

# $^{23}\text{Na}$ MRI

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# Imaging of Ions ( $\text{Na}^+$ , $\text{K}^+$ )

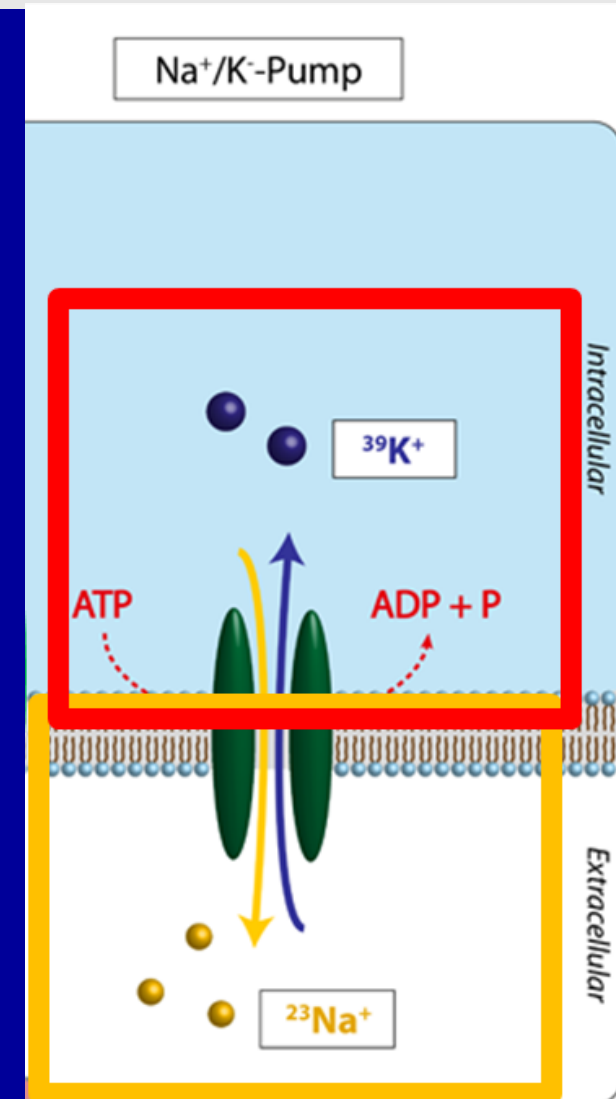
## Why?

- Function of  $\text{Na}^+/\text{K}^+$ -pump / cell viability
- Cell membrane potential

Ion	$C_{\text{extrac.}}$ (mM)	$C_{\text{intrac.}}$ (mM)	$E_{\text{ion}}$ (mV)
$\text{K}^+$	3.5 - 5	140	-95
$\text{Na}^+$	145	10 - 15	+60

➔ **Ion concentrations:** early marker in many disease processes

➔ **Kidneys:** control of electrolyte concentrations



# NMR Properties of $^{23}\text{Na}$ and $^{39}\text{K}$

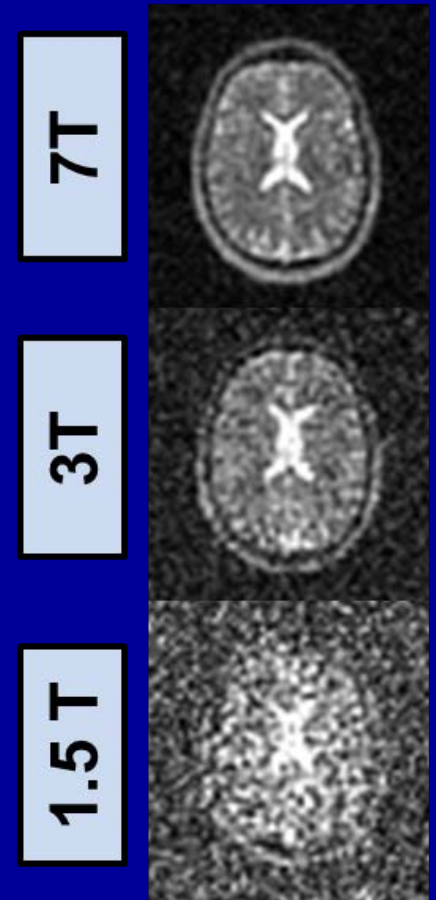
	$^{23}\text{Na}$	$^{39}\text{K}$	$^1\text{H}$
NMR-sensitivity [%]	9.3	0.05	100
concentration [M]	0.02 - 0.3	$\approx 0.1$	80
<b>relative SNR</b>	<b>0.01 - 0.1</b>	<b><math>\approx 10^{-3}</math></b>	<b>100</b>

