Normal-appearing tissue offers insights into lesion formation in multiple sclerosis

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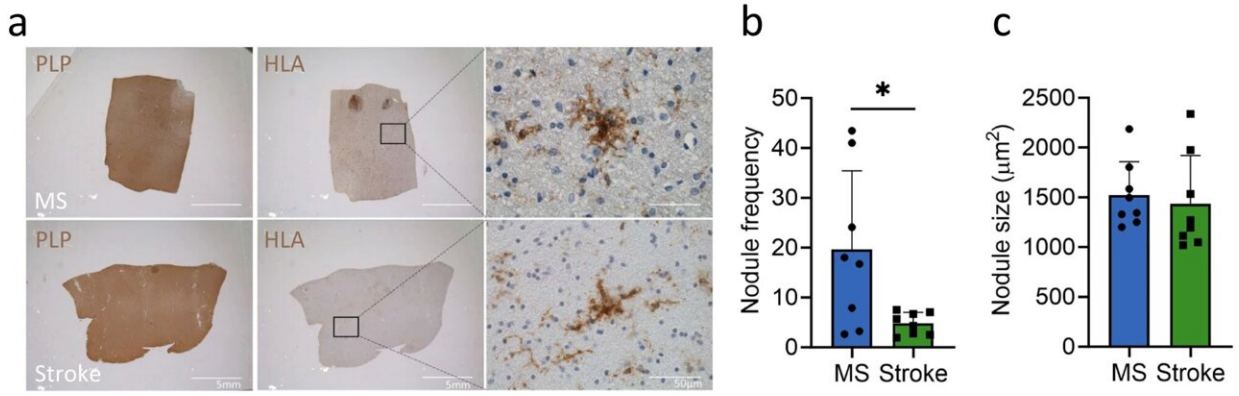

Microglia nodules in MS are more frequent than in stroke but are similar in size. IHC stainings with HLA and PLP shown in brown. Quantifications performed on $n = 8$ MS and $n = 8$ stroke donors. **a** PLP and HLA staining of (NA)WM matter in MS and in stroke shows no sign of demyelination and clustering of HLA-DR$^+$ cells into nodules. **b** In MS, 197 nodules were counted in total and in stroke 60 nodules were counted in total. Microglia nodule frequency was calculated per donor as number of microglia nodules per 100 mm^2. The nodule frequency was higher in MS compared to stroke ($p = 0.03$). **c** In MS, 197 nodules were measured in total, and in stroke, 46 nodules were counted in total. Microglia nodule size as measured in µm^2 was similar in MS and stroke. Bar plots show mean ± standard deviation. Significance was tested with a two-sided Student's *t* test, *p* value