Supplementary Materials

Tom Hähnel^{1,2}, Shammi More², Felix Hoffstaedter^{3,4}, Kaustubh R. Patil^{3,4}, Holger Fröhlich^{2,5,6}*, Björn Falkenburger^{1,7}*

- 1. Department of Neurology, Medical Faculty and University Hospital Carl Gustav Carus, TUD Dresden University of Technology, Dresden, Germany
- 2. Department of Bioinformatics, Fraunhofer Institute for Algorithms and Scientific Computing (SCAI), Sankt Augustin, Germany
- 3. Institute of Neuroscience and Medicine (INM-7), Research Centre Jülich, Jülich, Germany
- 4. Institute of Systems Neuroscience, Medical Faculty, Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf, Düsseldorf, German
- 5. Bonn-Aachen International Center for IT, University of Bonn, Bonn, Germany
- 6. Institute for Digital Medicine, University Medical Center Bonn, Bonn, Germany
- 7. German Center for Neurodegenerative Diseases (DZNE), Dresden, German

Corresponding author:

Dr. med. Tom Hähnel

Department of Neurology

Medical Faculty and University Hospital Carl Gustav Carus

TUD Dresden University of Technology

Fetscherstrasse 74

01307, Dresden, Germany

Email: tom.haehnel@ukdd.de

Hähnel et al. 2025 1/15

^{*} Both authors contributed equally.

Voxelwise subtype comparison (4 mm smoothing, 4 mm resampling)

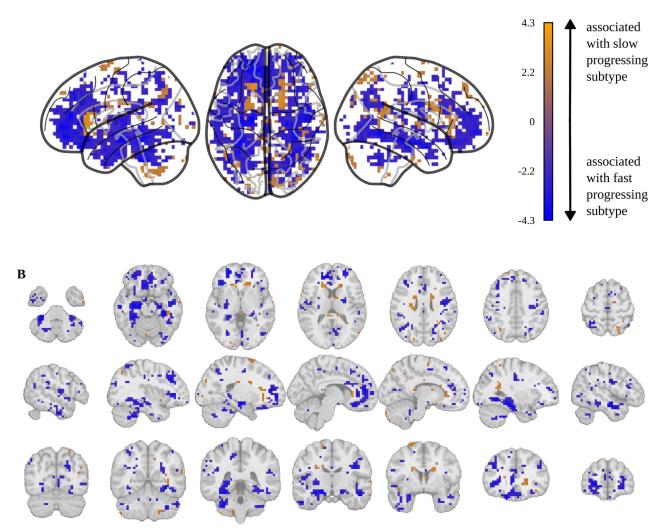


Figure S1: Voxelwise gray matter volume comparison of PD progression subtypes using 4 mm smoothing and 4 mm resampling

Association of atrophy with the fast-progressing (blue) and slow-progressing (orange) subtypes displayed as **A)** glass brain visualization and **B)** multiple sagittal, coronal, and transverse planes. Voxels with significant progression subtype differences before correction for multiple testing are colored depending on their t-value (blue: associated with fast-progressing subtype, orange: associated with slow-progressing subtype). Note that no voxels remained significant after Benjamini-Hochberg correction for multiple testing. Additional 4 mm smoothing and 4 mm resampling were performed to reduce the number of features and to increase the signal-to-noise ratio.

Hähnel et al. 2025 2/15



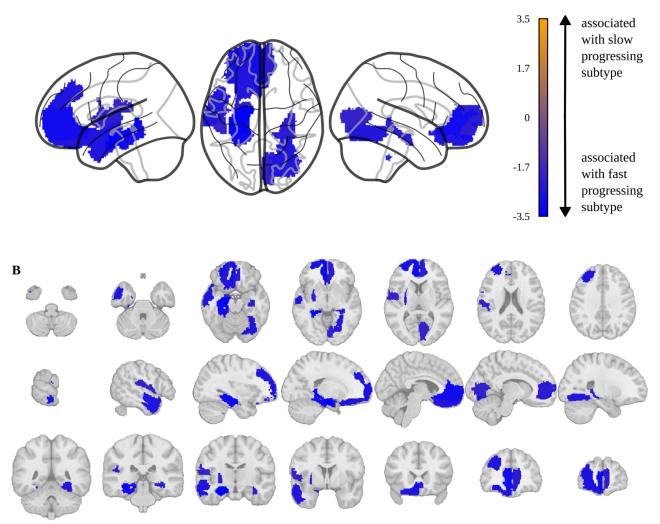


Figure S2: Parcelwise gray matter volume comparison of PD progression subtypes using Schaefer100, Fan, and Buckner atlases