➡ UHF MRI<sup>1</sup>

➡ Pulse sequences<sup>2</sup>: SNR $\uparrow$ / TE $\downarrow$

➡ Dedicated hardware

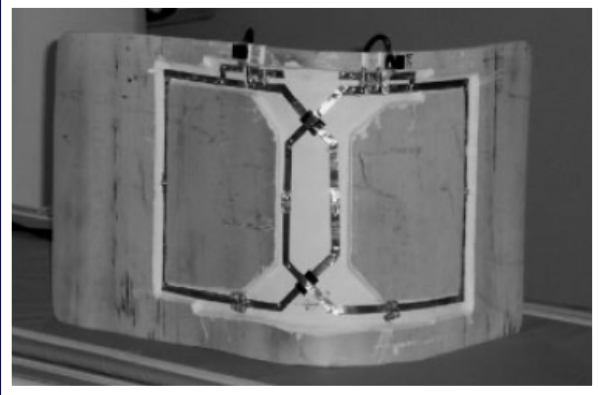
$^{23}\text{Na}$  MRI



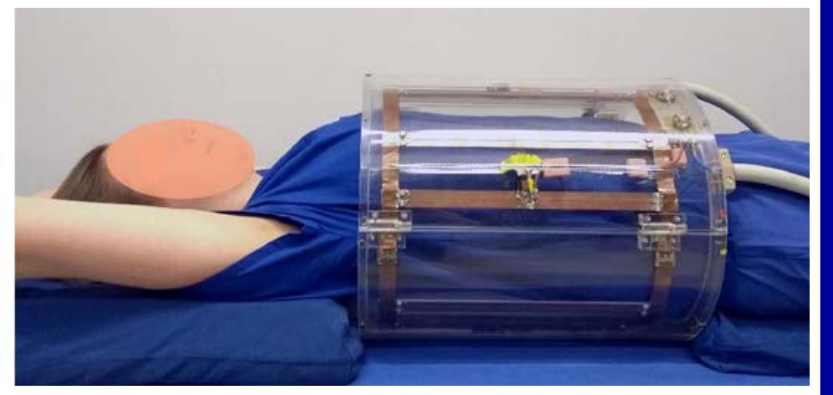
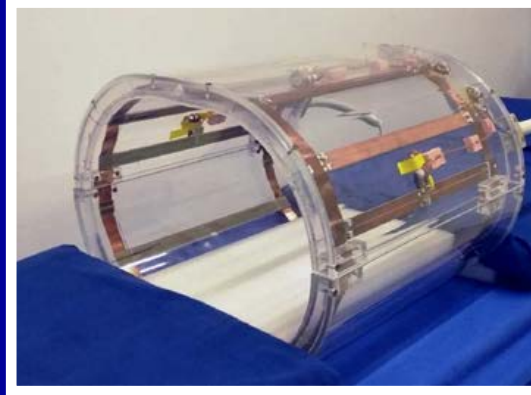
1) Ladd et al. Prog. Nucl. Magn. Reson. Spectrosc. (2018)

2) Konstandin, Nagel. MAGMA (2014)

