k_3 = 0.062 \text{ min}^{-1}$ ) and white ( $k_1 = 0.054$ ,  $k_2 = 0.109$ ,  $k_3 = 0.045 \text{ min}^{-1}$ ) matter in single transaxial slices across the upper level of the basal ganglia of 13 normal volunteers. Minor differences are easily explained by the fact that those authors also fitted  $k_4$  to account for dephosphorylation during prolonged recording periods. Much higher values, however, were reported for the entire cerebral cortex by Friedland et al. (1983) ( $k_1 = 0.131$ ,  $k_2 = 0.225$ ,  $k_3 = 0.106 \text{ min}^{-1}$ ), who took measurements at very short scanning intervals for 45 min from a midventricular slice in five healthy, aged subjects. Using other pertinent data presented by those authors and a value of 0.42 for the lumped constant, an estimate of  $54.9 \mu\text{mol}/100 \text{ g/min}$  is obtained for cortical  $CMR_{glu}$ , which exceeds the range of published metabolic rates (Table 4). Discrepancies with kinetic constants determined by the [ $^{11}\text{C}$ ]deoxyglucose method (Reivich et al., 1982)—much higher  $k_2$  and somewhat higher  $k_3$  values in gray matter and much higher  $k_3$  and somewhat lower  $k_2$  values in white matter compared with

FDG—may be indicative of slightly different affinities of the two glucose analogs for facilitated diffusion and for hexokinase. Of course, differences in experimental and computational procedures may also play a role. If in the curve fitting of this study a fixed  $k_4$  of, say, 10% of the average  $k_3$  had been used, a small compensatory increase in  $k_3$  and an increase in regional  $\text{CMR}_{\text{glu}}$  kinetic by  $\sim 6\%$  would have ensued. However, in view of the uncertainties as to the true value of the lumped constant in humans, which itself is partly determined by  $k_4$  (Huang et al., 1980), any consideration of an arbitrary  $k_4$  value appeared unwarranted.

### Regional $\text{CMR}_{\text{glu}}$

As described by Hoffman et al. (1979), there is a direct relationship between the spatial resolution of a tomographic device and the identification of neuroanatomical structures in FDG-PET. Reported regional  $\text{CMR}_{\text{glu}}$  values in normal volunteers are summarized in Table 4. At a FWHM and slice thickness of 17 mm (Mark IV scanner), major cerebral cortical and white matter regions as well as the basal ganglia and thalamus could be distinguished in two normal volunteers, and in one case the cerebellum was also studied (Reivich et al., 1979). With an ECAT positron tomograph (in-plane FWHM 17 mm; axial 18 mm) values for supratentorial structures were obtained by Kuhl et al. (1980) in eight young male controls. Alavi et al. (1981) employed the PET III whole-body tomograph (FWHM 17 mm) to estimate metabolic rates in five cortical regions of both cerebral hemispheres of six young male and four elderly normal subjects. Using the ECAT II (FWHM 16 mm; slice thickness 18 mm), averages of  $\text{CMR}_{\text{glu}}$  in several principal areas of the cerebral cortex, basal ganglia, thalamus, corpus callosum, and oval center were determined from a comprehensive set of brain tomograms in seven normal young men (Mazziotta et al., 1981a). Posterior fossa values were obtained from two images only. With the same tomographic system Kuhl et al. (1982) examined 40 adult volunteers of all ages and reported somewhat lower average  $\text{CMR}_{\text{glu}}$  values in supratentorial structures, without significant differences between males and females. Employing the NeuroECAT (FWHM 8.3 mm; axial resolution 13.4 mm), Hawkins et al. (1983b) described metabolic findings for the basal ganglia, thalamus, and white matter in four control subjects. Other studies with the ECAT II provided confirmatory information on glucose metabolism in eight cerebral gyri, caudate nucleus, thalamus, and oval center of 40 healthy men of all ages (Rapoport et al., 1983) and on larger circular supratentorial gray matter re-

gions of seven controls (Rougemon et al., 1983); a more detailed table of regional  $\text{CMR}_{\text{glu}}$  averages in 18 healthy male volunteers was presented by Schwartz et al. (1983). Discrepancies among the reported data most likely reflect various combinations of differences: (1) among groups of subjects as to their physiological and psychological “normal resting state”; (2) in the physical characteristics of the tomographic equipment used; and (3) in the definition of regions of interest.

As expected from theoretical considerations and simulation studies (Mazziotta et al., 1981b), the improved spatial resolution (FWHM 7–8 mm; actual slice thickness 11 mm) of our multislice PET system (Eriksson et al., 1982) permitted assessment of  $\text{CMR}_{\text{glu}}$  in a considerable number of central nervous system structures with acceptable partial volume errors. According to the error diagrams of Mazziotta et al. (1981b), in the cortex (which, owing to its thickness of 2–4.5 mm, cannot be resolved without significant partial volume effects by any PET system presently in operation) regional  $\text{CMR}_{\text{glu}}$  was underestimated by 8–35%, whereas estimates for large deep circular structures (e.g., thalamus and basal ganglia) might be too low by 6–18%. Because of additional shape effects and especially unfavorable structure-to-voxel volume ratios, the most severe underestimation probably occurred in irregular posterior and basal gray matter regions. White matter structures, by contrast, suffered an overestimation of  $\text{CMR}_{\text{glu}}$  by  $\sim 10$ –30% owing to partial volume influences of adjacent gray matter and, to a lesser degree, underestimation by partial volume effects from cerebrospinal fluid space. All those errors, however, were considerably smaller in the data from this study than in other reported results; therefore, the improved spatial resolution is also reflected in a higher gray-to-white matter ratio of  $\text{CMR}_{\text{glu}}$  ( $\sim 2.5$ ) compared with previous observations (Table 4).

Despite all the physical limitations still inherent even in an advanced PET system, the regional  $\text{CMR}_{\text{glu}}$  in normal subjects could be determined reliably for several important structures in addition to those measured previously. Of particular interest are the normal values for formations in the posterior fossa, which differ from supratentorial structures in both morphology and function. Estimation of  $\text{CMR}_{\text{glu}}$  in these structures and their individual right/left differences also is crucial for studies of the remote effects caused by lesions in other parts of the central nervous system. Although autoradiography has a better spatial resolution (0.1 mm) and is practically unbiased by partial volume effects, variations among cerebral, cerebellar, and brain-

stem metabolic rates in humans are similar to those reported from autoradiographic studies with [ $^{14}\text{C}$ ]deoxyglucose in the rat (Sokoloff et al., 1977), the cat (Ginsberg et al., 1977), and the monkey (Kennedy et al., 1978). Because of large species differences, however, absolute values cannot be compared, and so far no other method can match PET in its unique capability for providing information on temporal changes in local tracer concentrations within individuals.

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