

# Direct thrombus imaging in stroke and thrombosis



김 동 역

동국의대

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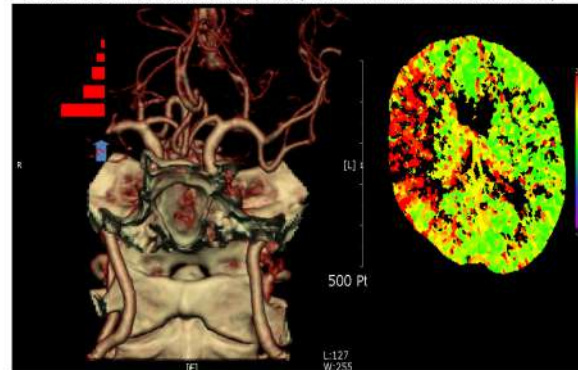
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- **Direct Imaging of Thrombus?**
- (vs. angiography: visualizing obstruction of the blood flow)



Angiography identifies thrombus indirectly as a filling defect and cannot reliably assess thrombus burden in a quantitative manner.

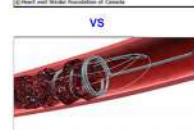
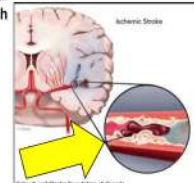
→ Fixed dose tPA for different size thrombus (without information about thrombus vol.).



## ?Customized thrombolytic therapy using an in vivo direct thrombus imaging technique

- Current practice guidelines do not allow for individualized therapy
  - A fixed-dose intravenous tPA (0.9 mg/kg) treatment is recommended.
  - This recommendation is based on the results of studies that were conducted before advanced imaging modalities were available to determine thrombus location and extent.
- Without an imaging tool to assess the thrombus status in individual patients, the tPA dose could be either insufficient or excessive
  - Potentially leading to either low rates of thrombolysis or high rates of hemorrhagic complications.

Moreover, angiography cannot distinguish between mural thrombus and atherosclerotic vessel wall, both of which could cause stenosis or occlusion.



ICAS is the most common cause of stroke worldwide, and recanalization failure and mortality after thrombectomy using stent retrievers are high in patients having atherothrombotic lesions (Toyoda et al. Stroke 2015).

**Direct thrombus imaging may guide 'future' thrombolytic therapy by enabling clinicians to**

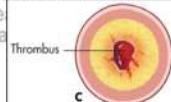
1. reduce tPA dose for smaller fragile thrombi
2. proceed directly to endovascular therapy for bigger compact thrombi that are likely to be highly resistant to conventional tPA doses
3. find good tPA respondents among patients with acute large vessel occlusion (LVO): for eg. LVO due to a tiny in situ thrombus or embolus superimposed on a cerebral artery with significant large artery intracranial atherosclerotic stenosis (ICAS)
4. better select specific endovascular therapies / devices and allow for technical refinements, leading to safer and more effective endovascular therapy

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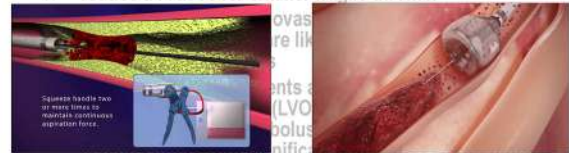
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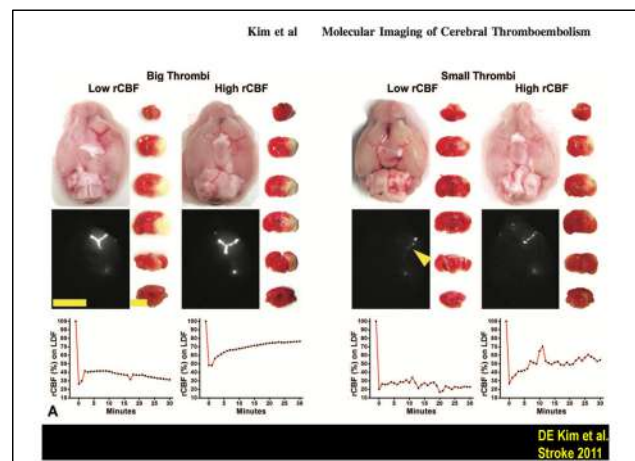
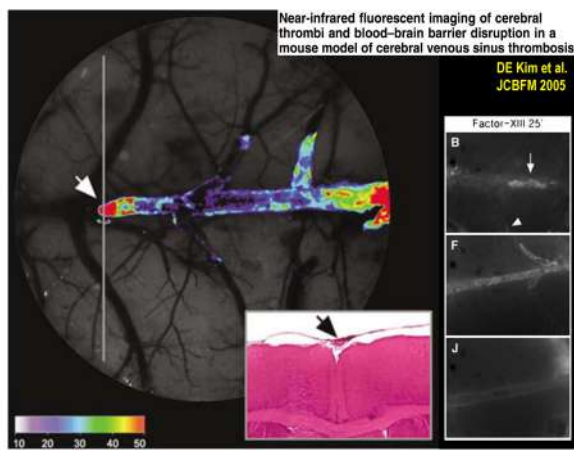


