



# **A First-in-Human Clinical Study to Test Safety and Preliminary Efficacy of CDNF in Parkinson's Disease**

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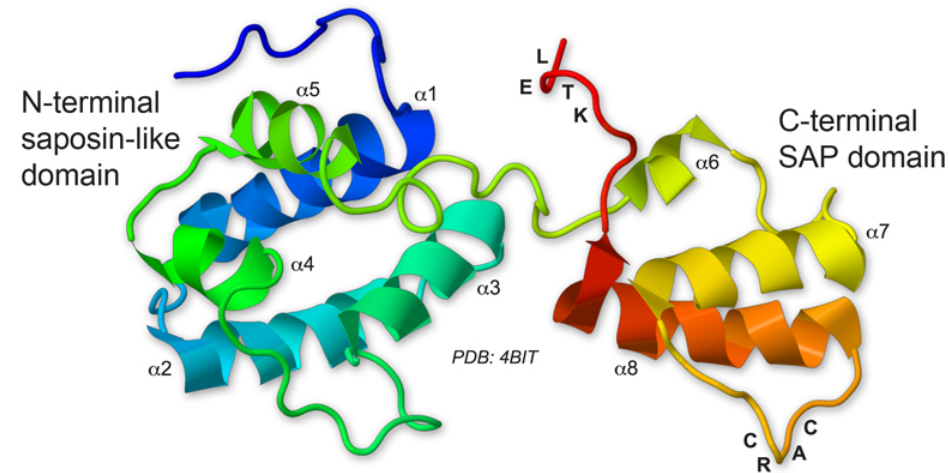
AD/PD Congress 2019  
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28 March 2019

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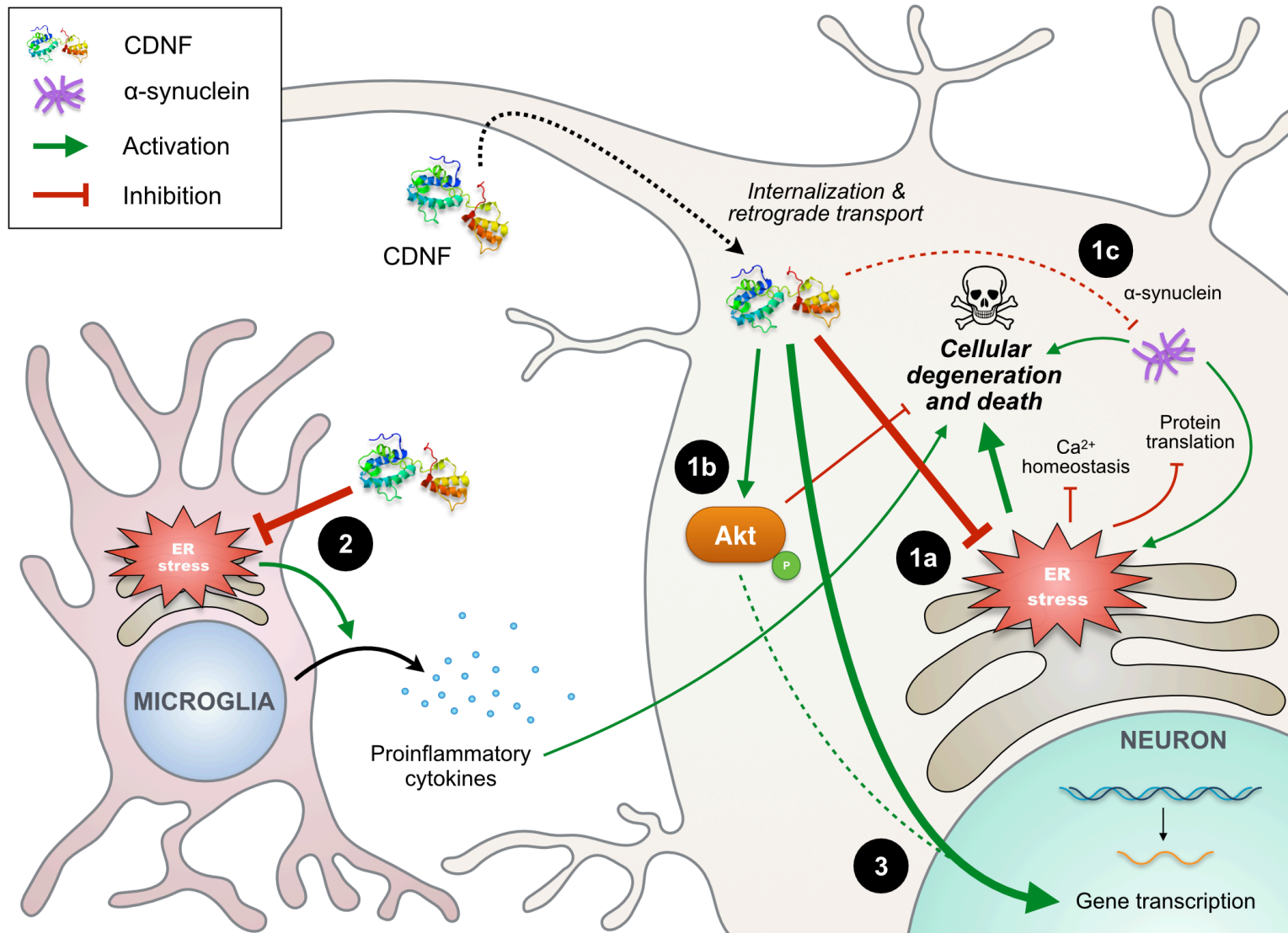
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# CDNF is an unconventional neurotrophic factor