# RF Coils for Renal $^{23}\text{Na}$ MRI



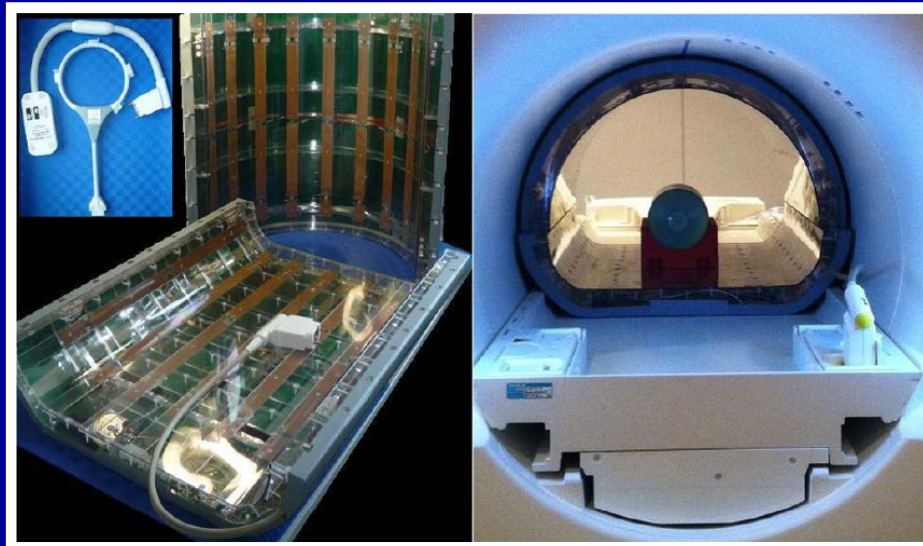
Maril et al. Magn Reson Med 2006



Platt et al. Magn Reson Med 2018

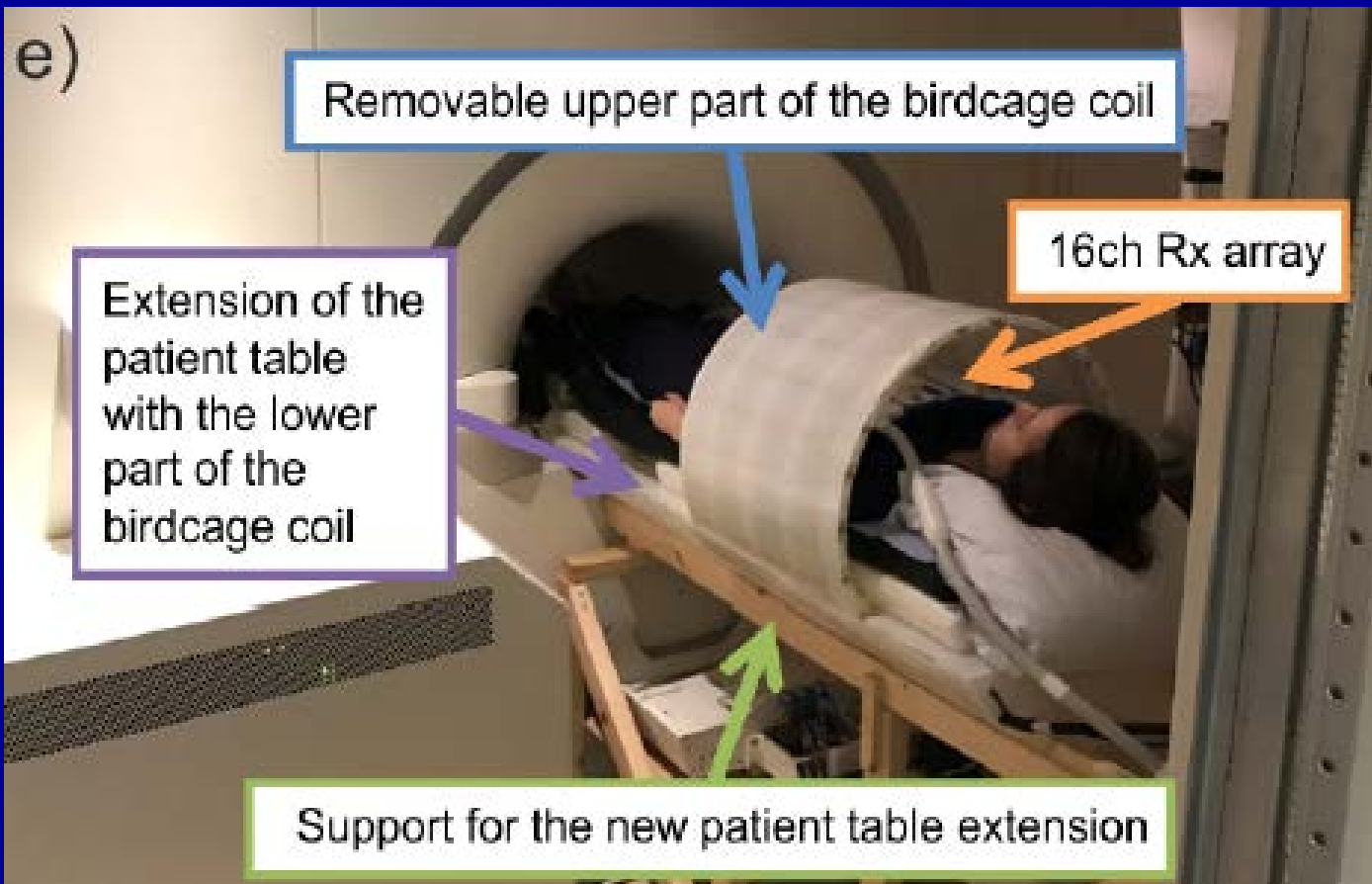


Böhmert et al. Magn Reson Med 2019



Wetterling et al. Phys Med Biol 2012

# Whole-Body Transmit Coil and 16-Element Receive Array ( $^{31}\text{P}$ MRS)



Quintuple tuned body array



MetaScan Project/ UMC Utrecht

# Why MRI of Ion Concentrations?

## ■ Blood samples?

- > 1 billion examinations per year

+ cheap

+ fast

— *ex vivo*; only from extracellular body fluids (e.g. blood serum, urine, CSF)

— No information about intracellular or total tissue ion concentration

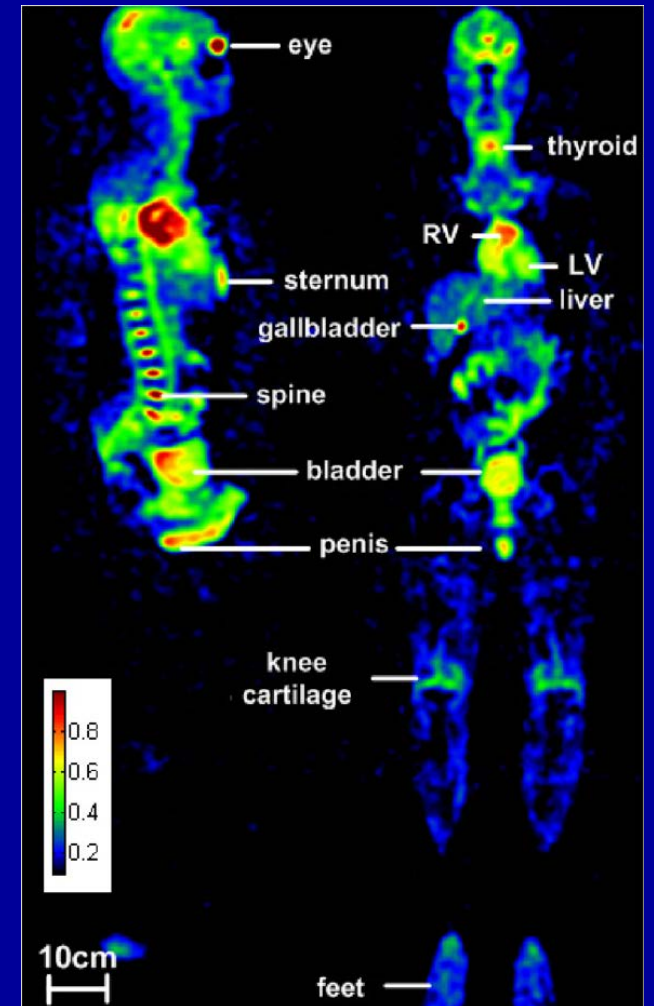




# $^{23}\text{Na}$ MRI

## Renal Imaging/ Applications in Renal Diseases

- Direct Renal Imaging
- Effects of Renal Diseases on tissue  $\text{Na}^+$  homeostasis



