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### **Admission levels of total tau and $\beta$ -amyloid isoforms 1-40 and 1-42 in predicting the outcome of mild traumatic brain injury**

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## **Abstract**

### **Background**

The purpose of this study was to investigate if admission levels of total tau (T-tau) and  $\beta$ -amyloid isoforms 1-40 ( $A\beta_{40}$ ) and 1-42 ( $A\beta_{42}$ ) could predict clinical outcome in patients with mild traumatic brain injury (mTBI).

### **Methods**

A total of 105 patients with mTBI [Glasgow Coma Scale (GCS) $\geq$ 13] recruited in Turku University Hospital, Turku, Finland were included in this study. Blood samples were drawn within 24 hours of

admission for analysis of plasma T-tau, A $\beta$ 40 and A $\beta$ 42. Patients were divided into computed tomography (CT)-positive and CT-negative groups. The outcome was assessed 6-12 months after the injury using the Extended Glasgow Outcome Scale (GOSE). Outcomes were defined as complete (GOSE 8) or incomplete (GOSE<8) recovery. The Rivermead Post Concussion Symptoms Questionnaire (RPCSQ) was also used to assess mTBI-related symptoms. Predictive values of the biomarkers were analyzed independently, in panels and together with clinical parameters.

## **Results**

The admission levels of plasma T-tau, A $\beta$ 40 and A $\beta$ 42 were not significantly different between patients with complete and incomplete recovery. The levels of T-tau, A $\beta$ 40 and A $\beta$ 42 could poorly predict complete recovery, with areas under the receiver operating characteristic curve 0.56, 0.52 and 0.54, respectively. For the whole cohort, there was a significant negative correlation between the levels of T-tau and ordinal GOSE score (Spearman  $\rho$ =-0.231,  $p$ =0.018). In a multivariate logistic regression model including age, GCS, duration of posttraumatic amnesia, Injury severity score (ISS), time from injury to sampling, and CT findings, none of the biomarkers could predict complete recovery independently or together with the other two biomarkers. Plasma levels of T-tau, A $\beta$ 40 and A $\beta$ 42 did not significantly differ between the outcome groups either within the CT-positive or CT-negative subgroups. Levels of A $\beta$ 40 and A $\beta$ 42 did not significantly correlate with outcome, but in the CT-positive subgroup, the levels of T-tau significantly correlated with ordinal GOSE score (Spearman  $\rho$ =-0.288,  $p$ =0.035). The levels of T-tau, A $\beta$ 40 and A $\beta$ 42 were not correlated with the RPCSQ scores.

## **Conclusions**

The early levels of T-tau are correlated with the outcome in patients with mTBI, but none of the biomarkers either alone or in any combinations could predict complete recovery in patients with mTBI.

## Introduction

Traumatic brain injury (TBI), “the silent epidemic”, will become a leading cause of disability and death globally by 2030 according to the recent estimation of the World Health Organization.<sup>1</sup> Approximately 80-90% of all TBIs presenting to emergency departments are mild (mTBI).<sup>2</sup> Although most of the patients with mTBI show good recovery, a subgroup comprising 15-20% continue to have post-injury symptoms after one year.<sup>3</sup> Computed tomography (CT), which is the standard tool for the assessment of acute TBI, is not sensitive enough for the long-term outcome prediction of mTBI.<sup>4,5</sup> Furthermore, there is still no clinically validated models for the outcome prediction following mTBI, and the performance of the tested models for mTBI are poor.<sup>6</sup>

The process of recovery from mTBI is highly variable and individual. Importantly, there are no validated TBI biomarkers to provide objective measures of the degree of neuronal damage as well as the pathophysiological events following a TBI, which could help the clinician to evaluate the risks for incomplete recovery and to properly recognize patients who will need follow-up care.<sup>7-9</sup> Glial fibrillary acidic protein (GFAP), ubiquitin C-terminal hydrolase-L1 (UCH-L1), and neurofilament light (NF-L) protein have been reported as promising biomarkers for the outcome prediction of mTBI,<sup>10-17</sup>.