- Expressed in the brain but also in e.g. skeletal muscle, enteric nervous system etc
- CDFN and MANF are ER-localized proteins with ER-retention signal (KDEL-like)
- They interact with ER proteins such as BiP/GRP78, modulate unfolded protein response (UPR) signaling and protect from ER stress-induced cell death
- They can be secreted and are found in normal human plasma
- Therapeutic effects in multiple preclinical models of neurodegenerative diseases (Parkinson, ALS, stroke etc)



# CDNF has a multi-modal mechanism with distinct PD targets

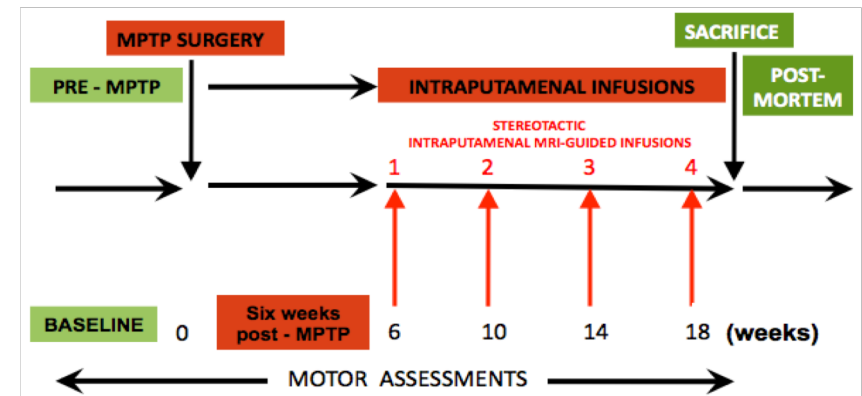
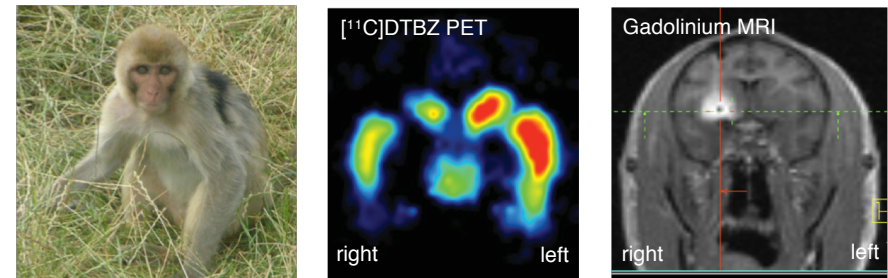


Huttunen & Saarna. Cell Transplant. 2019.