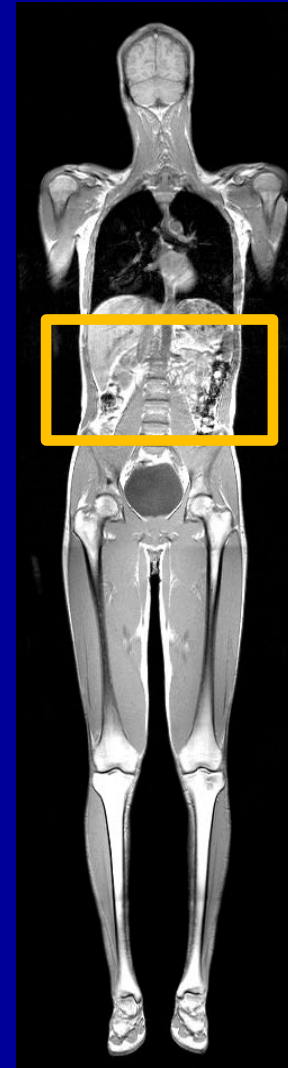
Wetterling et al. Phys Med Biol 2012

# $^{23}\text{Na}$ MRI

## Renal Imaging/ Applications in Renal Diseases

- Direct Renal Imaging

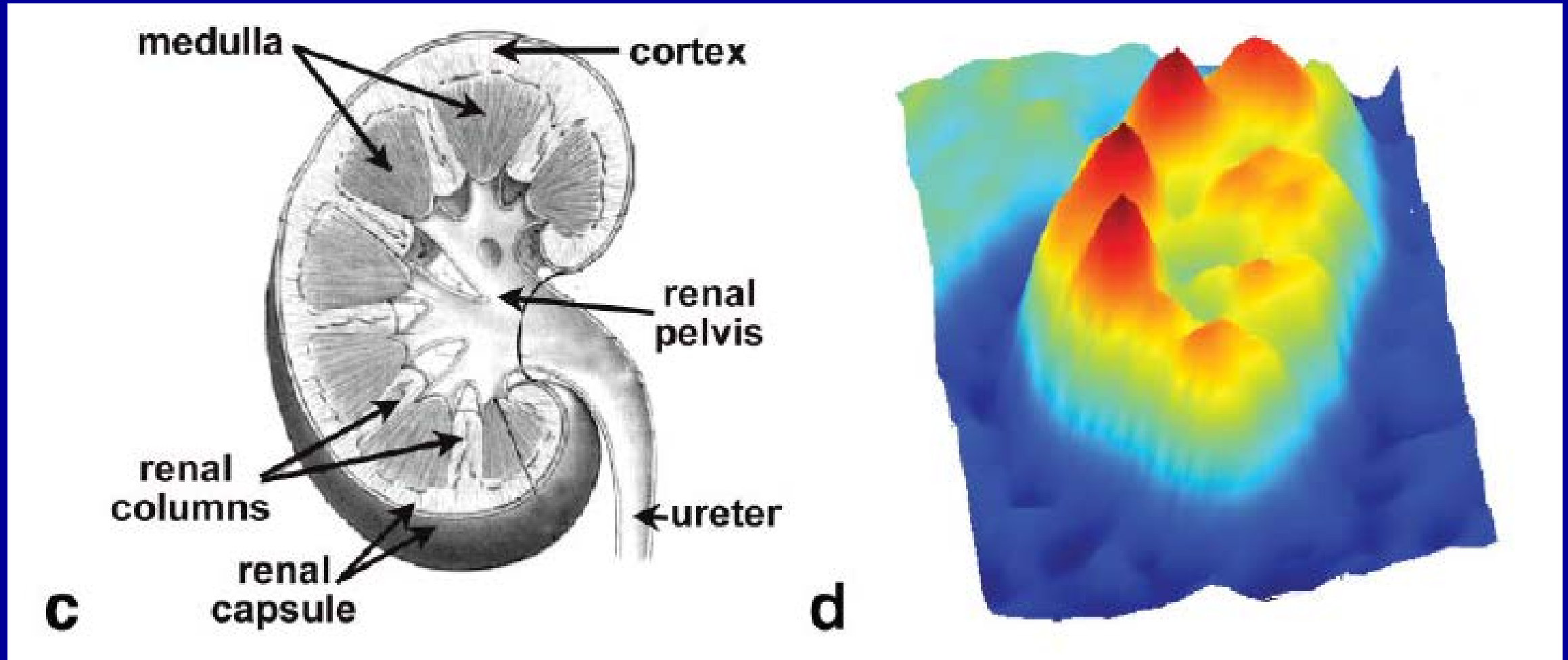
- Effects of Renal Diseases  
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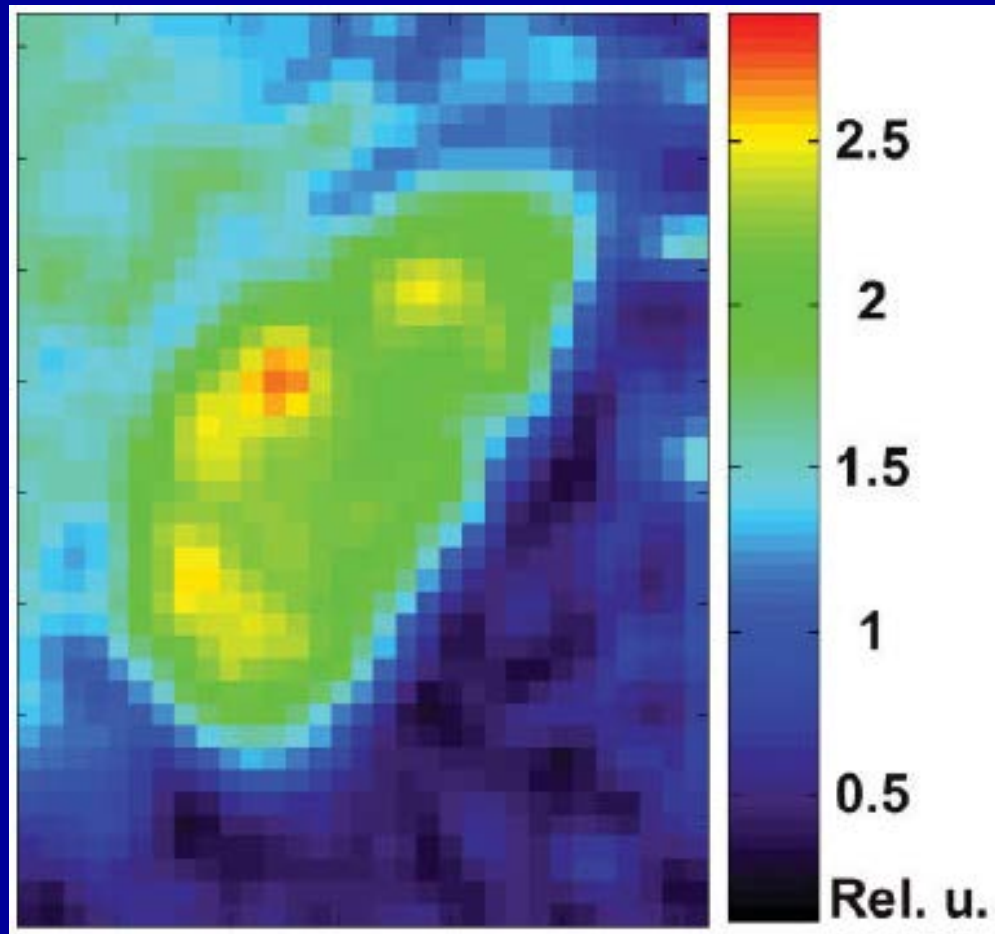
# Renal $^{23}\text{Na}$ MRI