Association of atrophy with the fast-progressing (blue) and slow-progressing (orange) subtypes displayed as **A)** glass brain visualization and **B)** multiple sagittal, coronal, and transverse planes. Parcels with significant progression subtype differences before correction for multiple testing are colored depending on their t-value (blue: associated with fast-progressing subtype, orange: associated with slow-progressing subtype). Note that no parcels remained significant after Benjamini-Hochberg correction for multiple testing. A combination of Schaefers atlas with 100 cortical parcels, Fan atlas with 36 subcortical parcels, and Buckner atlas with 37 cerebellar parcels has been used, resulting in 173 parcels overall.

Hähnel et al. 2025 3/15



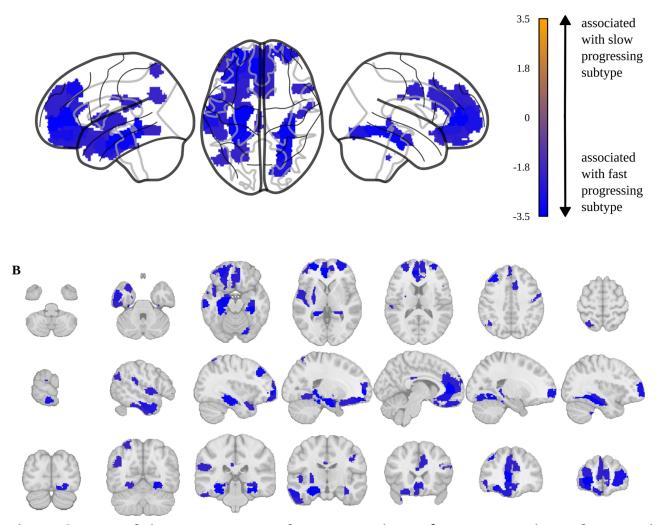


Figure S3: Parcelwise gray matter volume comparison of PD progression subtypes using Schaefer400, Fan, and Buckner atlases

Association of atrophy with the fast-progressing (blue) and slow-progressing (orange) subtypes displayed as **A)** glass brain visualization and **B)** multiple sagittal, coronal, and transverse planes. Parcels with significant progression subtype differences before correction for multiple testing are colored depending on their t-value (blue: associated with fast-progressing subtype, orange: associated with slow-progressing subtype). Note that no parcels remained significant after Benjamini-Hochberg correction for multiple testing. A combination of Schaefers atlas with 400 cortical parcels, Fan atlas with 36 subcortical parcels, and Buckner atlas with 37 cerebellar parcels has been used, resulting in 473 parcels overall.

Hähnel et al. 2025 4/15

Parcelwise subtype comparison (Schaefer800 + Fan + Buckner)

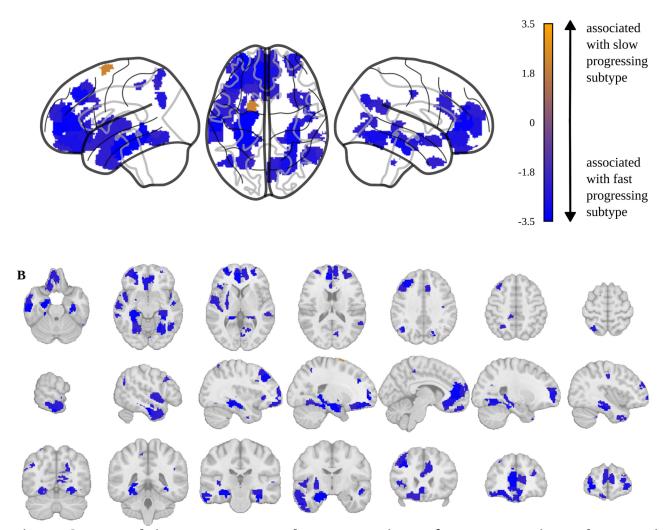


Figure S4: Parcelwise gray matter volume comparison of PD progression subtypes using Schaefer800, Fan, and Buckner atlases

Association of atrophy with the fast-progressing (blue) and slow-progressing (orange) subtypes displayed as **A)** glass brain visualization and **B)** multiple sagittal, coronal, and transverse planes. Parcels with significant progression subtype differences before correction for multiple testing are colored depending on their t-value (blue: associated with fast-progressing subtype, orange: associated with slow-progressing subtype). Note that no parcels remained significant after Benjamini-Hochberg correction for multiple testing. A combination of Schaefers atlas with 800 cortical parcels, Fan atlas with 36 subcortical parcels, and Buckner atlas with 37 cerebellar parcels has been used, resulting in 873 parcels overall.