# Neurorestoration model of PD in aged Rhesus macaques

- Unilaterally MPTP-lesioned aged (15-22 y) rhesus monkeys
- **Repeated monthly intraputamenal CED infusions of CDNF**; comparison to GDNF and vehicle
- Experimental measures included:
  - Motor function (MPRS, mMAP, actigraphy)
  - Non-motor symptoms: depressive behaviour, motivation and sleep
  - Post-mortem analyses (dopamine neuron counts, CDNF levels and diffusion, dopamine levels etc)
- Collaboration with Dr. Judy L. Cameron, Univ of Pittsburgh and Dr. Zhiming Zhang, Univ of Kentucky (study director: prof. Mart Saarma, Univ of Helsinki)
- Supported from Michael J. Fox Foundation



Group 1: MPTP + Vehicle (n=4)

Group 2: MPTP + GDNF comparator (450 µg)\* (n=5)

Group 3: MPTP + CDNF test (450 µg) (n=4)

Group 4: MPTP + CDNF test (150 µg) (n=6)

\* Optimal dose for GDNF infusion in Rhesus monkeys based on Gash et al. Nature 380: 252-255, 1996 & Don Gash, personal communication.

# CDNF is the first treatment to improve both motor and non-motor symptoms in a rhesus monkey PD model

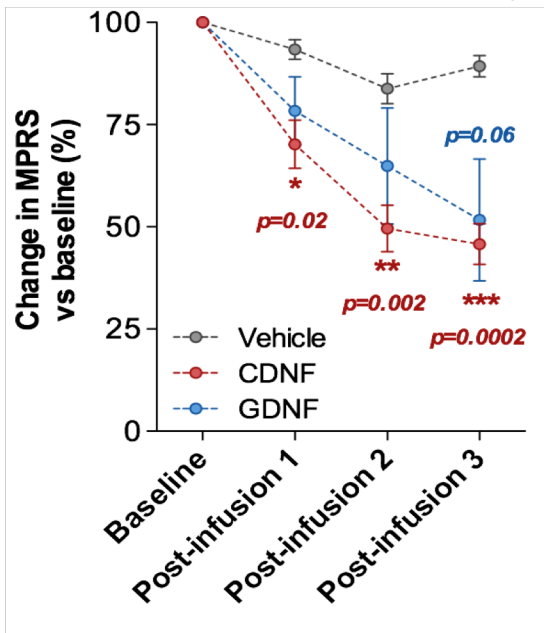
## Improvement in Motor Symptoms

- **Gross motor functions** measured with monkey Parkinsonian disability rating scale (MPRS)
- **Fine motor functions** measured with monkey movement analysis panel (mMAP)
  - Improvement shown in recovery of the use of the affected-side hand

## Improvement in Non-Motor Symptoms

- **Significantly reduced depressive behavior** measured with Human Intruder Test
  - First treatment to show this response
- **Significantly improved motivation** measured with Wisconsin General Apparatus
  - GDNF group showed no improvement

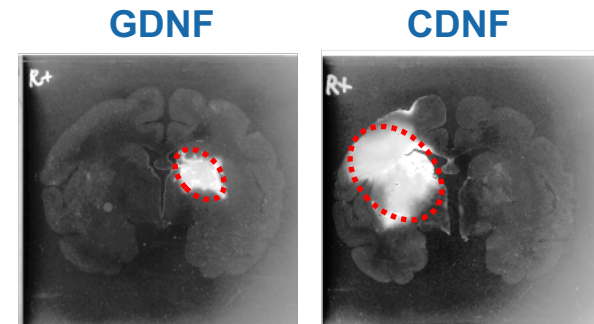
CDNF significantly improved motor symptoms in a MPTP rhesus monkey model of PD



Improved gross motor functions

Gross motor function was improved by **53%** after 3 months of dosing compared to vehicle control