Recently also tau protein and  $\beta$ -amyloid isoforms 1-40 (A $\beta$ 40) and 1-42 (A $\beta$ 42), axon terminal biomarkers, known as the neurodegenerative biomarkers<sup>18,19</sup>, have been studied to explore the association between post-concussion symptoms (PCS) and neuronal damage, especially after repeated mTBIs. Tau is a microtubule-associated protein that is located in the axons of central nervous system (CNS) neurons and serves as a structural element in the axonal cytoskeleton.<sup>20-22</sup> Total tau (T-tau) has been reported as a biomarker of injury to thin unmyelinated axons in a human post-mortem study.<sup>23</sup> One study reported that elevated levels of plasma tau are associated with repetitive mTBIs in amateur boxers.<sup>24</sup> Another study showed a marked increase in the plasma levels of tau in concussed professional ice hockey players.<sup>25</sup> Serum tau levels were reported as a significant outcome predictor following severe TBI.<sup>26</sup> In addition, admission cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) tau was correlated with long-term outcome in patients with severe TBI.<sup>27</sup> Lately, it has been suggested that acute plasma hyperphosphorylated tau protein (P-tau) levels and the P-tau-T-tau ratio outperform T-tau levels for the outcome prediction of TBI.<sup>22</sup>

A $\beta$ 40<sup>28</sup> and A $\beta$ 42<sup>29,30</sup> reflect amyloidogenic amyloid precursor protein (APP) metabolism and have been reported as potential biomarkers of axonal damage in TBI.<sup>31</sup> A $\beta$  pathology, primarily consisting of aggregated A $\beta$ 42 peptides, is a histologic hallmark of Alzheimer's disease (AD)<sup>32</sup>, and TBI has been suggested to be one of the risk factors for AD.<sup>33</sup> A $\beta$  pathology (amyloid plaques) have been found in boxers having dementia pugilistica<sup>34</sup> and in a proportion of other contact sport athletes having chronic traumatic encephalopathy.<sup>35</sup> Although ventricular CSF levels of A $\beta$ 40 and A $\beta$ 42 were elevated during the first week after severe TBI<sup>36</sup>, no changes in A $\beta$ 40 or A $\beta$ 42 were reported in mTBI where CSF samples were collected by lumbar puncture.<sup>37</sup> However, for repetitive mTBI, post-injury subjective symptoms were associated with the reduction of CSF levels of A $\beta$ 40 and A $\beta$ 42.<sup>15,38</sup> It has been reported that plasma levels of A $\beta$ 40 and A $\beta$ 42 do not have a value for the diagnosis and the prediction of outcome of mTBI.<sup>15,23,33,35,36</sup> Lately, our research group has reported significant relationship between the acute plasma levels of axonal protein biomarker NF-L and the outcome in patients with mTBI.<sup>16</sup> There are no studies correlating the admission plasma levels of the other axonal biomarkers such as A $\beta$ 40 and A $\beta$ 42 with the outcome of mTBI.

The aim of the current study was to correlate the levels of T-tau and A $\beta$ 40 and A $\beta$ 42 during the first 24 hours after admission with outcome in patients with mTBI, using ultrasensitive single molecule array (Simoa) technology<sup>39,40</sup>. We hypothesized that these biomarkers would show some correlation with the outcome in these patients.

## **Methods**

### *Study population*

This prospective study was a part of the EU-funded TBicare (Evidence-based Diagnostic and Treatment Planning Solution for Traumatic Brain Injuries) project. One-hundred-seven (107) patients with mTBI [Glasgow Coma Scale (GCS)  $\geq$  13] were recruited whose blood samples were available within 24 hours from the arrival to the ED of Turku University Hospital, Finland.

Inclusion criteria were: lowest GCS  $\geq$  13, age  $\geq$  18 years, clinical diagnosis of TBI and indications for acute head CT according to NICE criteria (<http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/cg176>).

Exclusion criteria were: age < 18 years, blast-induced or penetrating injury, chronic subdural hematoma, inability to live independently due to pre-existing brain disease, TBI or suspected TBI not needing head CT, more than 2 weeks from the injury, not living in the district thereby preventing follow-up visits, not speaking native language, or no consent received.