Concentration Gradient: From Cortex to Medulla

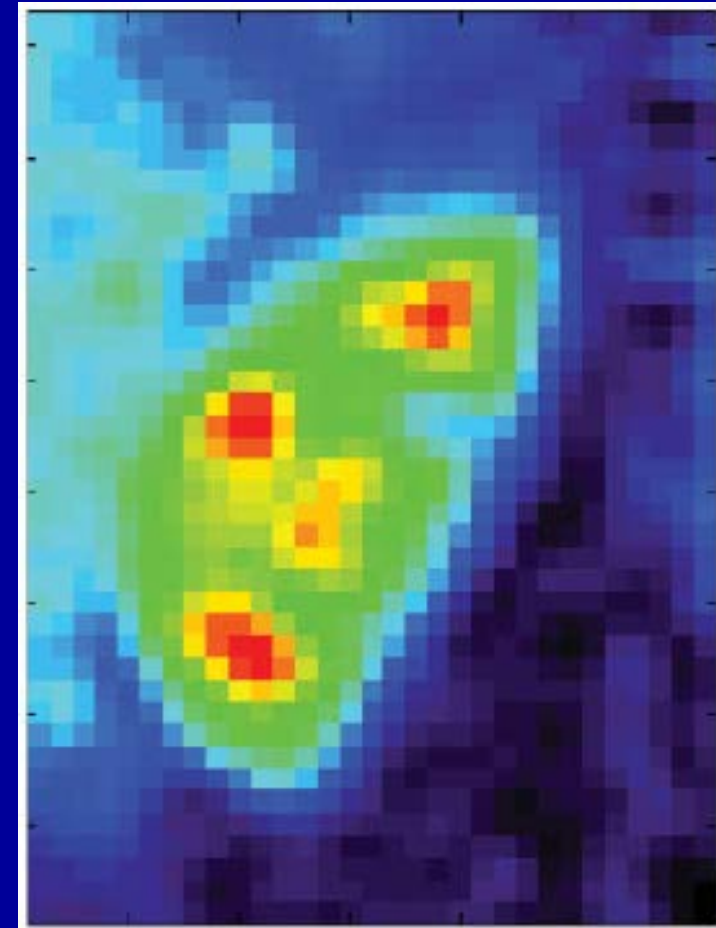


# Renal $^{23}\text{Na}$ MRI

**normal conditions**

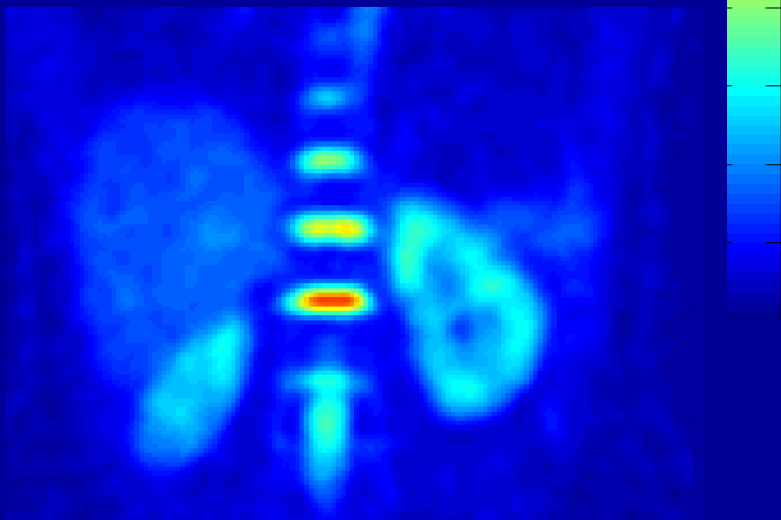
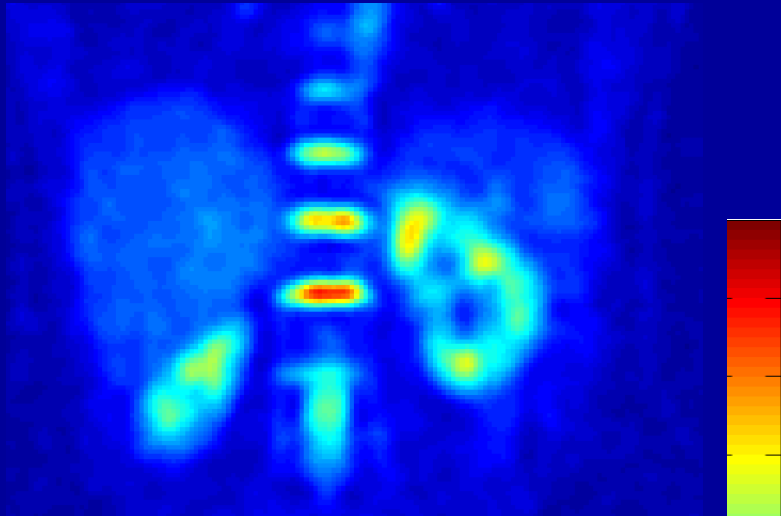