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1. reduce tPA dose for smaller fragile thrombi



4. better select specific endovascular therapies / devices and allow for technical refinements, leading to safer and more effective endovascular therapy



Poor depth penetration → Optical techniques do not allow a non-invasive imaging in vivo.

- **Q: Can we visualize thrombus serially in vivo?**
  - To advance to personalized thrombolytic therapy by demonstrating thrombus burden, distribution, and character in a prompt and quantitative manner

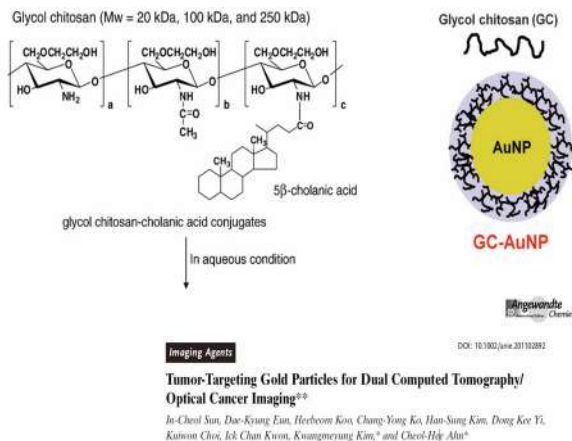
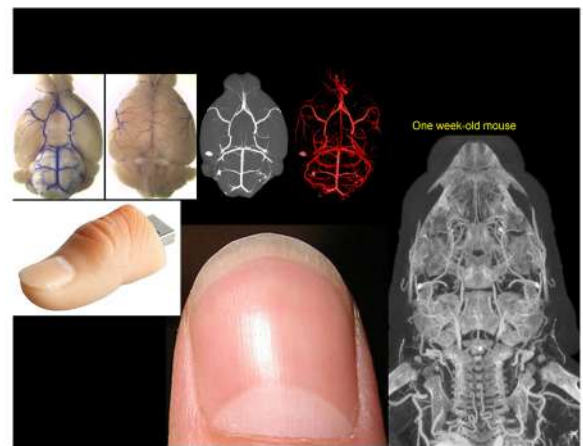
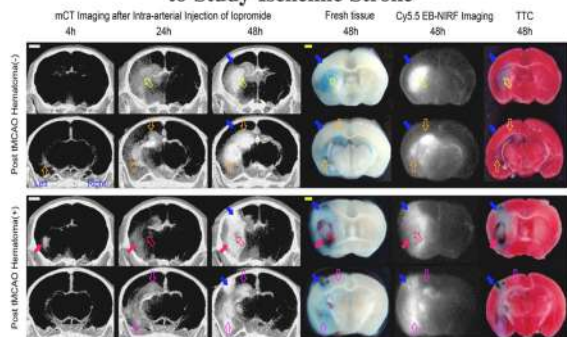


- **Modality of choice for direct thrombus imaging in stroke ?**

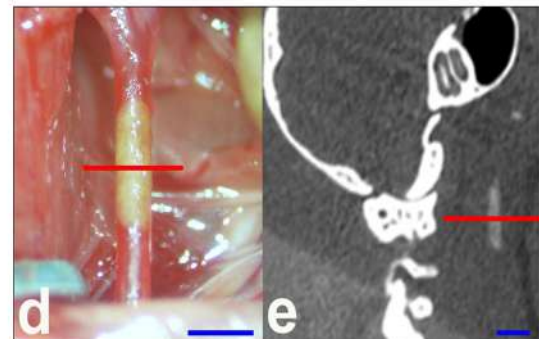
- Computed tomography (CT) is the current standard for most clinical decision making in administering tissue plasminogen activator (tPA). However, non-contrast CT does not usually allow a precise assessment of extent and distribution of thromboemboli.