#### *Analysis of T-tau and A $\beta$ 40 and A $\beta$ 42*

Plasma T-tau was analyzed using the Human Neurology 4-Plex A assay (N4PA) on an HD-1 Single molecule array (Simoa) instrument according to instructions from the manufacturer (Quanterix, Lexington, MA). For T-tau, the lower limit of detection (LLoD) was 0.024 pg/mL, whilst the lower limit of quantification (LLoQ) was 0.053 pg/mL and the calibration range was 0.136 pg/mL to 112 pg/mL. Plasma A $\beta$ 40 and A $\beta$ 42 concentrations were measured using a duplex Simoa immunoassay (Quanterix, Lexington, MA, USA). For A $\beta$ 40, the LLoD was 0.045 pg/mL and the LLoQ was 0.142 pg/mL with a calibration range between 0 pg/mL to 90.0 pg/mL. For A $\beta$ 42, the LLoD was 0.142 pg/mL and the LLoQ was 0.69 pg/ml with a calibration range between 0 pg/mL to 11.0 pg/mL. The measurements were performed by board-certified laboratory technicians who were blinded to clinical data. There were no samples below the LLoDs and LLoQs.

#### *TBI severity and outcome grading*

For the assessment of TBI severity, the lowest recorded GCS was used either at the scene of accident or emergency department.<sup>11,17</sup> The overall injury severity of the patients was assessed using the Injury Severity Score (ISS).<sup>41</sup> The duration of posttraumatic amnesia (PTA) was assessed at the outcome visit using the Rivermead method.<sup>42</sup> The descriptive system proposed by Marshall et al. was used to analyze the CT scans,<sup>43</sup> where class 1 corresponds with normal CT, classes 2-4 diffuse injuries, and classes 5-6 CTs with mass lesions.

#### *Outcome*

The Extended Glasgow Outcome Scale (GOSE) was used at 6-12 months after the injury to assess the outcome.<sup>44</sup> Outcomes were defined as complete recovery (GOSE 8), and incomplete recovery (GOSE < 8). The presence and severity of mTBI-related symptoms were assessed using the

Rivermead Post Concussion Symptoms Questionnaire (RPCSQ).<sup>45</sup> Every patient was evaluated by the same experienced neurologist at the Turku Brain Injury Centre.

### *Time elapse*

Time elapse was defined as the interval between the injury and sampling. Although the samples were obtained within 24 hours of admission, they were not always drawn within 24 hours after injury. Time elapse was used as a dichotomous variable, less than 24 hours or more than 24 hours, in the multiparameter prognostic panel analyses.

### *Ethics declarations*

#### *Ethics approval and consent to participate*

The study protocol was approved by the ethical review board of Hospital District of South-West Finland. A written informed consent was obtained from all patients or from their next of kin.

### *Statistical analyses*

Demographics of the subjects are presented as mean  $\pm$  SD or percentages. The Kolmogorov-Smirnov test and visual inspection of data histograms were used to assess the normality of distribution. The levels of T-tau and A $\beta$ 40 and A $\beta$ 42 were not normally distributed, therefore nonparametric tests were used in the statistical analyses. Data are presented as medians and interquartile range (IQR). Spearman rank correlation coefficient was used to assess the correlations between the levels of biomarkers and the outcomes. Correlations of biomarker levels with age and gender were analyzed with Pearson's and Spearman rank correlation, respectively. Spearman correlation coefficient was also used to assess the correlation between the levels of T-tau and amyloids in the whole cohort, as well as in the complete and incomplete recovery groups. Mann-Whitney U test was used to compare the levels of biomarkers between the outcome groups. A multivariate logistic regression analysis was performed in order to investigate if a biomarker alone or combined with other biomarkers had independent predictive power for the outcome beyond the clinical predictors. A biomarker panel analysis was used to investigate if a combination of biomarkers had better predictive ability than any