Hähnel et al. 2025 5/15

Parcelwise subtype comparison (Schaefer1200 + Fan + Buckner)

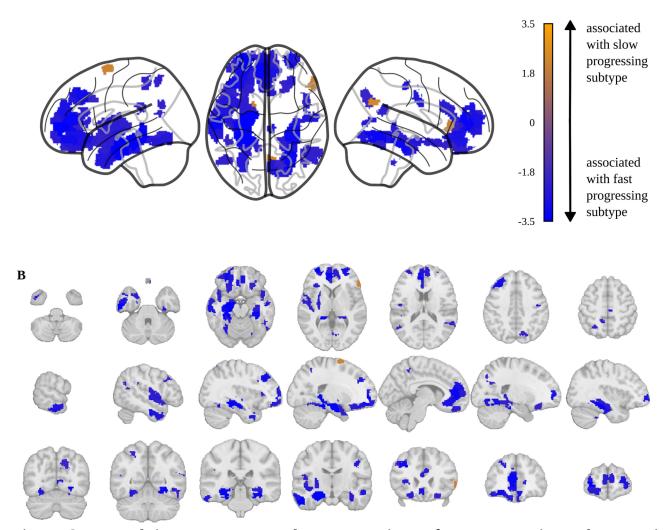


Figure S5: Parcelwise gray matter volume comparison of PD progression subtypes using Schaefer1200, Fan, and Buckner atlases

Association of atrophy with the fast-progressing (blue) and slow-progressing (orange) subtypes displayed as **A)** glass brain visualization and **B)** multiple sagittal, coronal, and transverse planes. Parcels with significant progression subtype differences before correction for multiple testing are colored depending on their t-value (blue: associated with fast-progressing subtype, orange: associated with slow-progressing subtype). Note that no parcels remained significant after Benjamini-Hochberg correction for multiple testing. A combination of Schaefers atlas with 1200 cortical parcels, Fan atlas with 36 subcortical parcels, and Buckner atlas with 37 cerebellar parcels has been used, resulting in 1273 parcels overall.

Hähnel et al. 2025 6/15

Feature representation and machine learning model	Bias correction method	Mean absolute error (years)	Correlation brain age vs chronological age	Correlation BAG vs chronological age	Mean BAG (years)
S0_R4+LR	Beheshti	4.51	ρ=0.89 (p<0.0001)	p=0.95	-0.01
S4_R4+GPR	Beheshti	4.71	ρ=0.89 (p<0.0001)	p=0.95	-0.01
S4_R4+PCA+GPR	Beheshti	5.01	ρ=0.87 (p<0.0001)	p=0.95	-0.01
S4_R4+GRP	Cole	5.06	ρ=0.87 (p<0.0001)	p=1.0	0.0
S4_R4+PCA+GPR	Cole	5.08	ρ=0.87 (p<0.0001)	p=1.0	0.0
S0_R4+LR	Cole	5.17	ρ=0.86 (p<0.0001)	p=1.0	0.0

Table S1: Brain age workflow selection on PPMI HC

To select the optimal brain age estimation workflow for our PPMI dataset, we applied three brain age models to estimate brain age on the PPMI HC cohort, comparing different feature representations (S0: no smoothing, S4: 4 mm smoothing, R4: 4 mm resampling, PCA: additional principal component analysis) and machine learning methods (GPR: Gaussian process regression, LR: lasso regression). Subsequently, brain age was corrected using two bias correction methods (Beheshti, Cole) in a 5-fold cross-validation fashion. We selected the workflow with the lowest mean absolute error on the HC test sets. In addition, the following statistics are shown: Pearson correlation for brain age vs. chronological age; p-values for Pearson correlation of BAG with chronological age; and mean BAG. Abbreviations: BAG: brain age gap.