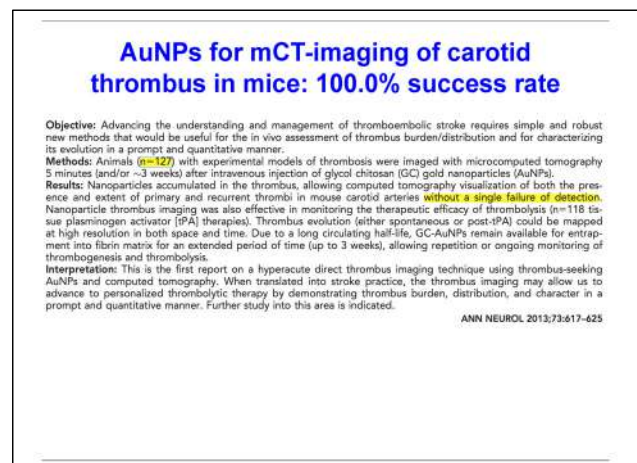
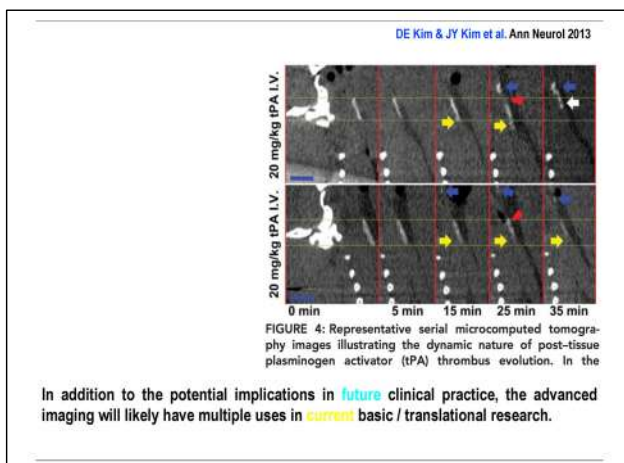
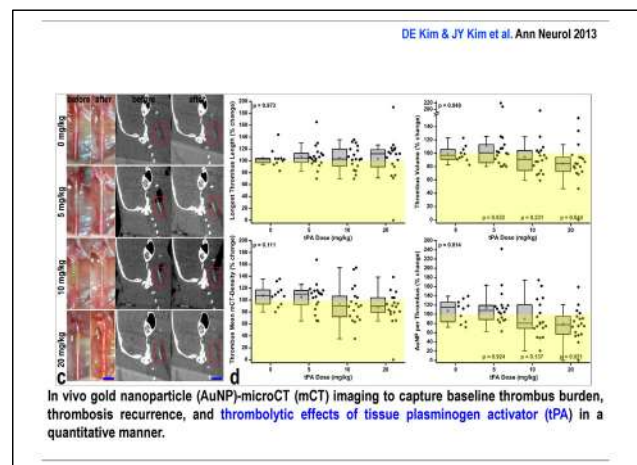
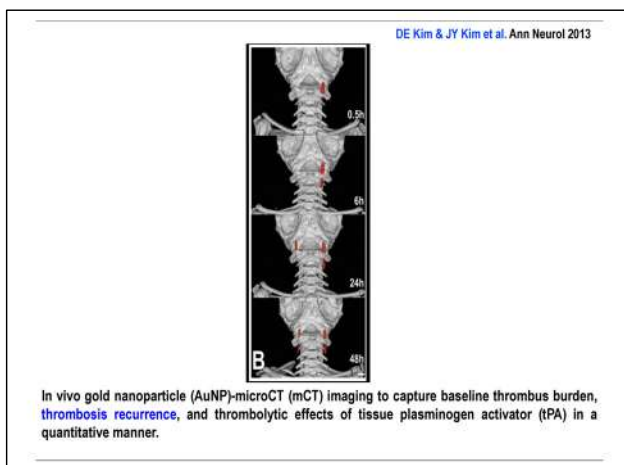
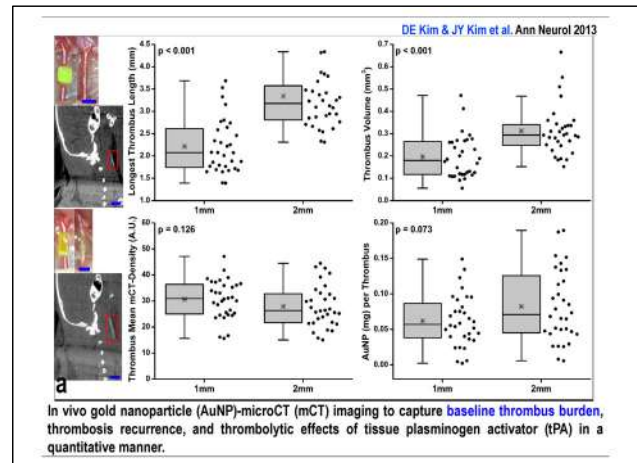
JY Park ~ DE Kim; Stroke 2014  
**A New Micro-Computed Tomography-Based High-Resolution Blood-Brain Barrier Imaging Technique to Study Ischemic Stroke**