biomarker alone. The regression analysis included the following variables: age, sex, educational level, ISS, worst GCS, Marshall CT classification, duration of PTA, time elapse, and the levels of T-tau and A $\beta$ 40 and A $\beta$ 42. Educational level was divided into basic school education, lower level professional, higher level professional and academic. Marshall CT classification, sex, time elapse, and educational level were taken into account as categorical variables. Marshall class I (denoting CT-negative finding), female sex, time elapse of more than 24 hours, and basic school education were used as reference categories in multivariate logistic regression. All other variables were considered to be numerical variables in the analyses. T-tau and A $\beta$ 40 and A $\beta$ 42 were used in the multivariate logistic regression models independently with the other variables and together in the same models. To study the prognostic ability of the biomarkers, area under the receiver-operating characteristic (ROC) curve (AUC) was also used. AUC of 0.8 to 1.0 was considered very good; AUC of 0.7 to 0.8 was considered adequate; and AUC of 0.5 to 0.7 was considered poor.<sup>23</sup> A p value of  $< 0.05$  was considered statistically significant. For the prediction of dichotomized outcomes, cut-off values were defined using the ROC curve at the clinically compatible sensitivity  $> 90\%$ . For the data analyses, IBM SPSS Statistics 22 (IBM Corp, Armonk, New York) and MATLAB R2016b (Math Works, Natick, Massachusetts) were used. Furthermore, a multiparameter prognostic panel was formed by PanelomiX toolbox<sup>38</sup> using clinical information (age, sex, educational levels, GCS, duration of PTA, ISS, time elapse, CT findings, and GOSE), and the admission levels of T-tau and A $\beta$ 40 and A $\beta$ 42 for the best prediction of incomplete recovery. Cut-off values were selected to ensure a sensitivity of more than 90%. For the prognostic panels, the partial AUC (pAUC) was used as a local comparative approach that focuses only on a portion of the ROC curve.

## Results

### *Study subjects*

One-hundred-seven (107) patients with mTBI were recruited, of which GOSE score was available for 105, forming the final study population. There were 72 males (68.6%) and 33 females (31.4%), with a mean age of  $47 \pm 20$  years. The number of patients with CT-positive and CT-negative findings were 54 (51.4%) and 51 (48.6%), respectively. Patient characteristics are shown in Table 1. With regard to the outcome, 37 patients (35.0%) had complete recovery, 68 patients (65.0%) had

incomplete recovery, and the mortality was 3.8% (n = 4). Among patients in whom the exact time of injury was available, the time elapse from injury to blood sampling was 28±35 hours (n = 76). In patients for whom the exact time of injury was unavailable, 11 patients were sampled within 24 hours and 18 patients were sampled after 24 hours from the injury.

#### *The levels of T-tau and outcome*

The levels of T-tau were compared between patients with complete recovery (2.65pg/mL, IQR 3.58pg/mL) and incomplete recovery (2.8pg/mL, IQR 7.5pg/mL) (Figure 1) but significant differences were not observed. There was a significant negative correlation between the levels of T-tau and ordinal GOSE score in all patients (Spearman  $\rho = -0.231$ ,  $p = 0.018$ ) (Table 2). The level of T-tau was not able to predict the likelihood of complete recovery (AUC 0.56, 95% CI 0.45-0.67) (Figure 2A). Gender seemed to have an effect on T-tau (Table 2). The levels of T-tau did not differ between the outcome groups and the levels of T-tau did not correlate significantly with the outcome within the CT-negative subgroup. In the CT-positive subgroup, there was a significant negative correlation between the levels of T-tau and ordinal GOSE score (Spearman  $\rho = -0.288$ ,  $p = 0.035$ ). The levels of T-tau did not correlate with the RPCSQ scores (Table 2).

#### *The levels of A $\beta$ 40 and A $\beta$ 42 and outcome*

The levels of A $\beta$ 40 were not significantly different between patients with complete (16.9pg/mL, IQR 12.76pg/mL) and incomplete recovery (17.42pg/mL, IQR 12.65pg/mL). The levels of A $\beta$ 42 were also not significantly different between patients with complete (16.94pg/mL, IQR 12.36pg/mL) and incomplete recovery (15.23pg/mL, IQR 10.61pg/mL) (Figure 1). There was no significant correlation between the levels of A $\beta$ 40 and A $\beta$ 42 and the GOSE score (Table 2). A $\beta$ 40 and A $\beta$ 42 were not able to predict the likelihood of complete recovery (AUC 0.52, 95% CI 0.41-0.64 and AUC 0.54, 95% CI 0.43-0.63, respectively) (Figure 2B, 2C).