Infused CDFN diffuses more broadly in the monkey brain



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# CDNF is the first treatment to improve both motor and non-motor symptoms in a rhesus monkey PD model

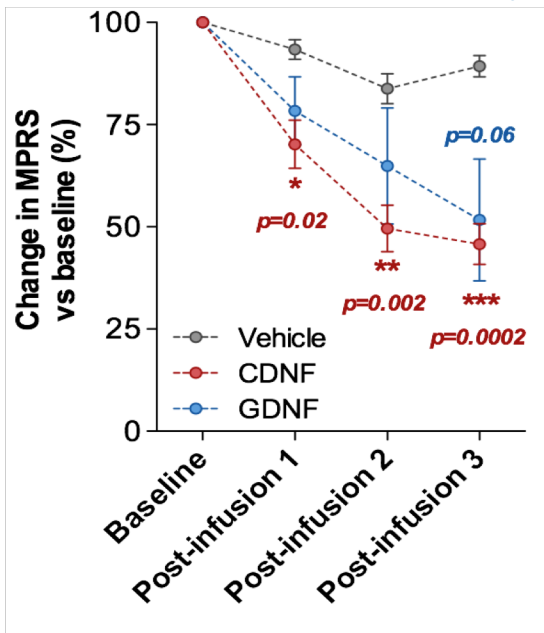
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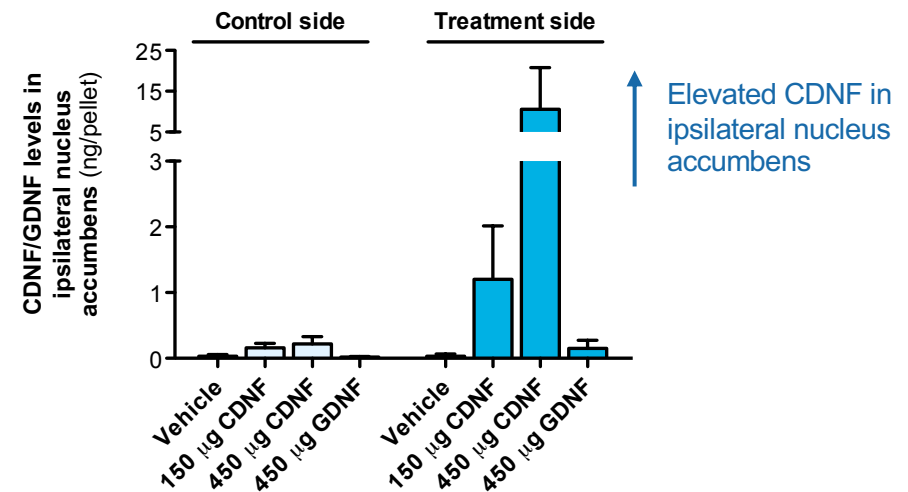
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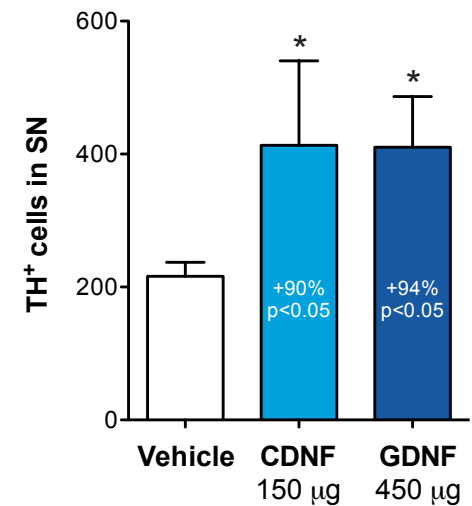
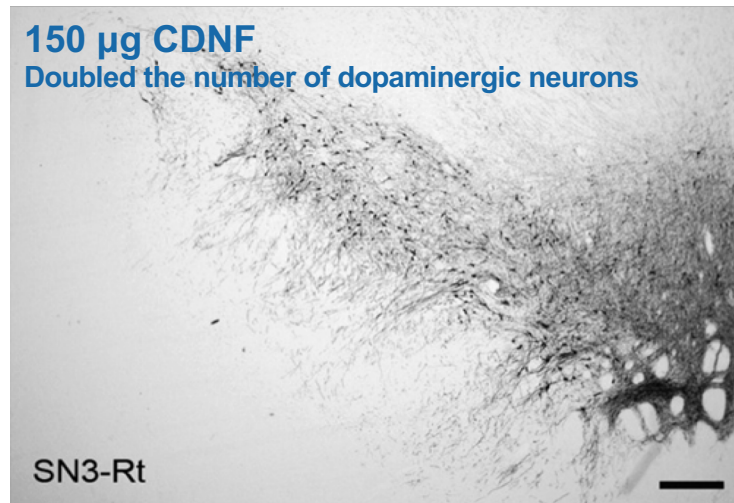
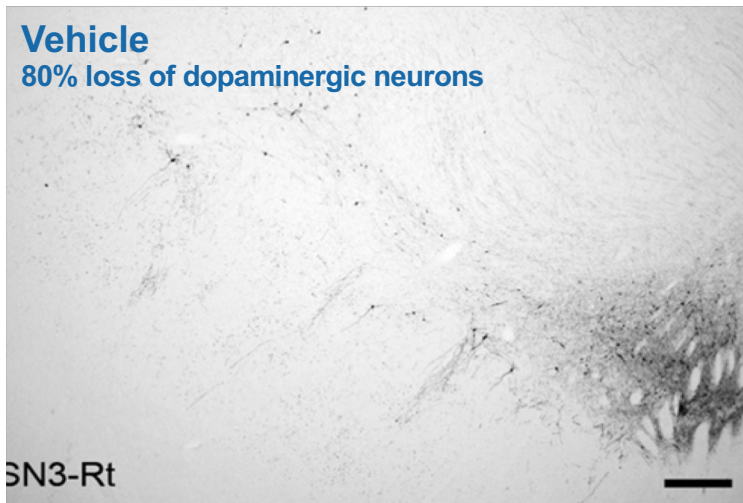
### Improvement in non-motor symptoms correlate with elevated CDFN levels in the ipsilateral nucleus accumbens