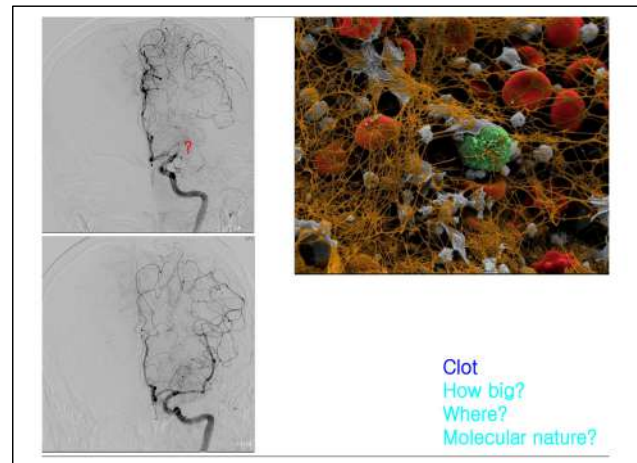
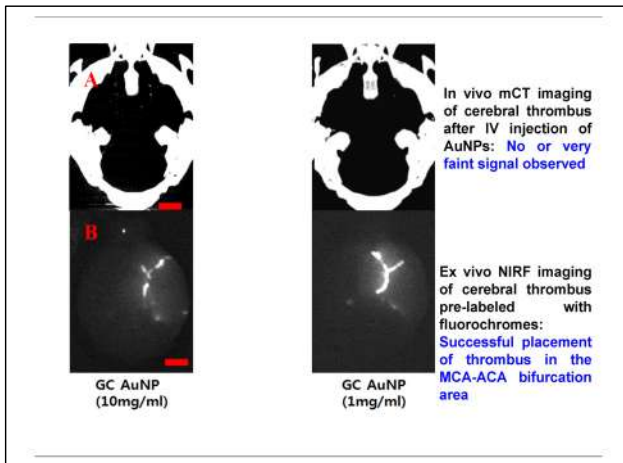


DE Kim & JY Kim et al. Ann Neurol 2013  
 In vivo gold nanoparticle (AuNP)-microCT imaging **detects** thrombus promptly in mice exposed to FeCl<sub>3</sub> at the left carotid artery.