Hähnel et al. 2025 7/15

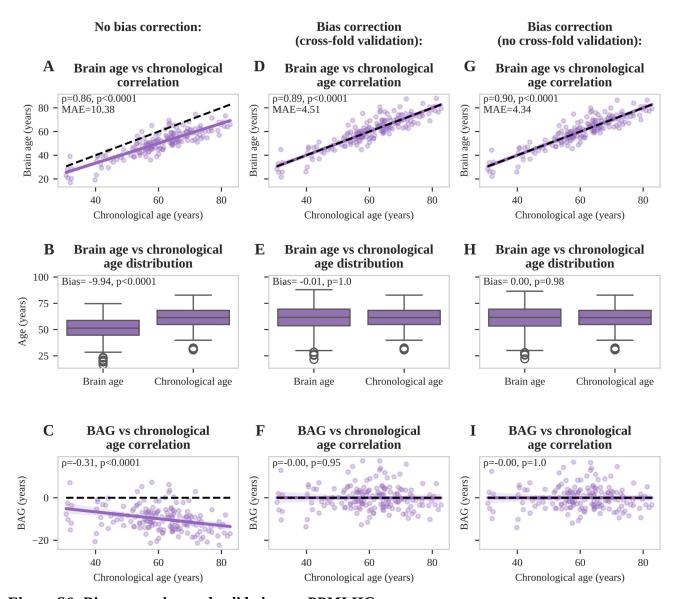


Figure S6: Bias correction and validation on PPMI HC

Bias correction process for the finally selected brain age model (S0_R4+LR) using the Beheshti method and PPMI HC data. Without bias correction, brain age estimations are highly correlated with chronological age (A), but show a bias (B) towards higher BAG in elderly people (C). Model selection was performed using bias correction on the PPMI HC data in a cross-validation framework with evaluation on test sets (D). The cross-validation approach confirmed a complete bias removal (E) with no residual correlation between BAG and chronological age in the test sets (F). Finally, the bias correction model was retrained on the whole PPMI HC dataset (G-I), before applying it to the PPMI PD cohort.

Abbreviations: BAG: brain age gap.

Hähnel et al. 2025 8/15

Clinical score	Score at baseline	Score progression
Boston Naming Test		-0.063
-		(p=0.59)
Hopkins Verbal Learning Test DR	0.023	-0.137
	(p=0.73)	(p=0.044)
Hopkins Verbal Learning Test IR	-0.134	-0.150
	(p=0.036)	(p=0.03)
Judgement Line Orientation	-0.154	-0.076
	(p=0.028)	(p=0.39)
Letter Number Sequencing	-0.132	-0.178
	(p=0.036)	(p=0.019)
MoCA	-0.135	-0.135
	(p=0.036)	(p=0.044)
Symbol Digit Modalities	-0.028	-0.154
	(p=0.73)	(p=0.03)
Trailmaking A	••	0.081
		(p=0.47)
Trailmaking B	••	0.032
_		(p=0.83)
VFT phonematic F	0.048	-0.158
	(p=0.58)	(p=0.03)
VFT semantic animal	-0.061	-0.124
	(p=0.5)	(p=0.067)
VFT semantic fruits	-0.037	-0.145
1 TEMP	(p=0.73)	(p=0.034)
VFT semantic vegetables	-0.065	-0.099
CCI	(p=0.48)	(p=0.2)
CGI	••	0.056
DCI		(p=0.83)
PGI	••	-0.124 (p=0.52)
SEADL	-0.186	(p=0.52) -0.034
SEADL	(p=0.0047)	(p=0.75)
MDS-UPDRS III axial off	(p=0.0047) 0.133	0.018
WIDS-OF DIES III decidi oii	(p=0.036)	(p=0.87)
H&Y off	(p=0.030) 0.053	-0.057
1100 1 011	(p=0.55)	(p=0.5)
PIGD off	0.005	0.038
1100 011	(p=0.92)	(p=0.71)
MDS-UPDRS II	-0.020	0.060
11100 010110 11	(p=0.73)	(p=0.5)
MDS-UPDRS III off	0.189	-0.007
	(p=0.0047)	(p=0.93)
ESS	-0.021	0.024
	(p=0.73)	(p=0.83)
	(P 0.75)	(L 0.00)