**12h water deprivation**



# Renal $^{23}\text{Na}$ MRI

## Water Deprivation vs. Water Load

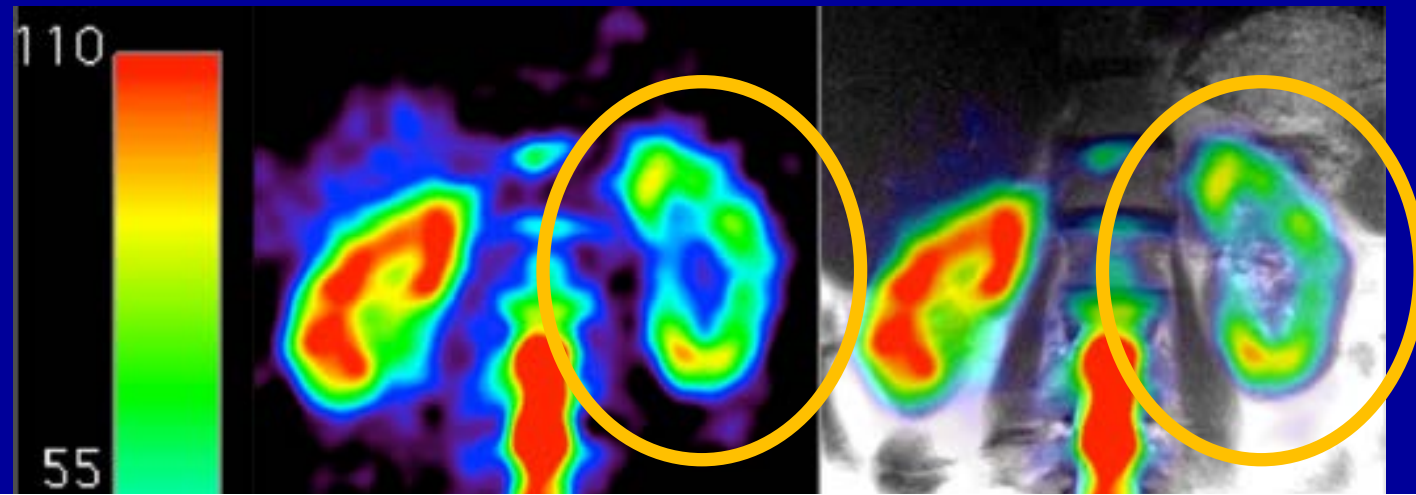


# Renal $^{23}\text{Na}$ MRI

## After Radiotherapy/ After Kidney Transplantation

Cortico-medullary  $\text{Na}^+$  gradient  
&  $\text{Na}^+$  concentration:

- decreased after kidney transplantation<sup>1</sup>
- decreased after radiotherapy<sup>2</sup>



### Special issue review article

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(wileyonlinelibrary.com) DOI: 10.1002/nbm.3274

## Quantitative sodium MRI of kidney

Frank G. Zöllner<sup>a\*</sup>, Simon Konstandin<sup>a,b</sup>, Jonathan Lommen<sup>a</sup>,  
Johannes Budjan<sup>c</sup>, Stefan O. Schoenberg<sup>c</sup>, Lothar R. Schad<sup>a</sup> and  
Stefan Haneider<sup>c,d</sup>