When patients were divided into CT-positive and CT-negative subgroups, the levels of A $\beta$ 40 and A $\beta$ 42 did not differ between the outcome groups, nor did the levels correlate significantly with the outcome within these subgroups. The levels of A $\beta$ 40 and A $\beta$ 42 did not correlate with the RPCSQ scores (Table 2).

### *Combining T-tau, A $\beta$ 40 and A $\beta$ 42*

Using conventional multivariate logistic regression model, A $\beta$ 40 and A $\beta$ 42 were not able to predict outcome independently or together with T-tau, or vice versa. We also used the Panelmix-tool for evaluating the capacity of these three biomarkers in predicting incomplete recovery. When setting the sensitivity to > 90%, we found that the optimal sensitivity and specificity was 92.5% (95%CI, 85.1-98.5) and 27.8% (95%CI, 13.9-41.7), respectively (Supplementary Figure 1), when the levels of at least two out of T-tau, A $\beta$ 40 and A $\beta$ 42 were above 0.55pg/mL, 20.26pg/mL, and 23.9 pg/mL, respectively.

### *Correlation among the levels of T-tau, A $\beta$ 40 and A $\beta$ 42*

For the whole population, as well as complete and incomplete recovery subgroups, the levels of T-tau and A $\beta$ 40 and A $\beta$ 42 were not significantly correlated with each other.

### *Best multiparameter panel for outcome prediction*

We also tried to find the best combination for predicting the outcome by combining clinical variables, biomarker levels, and taking into consideration the time from injury to sampling. The best available panel found was for the levels of T-tau taken more than 24 hours from the injury and combined with age and ISS. This panel had a sensitivity of 90.8% (95%CI, 83.1-96.9) and a specificity of 57.1% (95%CI, 40-74.3), provided that at least two of these three variables were above their cut-off values (22.5 years for age, 3.5 for ISS, and 12.84 pg/ml for T-tau). (Supplementary Figure 2).

## **Discussion**

This prospective, observational study including patients with CT-positive and CT-negative mTBI investigated the performance of the blood protein biomarkers T-tau, A $\beta$ 40 and A $\beta$ 42 for the outcome prediction during the first 24 hours after admission, utilizing modern highly sensitive immunoassays in a well-characterized cohort. We found that T-tau was significantly correlated with the outcome in the whole population as well as in the subgroup of patients with CT-positive mTBI. However, the levels of T-tau, A $\beta$ 40 and A $\beta$ 42 were not significantly different between the patients with complete and incomplete recovery, and the levels of T-tau, A $\beta$ 40 and A $\beta$ 42 were not able to give any useful prediction about the likelihood of complete recovery. Moreover, none of the biomarkers was correlated with the symptom severity as assessed with the RPCSQ scores. Yet, a multiparameter panel

method suggested that levels of T-tau may have predictive value when sampled > 24 hours from the injury and combined with age and ISS, obtaining a sensitivity of 90.8% and a specificity of 57.1% for predicting incomplete recovery.

Earlier studies reported that serum tau had limited value for the diagnosis of intracranial injury and the outcome prediction of mTBI<sup>46,47</sup>, which is in agreement with our results. Recently, TRACK-TBI investigators used another high-sensitive assay platform and reported that acute P-tau levels and the P-tau-T-tau ratio outperformed T-tau levels in the outcome prediction of TBI.<sup>22</sup> As only the levels of T-tau were measured in our study, the results might have been different if also P-tau was measured. Since tau is mainly expressed in unmyelinated cortical axons<sup>15</sup>, the inability of the admission levels of plasma T-tau to differentiate complete and incomplete recovery may support the concept that in most of the cases of mTBI, mainly subcortical myelinated axons of the white matter are injured.<sup>15,16,48</sup> Another possible explanation is that the eventual injury of cortical axons is a slower process, not reflected in blood levels of T-tau during the time frame used in this study.