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# CDNF protects and recovers dopaminergic neurons in a rhesus monkey PD model

Three months of CDFN treatment nearly **doubled the number of dopaminergic neurons** in a true neurorestoration model



**KEY:** dark staining indicates dopaminergic neurons

**MODEL:** MPTP neurotoxin-induced lesions in rhesus monkeys

**STUDY:** First dose of CDFN given 6 weeks after lesioning. Thereafter, 4 monthly doses; animals were sacrificed immediately after the fourth dose. Tyrosine hydroxylase-staining of lesion-side substantia nigra sections from monkeys

# CDNF first-in-human study consortium

- The TreatER consortium consists of
  - Herantis Pharma Plc, the sponsor of the clinical study
  - Renishaw Plc, the co-sponsor of the clinical study
  - Three study centers in Sweden and Finland
  - Academic partners in UK and Finland
  - European Parkinson's Disease Association
  - Two pharma partners (follow-up role)
- TreatER project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 732386
- ClinicalTrials.gov: NCT03295786
- EudraCT: 2015-004175-73
- [www.treater.eu](http://www.treater.eu)

## TreatER



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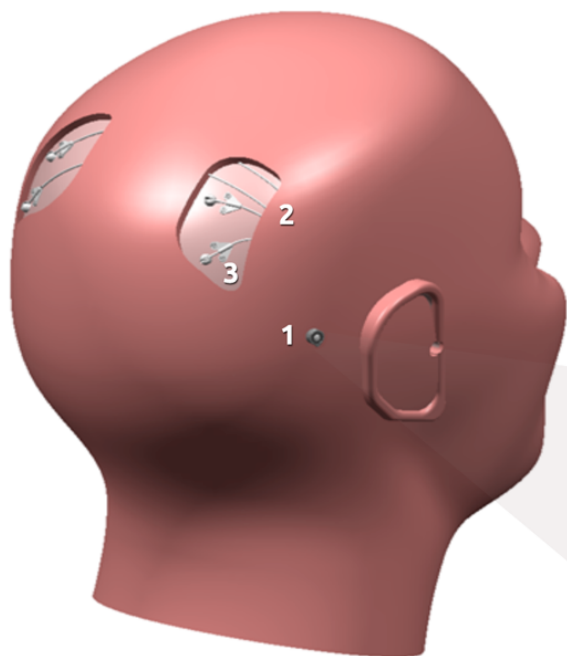
# Study centers and investigators