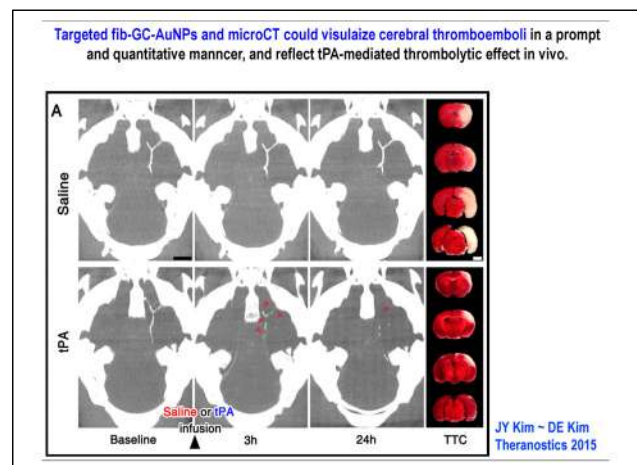
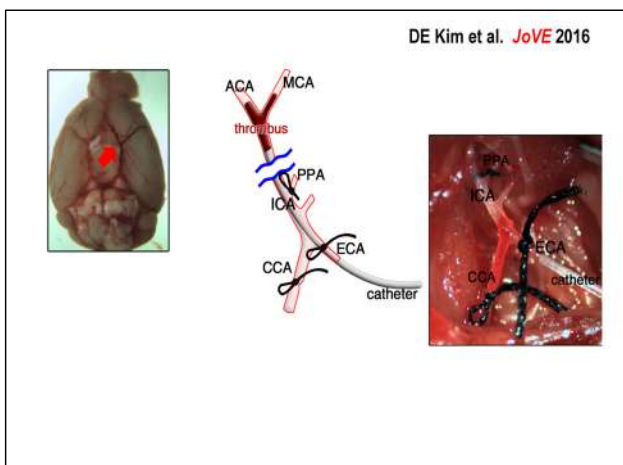
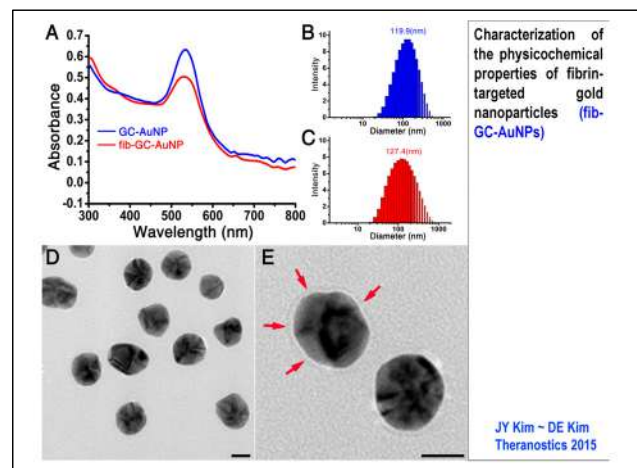