Our study findings of A $\beta$ 40 and A $\beta$ 42 are in line with the results of the previous studies<sup>15,23,33,35,36</sup>, where the levels of A $\beta$ 40 and A $\beta$ 42 did not correlate with the outcome as well as the levels were unable to predict complete and incomplete recovery.

A recent study reported that there was no significant relationship between the plasma levels of T-tau and A $\beta$ 42 and neurocognitive tests following mTBI.<sup>49</sup> The study used late levels of T-tau, why our results cannot be compared with those data.

**There are limitations in our study. Firstly, we had data on T-tau and A $\beta$ 40 and A $\beta$ 42 available only at a single timepoint – within 24 hours after admission. A kinetic study with serial sampling would allow estimation of the total efflux of a biomarker and timing of the peak values, which could reveal more information about the outcome prediction abilities of the studied biomarkers.<sup>51</sup> Tau has been reported to be a long-term biomarker having the peak value within the first hour after the initial injury and a second peak after 36 hours following mTBI.<sup>25</sup> A $\beta$ 42 becomes significantly elevated within the first 24 hours after injury and remains quite stable for ca. 6 days,<sup>18</sup> although, there are conraindicatory studies reporting no significant elevation of A $\beta$ 40 and A $\beta$ 42 following mTBI.<sup>48</sup> Indeed, we found that the levels of T-tau seemed to**

perform best when taken > 24 hours from the injury and combined with clinical variables. The outcome prediction abilities of the studied blood biomarkers could be negatively driven by the variability in timing of sample collection in relation to injury between patients. The most accurate diagnostic time windows for the biomarkers might have been missed, however, the time from injury to sampling was taken into account as a covariate in the analysis. Secondly, the variability in assessing the GOSE between 6 to 12 months after the injury should be considered as a limitation of the study. This limitation has been elaborately discussed in one of our recently published biomarker studies utilizing the same study cohort.<sup>16</sup> Thirdly, our patients with mTBI had more severe injuries than an average mTBI population who are seen at the ED. This is because there was a recruitment bias favouring those patients who required in-hospital treatment. This is why many patients of our mTBI cohort had abnormalities on CT. In addition, some patients – although having GCS in the mild category – had PTA for > 24 hours, which according to many classifications indicate a more severe TBI. These issues reflect the problems in defining an acute TBI by severity, nicely shown also in the CENTER-TBI study,<sup>52</sup> where about one-third of cases treated at the ICU had mTBI based on GCS.<sup>53</sup> Thus, when interpreting our results, the nature of our study population has to be taken into account. Additionally, in our study, the duration of PTA was assessed retrospectively at the outcome visit, which is considered to be less reliable than prospective evaluation. When comparing our results with earlier studies, it is important to note that none of our patients had a sports-related repetitive injury as the injury mechanism, and CSF samples were not collected.

A strength of our study is the use of ultrasensitive single molecule array (Simoa) technology. Especially for T-tau the concentrations are very low in peripheral blood and are thus almost impossible to measure precisely by most of the immunoassays.<sup>18</sup> In addition, our patient cohort was prospectively collected and well characterized.

**In this study, we studied biomarkers that mainly originate from axon terminals. However, they apparently represent different kind of axonal damage and thus we sought to investigate their outcome prediction ability in a panel analysis. Since mTBI is a complex cascade of neurometabolic changes,<sup>25</sup> therefore, developing a prediction model including the blood biomarkers of different cellular origins is an emerging need. It has recently been reported that**

panels of biomarkers from different cellular origins outperform single proteins' ability to detect patients with need for head CT scanning after TBI.<sup>54</sup> It has also been reported that a serum biomarker panel consisting of proteins of different cellular origins improved outcome prediction in TBI, where 70% of the cohort had severe TBI.<sup>55</sup>

## **Conclusions**

The main finding of the current study was that the admission levels of T-tau were significantly correlated with the outcome in patients with mTBI. Neither T-tau, A $\beta$ 40 or A $\beta$ 42 alone or their different combinations could predict complete recovery in patients with mTBI. Our study showed that T-tau may have potential in outcome prediction of mTBI, but more studies are needed using larger sample sizes, serial sampling method and possibly including P-tau and P-tau/T-tau ratio. Panels of biomarkers of different cellular origins are recommended to be utilized as they appear to outperform single biomarkers in outcome prediction.