Hähnel et al. 2025 9/15

RBD-SQ	0.082	0.067
	(p=0.29)	(p=0.45)
	0.023	-0.000
SCOPA-AUT	(p=0.73)	(p=0.99)
	-0.034	0.091
MDS-UPDRS I	(p=0.73)	(p=0.25)
	0.143	0.017
MDS-UPDRS I-III off	(p=0.036)	(p=0.87)
	0.020	-0.011
GDS	(p=0.73)	(p=0.93)
	-0.120	-0.007
QUIP	(p=0.061)	(p=0.93)
	0.056	0.074
STA	(p=0.53)	(p=0.39)

Table S2: Correlation of BAG with baseline clinical scores and progression of clinical scores

Correlation coefficients and corresponding p-values are reported for partial correlations of clinical scores with BAG in the PD group. Correlations were calculated for baseline values (left column) and progression of scores (right column). Correlation coefficients were corrected for age (baseline and progression) and latent disease time (baseline). Corresponding p-values were corrected for multiple testing using the Benjamini-Hochberg method. Two dots (..) indicate that the corresponding score was not measured at baseline. Significant results are indicated in bold.

Abbreviations: BAG: brain age gap, CGI: clinical global impression scale, DR: delayed recall, ESS: Epworth Sleepiness Scale, GDS: Geriatric Depression Scale, H&Y: Hoehn & Yahr, IR: intermediate recall, MDS-UPDRS: MDS-Unified Parkinson's Disease Rating Scale, MoCA: Montreal Cognitive Assessment, PGI: Patient Global Impression scale, PIGD: Postural Instability/Gait Disturbance, QUIP: Questionnaire for Impulsive-Compulsive Disorders in Parkinson's Disease Rating Scale, RBD-SQ: REM Sleep Behavior Disorder-Screening Questionnaire, SCOPA: Scales for Outcomes in Parkinson's disease - Autonomic dysfunction, SEADL: Schwab and England Activities of Daily Living scale, STA: State-Trait Anxiety Inventory, VFT: Verbal Fluency Task.

Hähnel et al. 2025 10/15

Brain Age Gap as Predictor of Disease Progression in Parkinson's Disease

DaTSCAN parameter	Parameter at baseline	Parameter progression
Ncl. Caudatus	0.012	-0.144
	(p=0.92)	(p=0.036)
Ncl. Caudatus asymmetry	-0.045	-0.008
	(p=0.81)	(p=0.88)
Putamen	-0.008	-0.067
	(p=0.92)	(p=0.31)
Putamen asymmetry	-0.074	0.080
	(p=0.76)	(p=0.26)
Striatum	0.005	-0.133
	(p=0.92)	(p=0.036)
Striatum asymmetry	-0.062	0.024
	(p=0.76)	(p=0.78)

Table S3: Correlation of BAG with DaTSCAN parameters

Correlation coefficients and corresponding p-values are reported for partial correlations of DaTSCAN uptake ratios with BAG in the PD group. Correlations were calculated for baseline parameters (left column) and progression of DaTSCAN parameters (right column). Correlation coefficients were corrected for age (baseline and progression) and latent disease time (baseline). Corresponding p-values were corrected for multiple testing using the Benjamini-Hochberg method. Significant results are indicated in bold.

Abbreviations: BAG: brain age gap.

Hähnel et al. 2025 11/15

Brain Age Gap as Predictor of Disease Progression in Parkinson's Disease

Cerebrospinal fluid parameter	Parameter at baseline	Parameter progression
A Beta 1-42	-0.083	0.068
	(p=0.49)	(p=0.31)
Neurofilament light chain	0.041	0.117
	(p=0.61)	(p=0.31)
pTau	-0.028	0.008
	(p=0.61)	(p=0.88)
pTau / A Beta 1-42	0.061	0.066
	(p=0.55)	(p=0.31)

Table S4: Correlation of BAG with cerebrospinal fluid parameters

Correlation coefficients and corresponding p-values are reported for partial correlations of cerebrospinal fluid parameters with BAG in the PD group. Correlations were calculated for baseline (left column) and progression (right column) of cerebrospinal fluid parameters. Correlation coefficients were corrected for age (baseline and progression) and latent disease time (baseline). Corresponding p-values were corrected for multiple testing using the Benjamini-Hochberg method. Significant results are indicated in bold.

Abbreviations: BAG: brain age gap.