Study center	Neurologist	Neurosurgeon	PET imaging
Karolinska University Hospital (Stockholm, Sweden)	Prof. Per Svenningsson (principle investigator)	Dr. Per Almqvist	Dr. Andrea Varrone (Karolinska Institutet)
Skåne University Hospital (Lund, Sweden)	Prof. Håkan Widner	Dr. Hjalmar Bjartmarz	
Helsinki University Hospital (Helsinki, Finland)	Dr. Filip Scheperjans	Dr. Riku Kivisaari	Prof. Juha Rinne (Turku PET Center)
Turku PET Center (Turku, Finland)			



# Device for intermittent intracerebral drug delivery

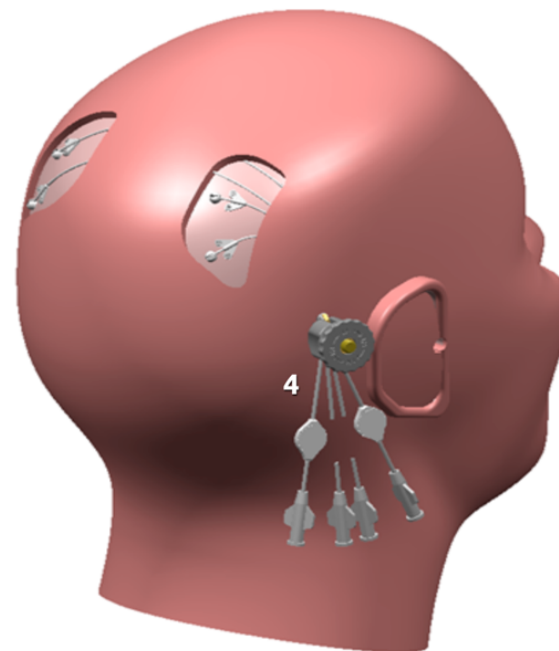
**A** Location of implanted drug delivery device components