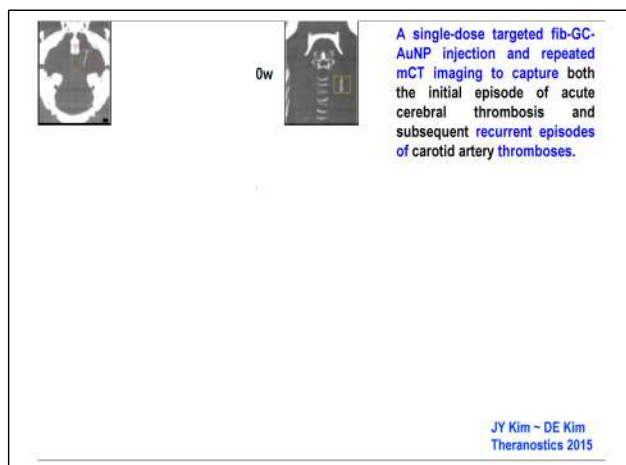
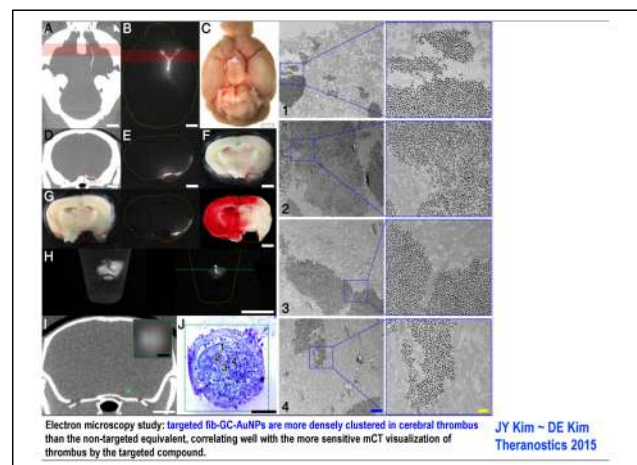
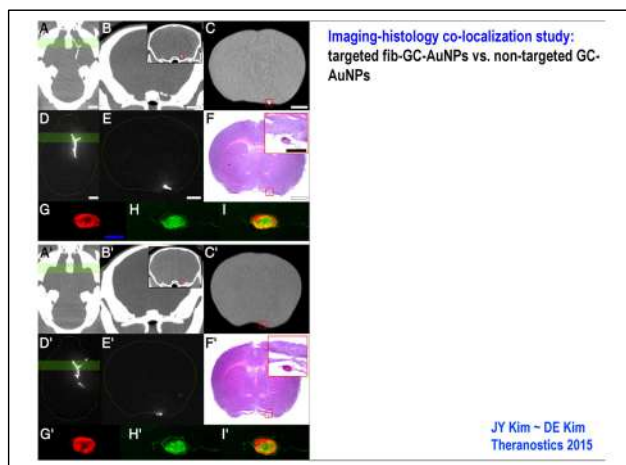
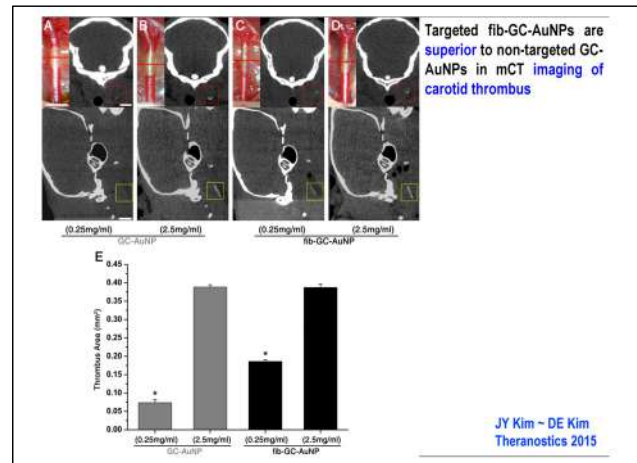
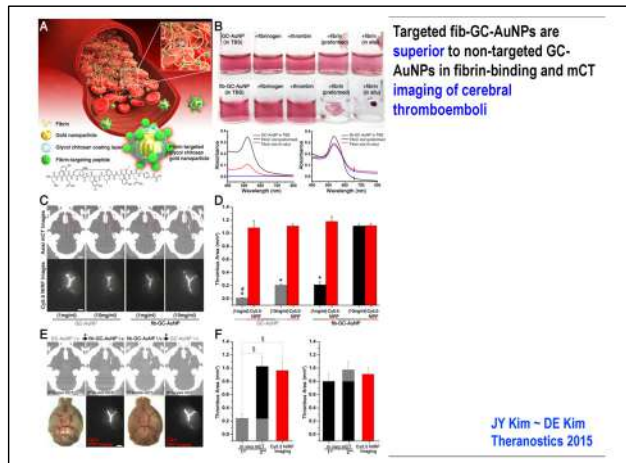




### Question

- Can we visualize 'cerebral' thromboemboli and post-tPA thrombus evolution serially in vivo using a novel fibrin-targeted AuNPs?