1) Moon et al. Eur Radiol 2014

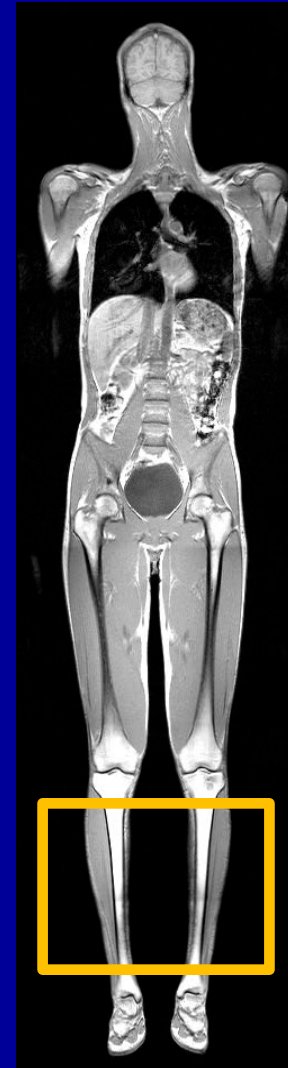
2) Zöllner et al. NMR Biomed 2016

# $^{23}\text{Na}$ MRI

## Renal Imaging/ Applications in Renal Diseases

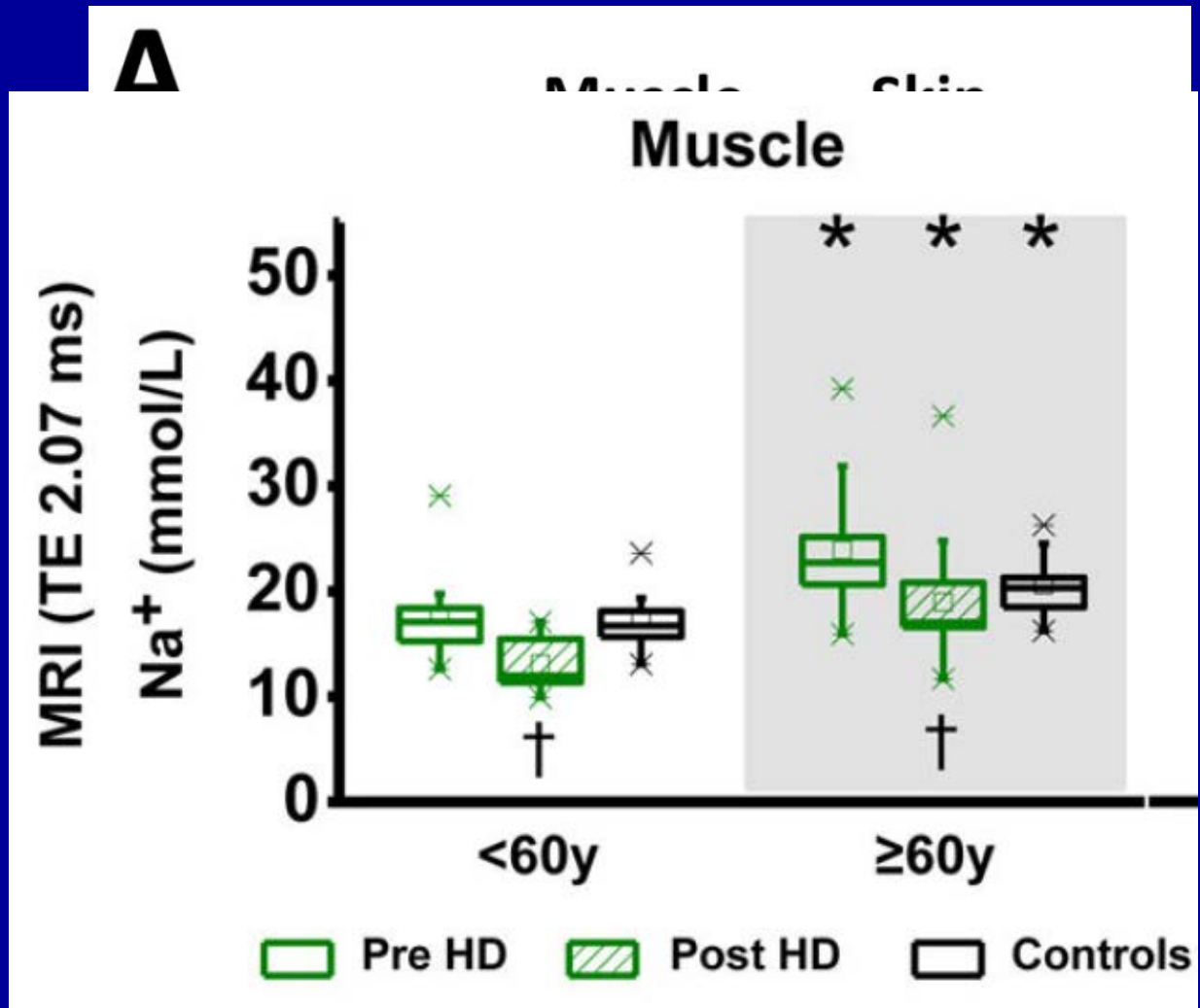
- Direct Renal Imaging

- Effects of Renal Diseases on tissue  $\text{Na}^+$  homeostasis



# Tissue Na<sup>+</sup> (Calf Muscle) Pre and Post Hemodialysis

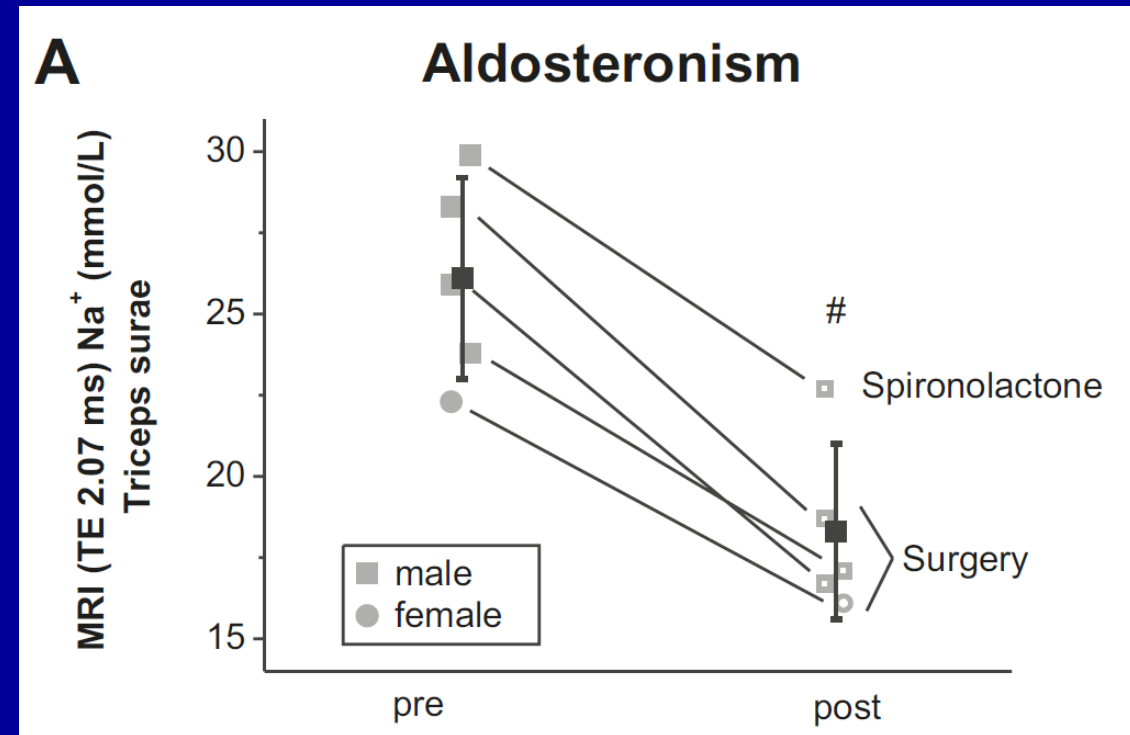
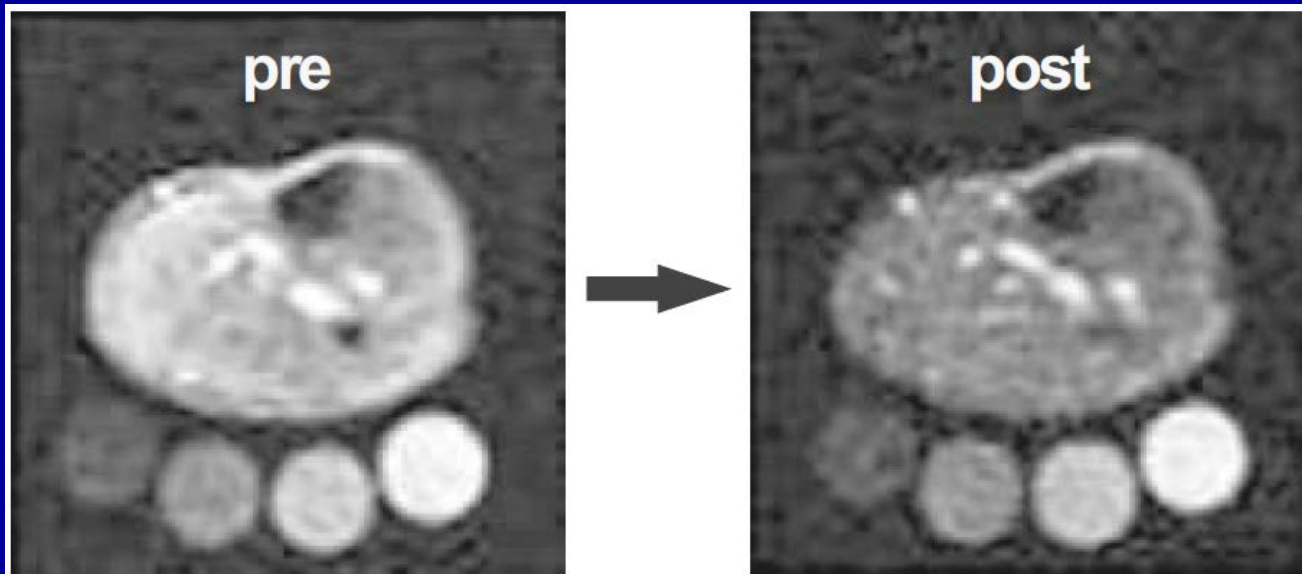
- HD treatment reduced tissue Na<sup>+</sup>
- Post HD Na<sup>+</sup> (< 60 years)  
lower than Na<sup>+</sup> in controls



