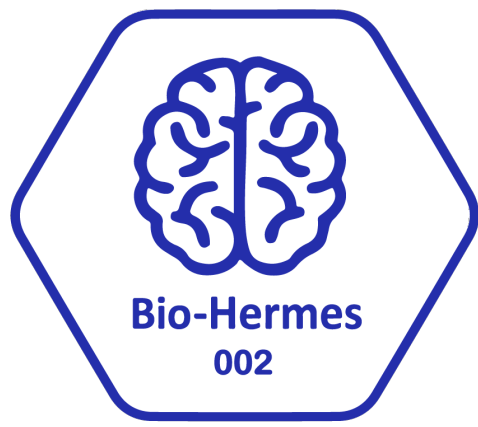




A Comparison of Flortaucipir and MK6240 Tau PET Positivity Rates in the Bio-Hermes-002 study

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Background

PET scans are useful for assessing amyloid and tau deposits in persons being evaluated for participation in clinical trials. The most widely used tau PET ligands are Flortaucipir and MK6240. We compared tau PET positivity rates for these two ligands in an interim analysis of the Bio-Hermes-002 study which included persons who were cognitively normal (CN), had clinical Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI) or mild Alzheimer’s disease (AD); all had amyloid PET scans with Florbetapir.

Methods

- As of May 2026, 878 of the planned 1000 participants have been enrolled at 25 sites in the US, Canada, and the UK.
- By NIH/ADRDA clinical criteria, 292 were CN, 322 were MCI and 264 had mild AD.
 - In addition to the amyloid and tau PET scans, demographic data, clinical history, cognitive assessment with the MMSE, and other scales were completed with the participant.
 - Flortaucipir and MK6240 were used for 237 and 641 participants, respectively. All scans were centrally read by trained neuroradiologists as positive or negative according to the manufacturer’s instructions.

Results

- Age increased and MMSE scores decreased going from CN to MCI to mild AD as seen in Table 1. Age and MMSE were nearly identical for groups given each of the two tau PET ligands.
- There was a highly significant association of tau PET positivity with amyloid PET positivity , $\chi^2 = 277.40$ (1, N = , p < .001).
- There was also a highly significant association of tau PET positivity and amyloid PET positivity when comparing within the CN, $\chi^2 = 24.50$ (1, N = 292 , p < .001) , MCI, $\chi^2 = 87.89$ (1, N = 322, p < .001) , and AD groups, $\chi^2 = 96.02$ (1, N = 264, p < .001).
- There was no significant difference between the tau PET ligands in the rate of tau PET positivity for the CN, $\chi^2 = 1.09$ (1, N = 292 , p = .30), MCI, $\chi^2 = .31$ (1, N = 326, p = .58), or the AD groups, $\chi^2 = .15$ (1, N = 264 , p = .70).

Conclusion

The Tau PET positivity rates were comparable for Flortaucipir and MK6240 across CN, MCI and Mild AD participants and for both amyloid positive and negative participants. Detailed regional and quantitative analyses are underway and may reveal differences between ligands.

Table 1: Demographic and Clinical Data by Clinical Group, Amyloid PET Status, and Tau Ligand

Group	CN Aβ-	CN Aβ+	MCI Aβ-	MCI Aβ+	AD Aβ-	AD Aβ+
Total N/ Group	211	81	157	165	81	183
Flortaucipir N	49	27	45	42	20	54
Mean Age	68.80	72.67	71.64	75.18	71.95	76.50
Mean MMSE	28.40	28.53	27.35	26.17	21.50	20.28
MK6240 N	162	54	112	123	61	129
Mean Age	69.30	74.59	72.79	75.18	74.66	76.06
Mean MMSE	28.16	28.03	26.75	26.70	23.73	21.36

Table 2: Tau PET Positivity for the two Tau PET Ligands by Clinical Group and Amyloid PET Status

Group	CN Aβ-	CN Aβ+	MCI Aβ-	MCI Aβ+	AD Aβ-	AD Aβ+
Total N/ Group	211	81	157	165	81	183
Flortaucipir Tau PET + N/%	3/6.12%	6/22.22%	4/8.89%	22/52.38%	1/5.00%	48/88.89%
MK6240 Tau PET + N/%	5/3.09%	12/22.22%	7/6.25%	70/56.91%	16/26.23%	105/81.40%