**B** Close-up view of the port structure

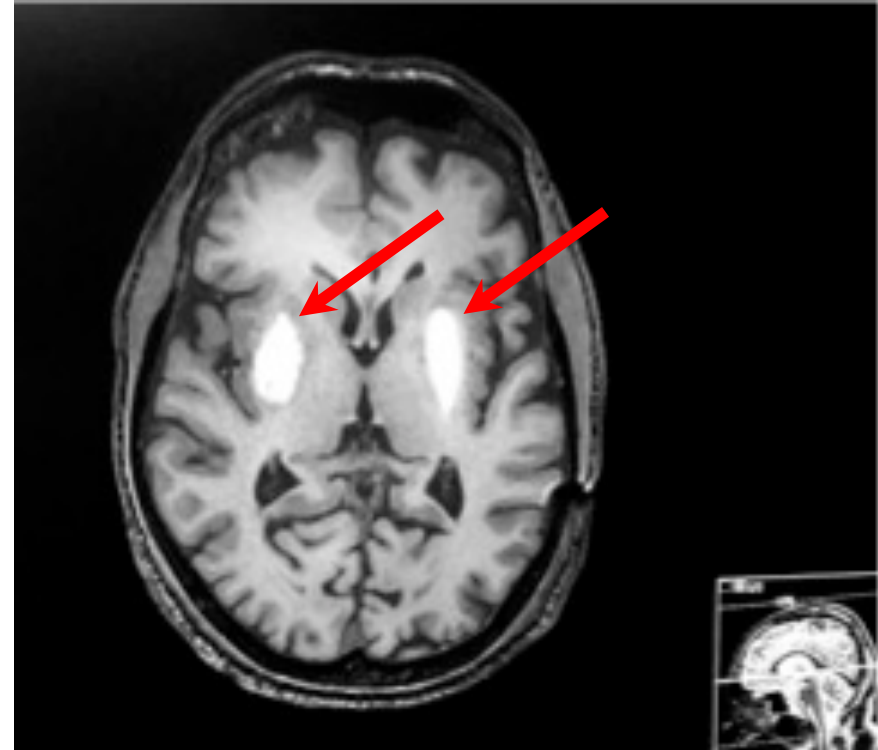


**C** Device in dosing mode, connected to the external subsystem

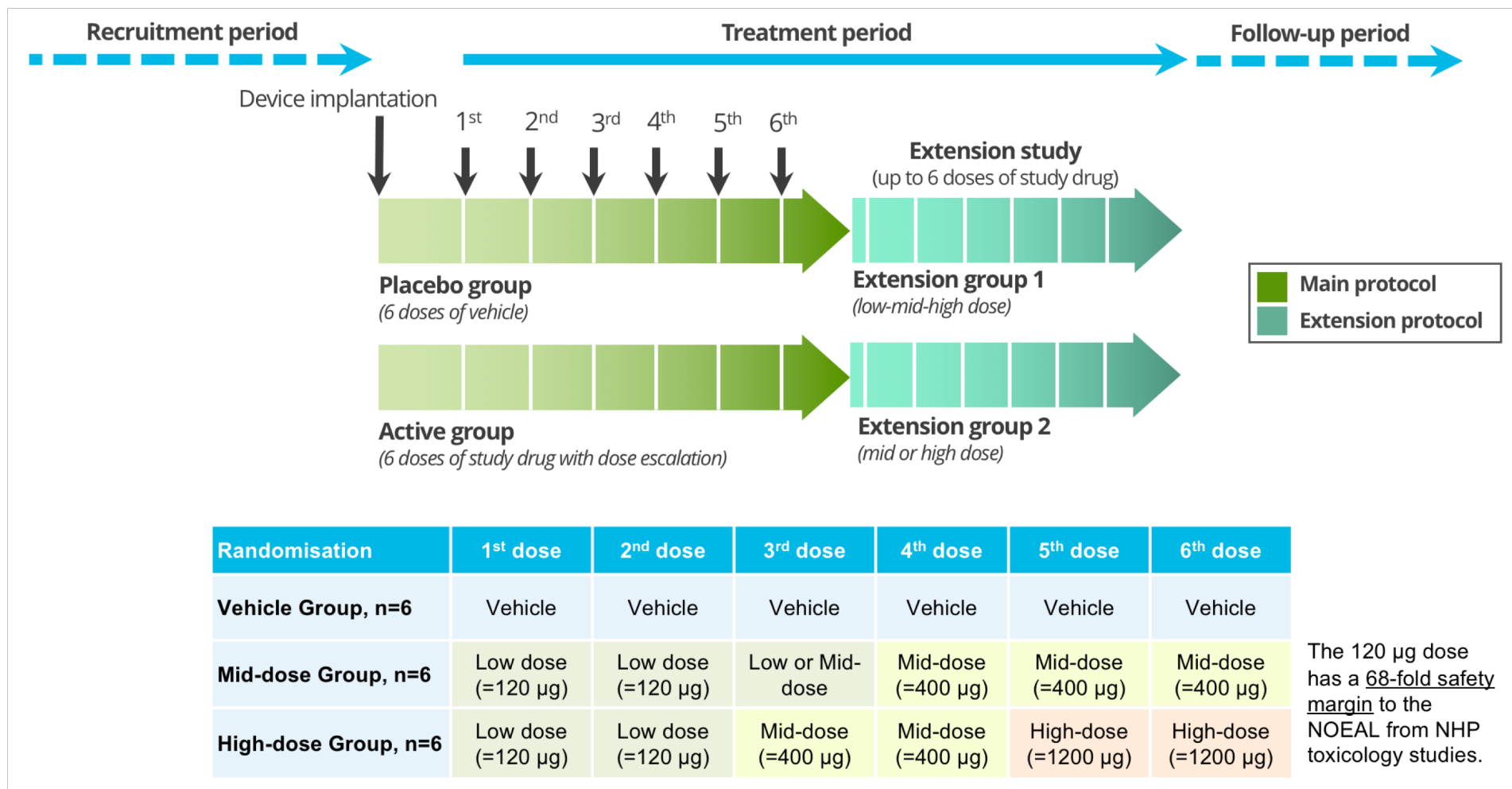


# Test infusion shows excellent diffusion in putamen

- Two catheters placed in putamen in both hemispheres (total: 4)
- First test infusions conducted in 2017, 3 weeks after surgical implantation of the drug delivery system
- Test infusion protocol (CED):
  - 400  $\mu$ l of 2 mM Magnevist® infused per catheter over 160 min followed by MRI
  - Ramped infusion rate up to 5  $\mu$ l/min
  - Results confirm that:
    - All device components are functional
    - Infusion protocol results in excellent coverage of the entire putamen



# Main study design: placebo controlled, within-patient dose escalation; followed by an open-label extension study



# Patient recruitment criteria and study endpoints

- Key inclusion criteria:
  - Diagnosed with idiopathic PD (UK Brain Bank Criteria), bilateral findings at study entry
  - Age 35-75 years (inclusive), duration of PD motor symptoms 5-15 years (inclusive)
  - Presence of motor fluctuations, at least 5 daily doses of levodopa
  - UPDRS motor score (part III) in a practically defined OFF-state between 25-50 (inclusive)
  - Hoehn and Yahr  $\leq$  stage III in the OFF-state
- Primary endpoints:
  - Drug-related: safety and tolerability of the IMP (change from baseline to 6 months)
  - Device-related: occurrence of adverse device effects (ADE)
- Secondary and exploratory endpoints:
  - UPDRS part III (OFF), UPDRS total (OFF), timed up-and-go test, home diary, PDQ-39, CGI (change from baseline to 6 months)
  - PET imaging using [ $^{18}\text{F}$ ]FE-PE2I, a novel DAT tracer (baseline, 6 and 12 months)
  - Actigraphy with Parkinson's KinetiGraph<sup>TM</sup>
  - CSF levels of total, oligomeric and Ser129-phosphorylated  $\alpha$ -synuclein