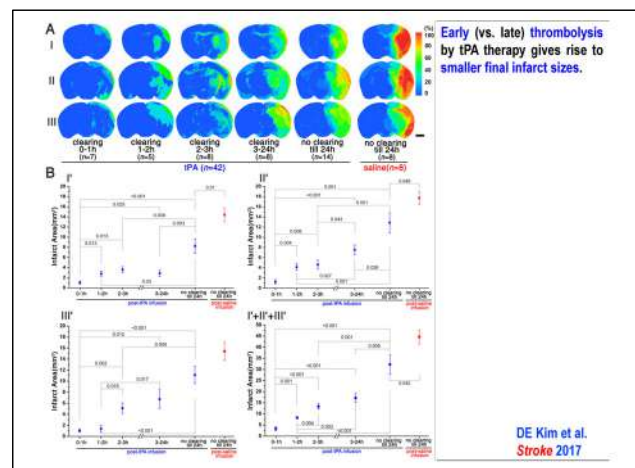
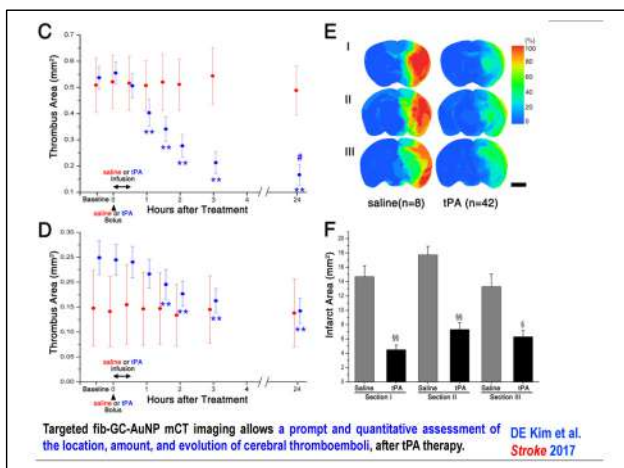
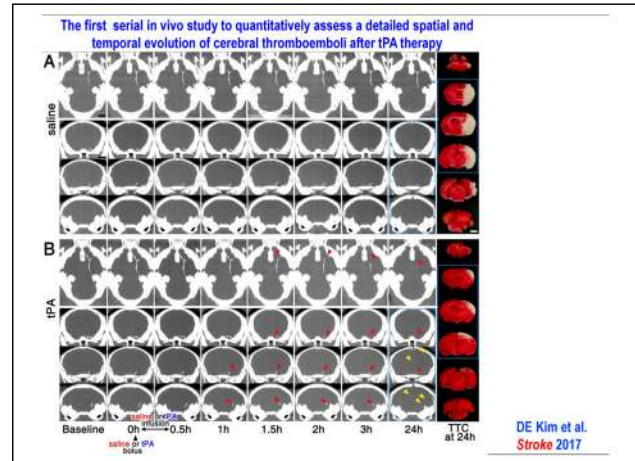