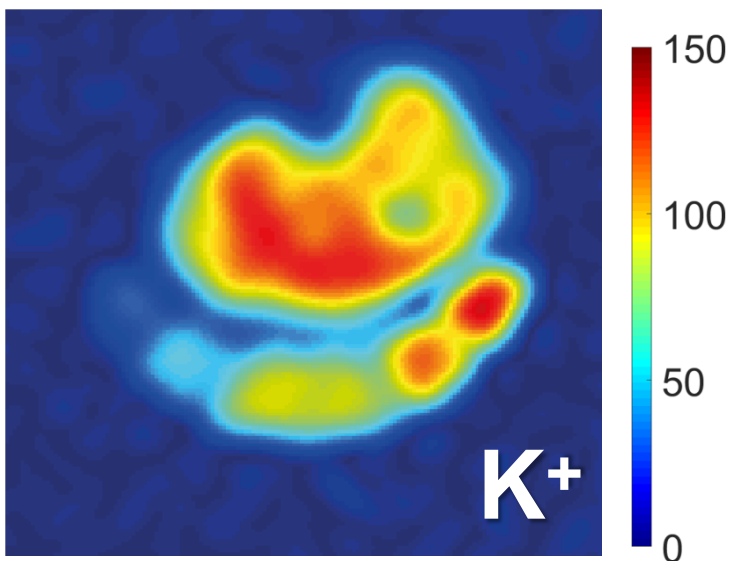
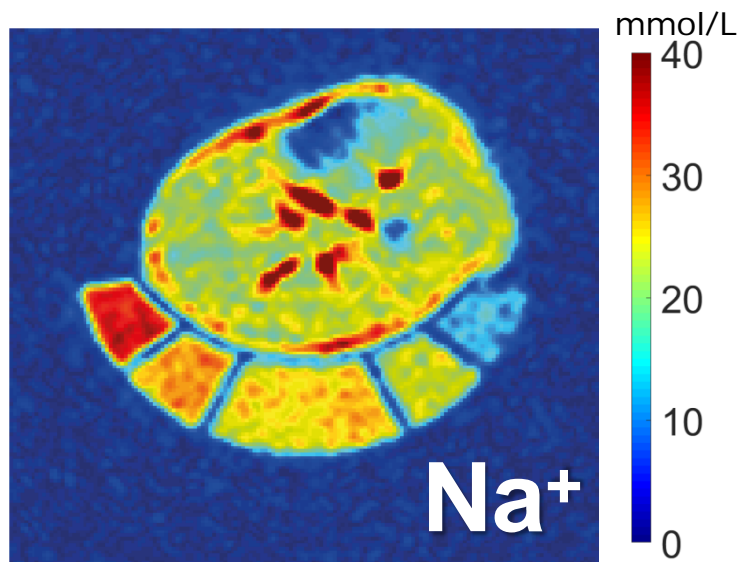


# Conn's Syndrom

- adrenal glands: excess production of the hormone aldosterone
- increased  $\text{Na}^+$  reabsorption and  $\text{K}^+$  secretion



# Combined $^{23}\text{Na}/^{39}\text{K}$ MRI



$3 \times 3 \times 20 \text{ mm}^3$   
 $T_{\text{aq}} = 7 \text{ min } 56 \text{ s}$

$10 \times 10 \times 40 \text{ mm}^3$   
 $T_{\text{aq}} = 10 \text{ min } 40 \text{ s}$



# Conclusion

## **$^{23}\text{Na}$ MRI**

- Requires dedicated hard- and software
- Provides interesting insights into tissue ion homeostasis
- Valuable research tool/ potentially future clinical tool

## **$^{39}\text{K}$ MRI**

- Research Tool at UHF ( $\geq 7$  Tesla)