# Current study status

- 17 of 18 patients recruited, 15 implantation surgeries completed
- 11 randomized patients receiving doses
- 2 patients in Extension study
- 2 patients have completed the Main and Extension studies (in Follow-up study)
- Expected schedule:
  - Last patient, last visit (Main study): January 2020
  - Last patient, last visit (Extension study): July 2020

# Safety data

- 111 adverse events reported in the Main study and 10 adverse events in the Extension study, most are considered mild or moderate and have recovered
- Skin reactions and swelling around the port after surgery are a common AE
- Two patients have discontinued the study (not considered to be related to CDNF)
- One patient experienced dyskinesias after receiving twelve treatment infusions, which was considered possibly related to CDNF



# Summary and conclusions

- CDNF is an unconventional neurotrophic factor with potential to improve both motor and non-motor symptoms of Parkinson's disease
- CDNF alleviates ER stress, modulates aSyn oligomerization and reduces neuroinflammation
- Intermittent monthly intraputamenal CED infusions of CDNF in Phase 1-2 (first-in-human) study
- Same intracranial drug delivery used as in the recent GDNF Phase 2 study (Renishaw)
- Test infusions show excellent distribution in putamen bilaterally
- Recruitment nearly completed, end of main study expected in January 2020

# Acknowledgements

- Patients for their courage and enthusiasm
- Our neurology and neurosurgery teams and other excellent study center personnel at Karolinska, Lund and Helsinki
- DSMB members and technical and clinical advisors
- Renishaw Plc and other collaborators and partners
- Our long-term collaborators at the University of Helsinki (prof. Mart Saarma's lab)
- European Union / Horizon 2020 program
- Business Finland
- Our investors