Hähnel et al. 2025 12/15

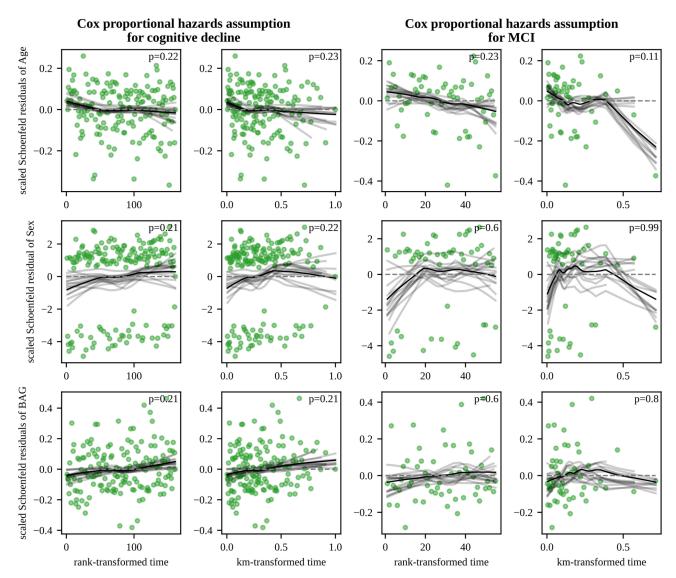


Figure S7: Scaled Schoenfeld residual plots for checking the proportional hazards assumption Scaled Schoenfeld residuals are presented for the Cox proportional hazards model of event-free survival analysis for both cognitive decline (left two columns) and mild cognitive impairment (right two columns). For each covariate (age, sex, BAG), plots and statistics are shown for rank-based and Kaplan-Meier based time transformations. P-values to test for any time-varying coefficients are reported and were corrected for multiple testing using Benjamini-Hochberg method. Visualizations are based on the Python lifelines package. Residuals are presented as green dots. The black line was derived using locally weighted smoothing (lowess), with gray lines derived via additional bootstrapping.

Abbreviations: BAG: brain age gap, km: Kaplan-Meier.

Hähnel et al. 2025 13/15

Brain Age Gap as Predictor of Disease Progression in Parkinson's Disease

Clinical score	Sample size (no stratification)	Sample size reduction (50 th percentile)	Sample size reduction (70 th percentile)	Sample size reduction (90 th percentile)
Letter Number Sequencing	5327	36 %	42 %	75 %
VFT phonematic	888894	88 %	96 %	99 %
VFT semantic animal	7811	42 %	57 %	44 %
VFT semantic fruits	246805	93 %	96 %	97 %
VFT semantic vegetables	13453	52 %	64 %	75 %
Hopkins Verbal Learning Test DR	133867	75 %	81 %	93 %
Hopkins Verbal Learning Test IR	4027	13 %	18 %	48 %
MoCA	4937	47 %	40 %	61 %
Judgment Line Orientation	28561	42 %	52 %	50 %
Symbol Digit Modalities	1724	34 %	31 %	66 %
Cognitive composite score	1212	23 %	28 %	58 %

Table S5: Sample size reductions for different cognitive primary outcomes

Sample size without baseline stratification and relative sample size reductions for patient stratification based on 50th percentile, 70th percentile, and 90th percentile BAG at baseline.

Abbreviations: BAG: brain age gap, DR: delayed recall, IR: intermediate recall, MoCA: Montreal Cognitive Assessment, VFT: Verbal Fluency Task.

Hähnel et al. 2025 14/15

Feature representation and machine		
learning model	Bias correction method	Mean BAG (years)
S0_R4+LR	Beheshti	1.06 (p=0.00062)
S4_R4+GPR	Beheshti	1.06 (p=0.00012)
S4_R4+PCA+GPR	Beheshti	1.14 (p=0.00012)
S0_R4+LR	Cole	1.26 (p=0.00062)
S4_R4+GPR	Cole	1.18 (p=0.00012)
S4 R4+PCA+GPR	Cole	1.19 (p=0.00012)

Table S6: BAG for the PPMI PD cohort using different brain age estimation workflows

Comparison of mean BAG for the PPMI PD cohort using the six workflows described in the manuscript. Bias correction methods were always trained on the whole HC group. Mean BAG with corresponding p-value from a pairwise t-test comparing chronological age and brain age are reported. Abbreviations: BAG: brain age gap, GPR: Gaussian process regression, LR: lasso regression, PCA: principal component analysis, R4: 4 mm resampling, S0: no smoothing, S4: 4 mm smoothing. Abbreviations: BAG: brain age gap.

Hähnel et al. 2025 15/15