**Q: Spatiotemporal Dynamics of tPA Response of Cerebral Thromboemboli in Near-real Time?**

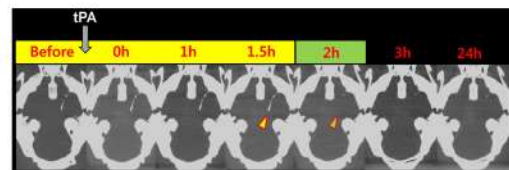
Serially in the same mice in vivo



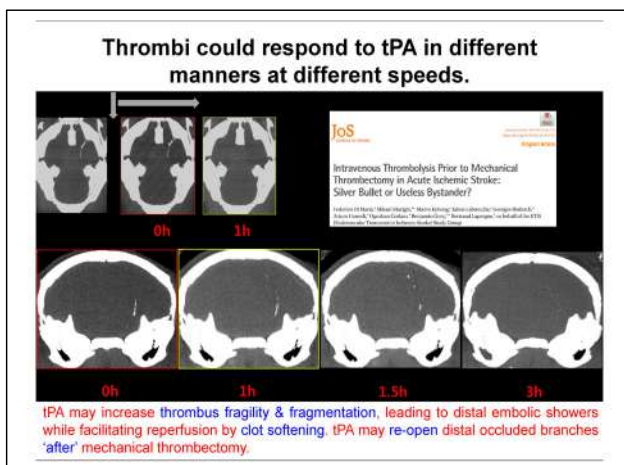
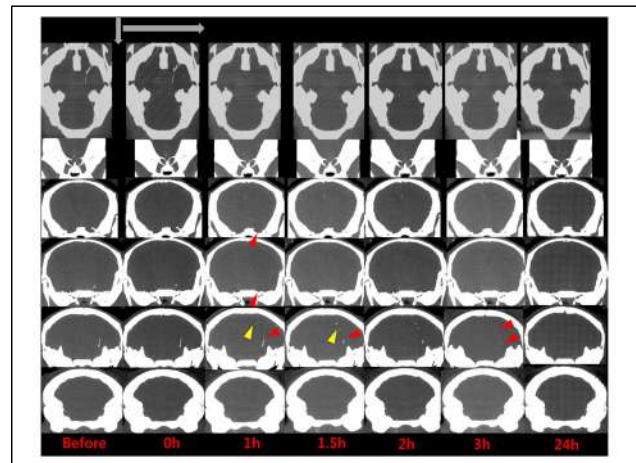
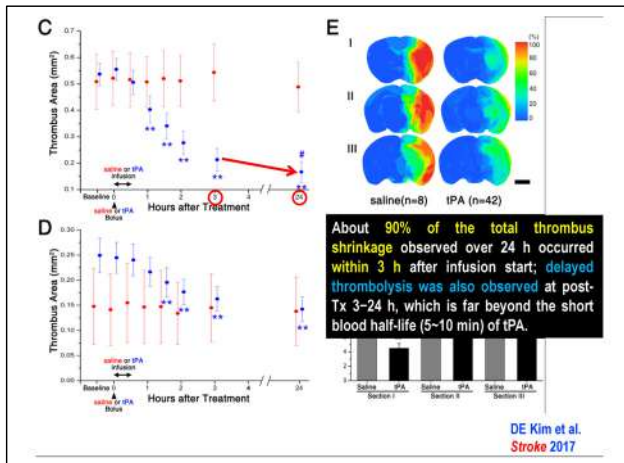
**Lessons from Direct Thrombus Imaging Cases in Mice: Some Translational Points**



Thrombi could dissolve rapidly at some point after resisting for a relatively long time....

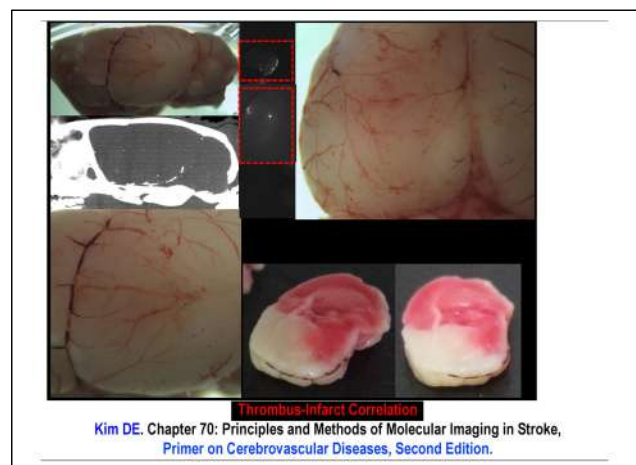
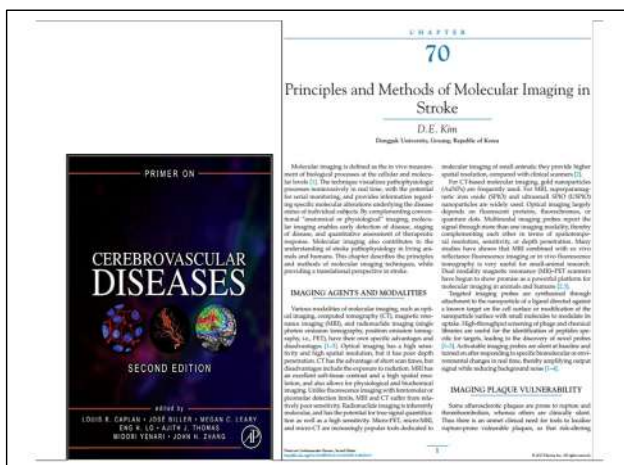


When and how should we decide whether to move on to mechanical thrombectomy? The sooner, the better?



## Conclusion

- (CT-based) Direct thrombus imaging is likely to serve as a new, simple, and robust research tool in stroke
- When translated into stroke practice, it may allow us to advance to personalized thrombolytic therapy
  - by demonstrating thrombus burden, distribution, and molecular character in a prompt and quantitative manner.





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