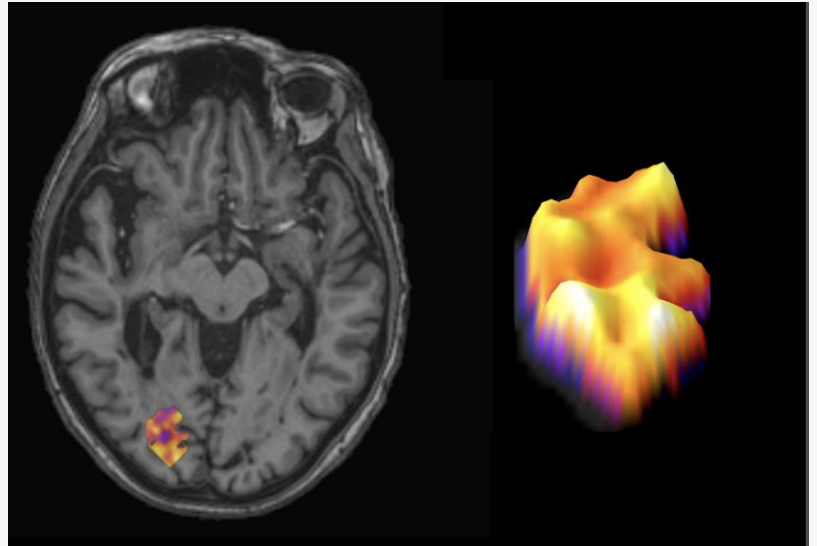


Researchers Identify New Biomarker for Predicting Progression of Multiple Sclerosis

TURKU, FINLAND, April 29, 2025

/EINPresswire.com/ -- Researchers at the [University of Turku](#), Finland, have discovered a new biomarker that can predict the progression of multiple sclerosis (MS).

The thickness of the inflammatory cell rim surrounding brain lesions was found to directly correlate with the severity and speed of disease progression. The study, led at the University of Turku in Finland by Professor Laura Airas in collaboration with German and Dutch colleagues, has been published in the prestigious journal *Nature Medicine*.



The image shows an MS lesion in the brain, marked in color. On the right is a close-up image of this broad-rim lesion. Credit: Markus Matilainen

Better Targeted Treatments and Faster Drug Development

The research combined PET imaging data from 114 Finnish MS patients with post-mortem brain tissue analysis from Dutch MS patients. Results show that the wider the inflammatory rim around a brain lesion is, the more aggressively the disease advances.

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This discovery allows us not only to identify patients who need more aggressive treatment earlier but also to evaluate the effectiveness of new drug candidates.”

Professor Laura Airas

“When microglial cells form a thick rim around MS lesions, their harmful activity pushes deeper into healthy brain tissue, causing irreversible damage,” says Professor Laura Airas.

“This discovery allows us not only to identify patients who need more aggressive treatment earlier but also to

evaluate the effectiveness of new drug candidates by observing changes in lesion rims.”

The findings are expected to improve the development of treatments particularly for progressive MS, the yet undertreated form of the disease.

The research article was published in [Nature Medicine on 29 April 2025](#).

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