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References 56 and 57: Results of this study have been presented as an oral presentation in the 13th World Congress On Brain Injury (IBIA 2019) in Toronto on 16th March 2019 and as an oral presentation in the European Association of Neurosurgical Societies Annual Meeting (EANS 2019) in Dublin on 25th September 2019.

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### **Author contribution statement**

IH, JPP, RSKT, MM and OT conceived and designed the study. JPP, RSKT, AJK, HRM, JT and OT recruited the patients. JPP, RSKT, AJK, HRM, JT, IH and OT designed the data collection at Turku University Hospital. MM conducted the statistical analyses with a contribution from IH, LAG and JC. JG, HZ and KB supervised the biomarker analyses. IH drafted the manuscript with critical contributions from RSKT, OT and JPP. All authors substantially contributed to the revision of the manuscript. IH takes the responsibility for the paper as whole.

### **Conflict of interest**

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Figure 1. Levels of T-tau, A $\beta$ 40 and A $\beta$ 42 in patients with complete (GOS 8) and incomplete (GOS < 8) recovery (y axis is zoomed). (Title)

Box plots represent medians in picograms per milliliter and interquartile ranges. (Caption)

Figure 2A. ROC curves for predicting complete recovery (GOS 8). (Title)

AUC for T-tau, 0.56 (95% CI 0.45-0.67) (Caption)

Figure 2B. ROC curves for predicting complete recovery (GOS 8). (Title)

AUC for A $\beta$ 40, 0.52 (95% CI 0.41-0.64) (Caption)

Figure 2C. ROC curves for predicting complete recovery (GOS 8). (Title)

AUC for A $\beta$ 42, 0.54 (95% CI 0.43-0.63) (Caption)

Table 1. Patient characteristic

Age (years)	47.46 ± 20.25
Sex	
Male	72 (68.6%)
Female	33 (31.4%)
Marshall Grade	
No visual pathology	51 (48.6%)
Diffuse injury	24 (22.9%)
Diffuse injury with swelling	1 (1%)
Diffuse injury with shift	1 (1%)
Mass lesions	28 (26.7%)
Pupil reactivity	
Unreactive	1 (1%)
Sluggish	2 (1.9%)
Reactive	98 (96.2%)
Missing data	4 (3.8%)
GOSE	
1	4 (3.8%)
2	0
3	6 (5.7%)
4	5 (4.8%)
5	7 (6.7%)
6	14 (13.3%)
7	32 (30.5%)
8	37 (35.0%)
Total	105 (100%)

Demographics are reported in mean ±SD or percentages (%)

Table 2. Correlation between biomarkers and Glasgow outcome scale extended (GOSE), gender, total PRQ, age, and RPCSQ (16 cut-off)

Biomarker	GOSE			Gender			RPCSQ (total)			Age			RPCSQ (16 cut-off)		
	Spearman $\rho$	p-value	n	Spearman $\rho$	p-value	n	Pearson's r	p-value	n	Pearson's r	p-value	n	Pearson's r	p-value	n
Amyloid $\beta$ 40	-0.082	0.410	104	0.034	0.731	104	-0.007	0.948	95	0.180	0.068	104	-0.007	0.946	95
Amyloid $\beta$ 42	0.063	0.525	103	-0.032	0.750	103	-0.015	0.889	94	0.063	0.525	103	-0.028	0.788	94
Tau	<b>-0.231</b>	<b>0.018</b>	105	<b>0.252</b>	<b>0.010</b>	105	-0.013	0.900	96	0.013	0.899	105	-0.026	0.799	96

GOSE: Glasgow Outcome Scale extended; RPCSQ: Rivermead Post Concussion Symptoms Questionnaire, statistically significant findings are in bold