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<td>Author(s)</td>
<td>Iikuni, Shimpei; Ono, Masahiro; Watanabe, Hiroyuki; Matsumura, Kenji; Yoshimura, Masashi; Kimura, Hiroyuki; Ishibashi-Ueda, Hatsue; Okamoto, Yoko; Ihara, Masafumi; Saji, Hideo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Citation</td>
<td>Scientific Reports (2016), 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Issue Date</td>
<td>2016-05-16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URL</td>
<td><a href="http://hdl.handle.net/2433/215163">http://hdl.handle.net/2433/215163</a></td>
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Kyoto University
Imaging of Cerebral Amyloid Angiopathy with Bivalent $^{99m}$Tc-Hydroxamamide Complexes

Shimpei Iikuni, Masahiro Ono, Hiroyuki Watanabe, Kenji Matsumura, Masashi Yoshimura, Hiroyuki Kimura, Hatsue Ishibashi-Ueda, Yoko Okamoto, Masafumi Ihara & Hideo Saji

Cerebral amyloid angiopathy (CAA), characterized by the deposition of amyloid aggregates in the walls of cerebral vasculature, is a major factor in intracerebral hemorrhage and vascular cognitive impairment and is also associated closely with Alzheimer’s disease (AD). We previously reported $^{99m}$Tc-hydroxamamide ($^{99m}$Tc-Ham) complexes with a bivalent amyloid ligand showing high binding affinity for $\beta$-amyloid peptide (A$\beta$(1–42)) aggregates present frequently in the form in AD. In this article, we applied them to CAA-specific imaging probes, and evaluated their utility for CAA-specific imaging.

In vitro inhibition assay using A$\beta$(1–40) aggregates deposited mainly in CAA and a brain uptake study were performed for $^{99m}$Tc-Ham complexes, and all $^{99m}$Tc-Ham complexes with an amyloid ligand showed binding affinity for A$\beta$(1–40) aggregates and very low brain uptake. In vitro autoradiography of human CAA brain sections and ex vivo autoradiography of Tg2576 mice were carried out for bivalent $^{99m}$Tc-Ham complexes ($[^{99m}\text{Tc}]SB2A$ and $[^{99m}\text{Tc}]BT2B$), and they displayed excellent labeling of A$\beta$ depositions in human CAA brain sections and high affinity and selectivity to CAA in transgenic mice. These results may offer new possibilities for the development of clinically useful CAA-specific imaging probes based on the $^{99m}$Tc-Ham complex.

Cerebral amyloid angiopathy (CAA) is a sporadic or familial disorder characterized by the deposition of amyloid aggregates, mainly $\beta$-amyloid peptide (A$\beta$), in the walls of arteries and less often capillaries of the central nervous system, and belongs to the amyloidoses group. CAA is present in 10–40% of the elderly. In particular, at least a mild degree of CAA can be detected in up to 80% of patients with Alzheimer’s disease (AD), while severe CAA is present in approximately 25% of AD brains.

CAA is a major cause of intracerebral hemorrhage (ICH) and vascular cognitive impairment, and is also associated with small vessel diseases such as white matter hyperintensity and cerebral microbleeds. CAA-associated ICH (CAA-ICH) comprises 5–20% of all spontaneous ICH in the elderly. CAA-ICH is frequently a fatal condition and often recurs because of the multiple and widespread depositions of aggregated amyloid peptides in CAA brains. Moreover, it was demonstrated that vascular diseases in the brain led to a decline of cognitive performance in the earliest stages of AD.

A$\beta$(1–40) with a length of 40 amino acids is more soluble than longer A$\beta$(1–42) and is the main form in amyloid deposited in walls of blood vessels in CAA brains, while A$\beta$(1–42) is present more frequently in the form of senile plaque (SP) within the brain parenchyma in AD brains. In patients with amyloidoses including CAA and AD, amyloid aggregates probably appear prior to onset of disease symptoms; therefore, their detection in vivo may lead to an early diagnosis of the corresponding amyloidoses. Additionally, monitoring these amyloid aggregates in vivo may provide important information on the development of new medical techniques.

Brain biopsy is the gold standard for the diagnosis of CAA; however, it is a highly invasive method. Although computed tomography (CT) and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) are noninvasive and useful modalities for the diagnosis of CAA-ICH, they detect intracerebral bleeding but not the deposition of amyloid aggregates; therefore, these indirect diagnostic techniques are unlikely to facilitate disease-specific diagnoses limited by the
use of ICH as a surrogate marker for CAA. Accordingly, the development of a noninvasive technique to diagnose CAA-associated diseases specifically by the detection of amyloid using a probe is strongly needed.

Positron emission tomography (PET) and single photon emission computed tomography (SPECT) have generally been utilized as major in vivo imaging techniques to carry out the noninvasive diagnosis of amyloidoses. PET/SPECT can provide the information on localization of amyloid aggregates, while CT and MRI render the anatomical information. To date, many attempts to image Aβ aggregates constituting SP in AD brains using PET and SPECT tracers have been made. Several clinical studies using [11C]PIB, a neutral thioflavin-T analogue, have proved this utility for AD diagnosis16–19. More recently, [18F]florbetapir (Amyvid)17,20,21, [18F] flutemetamol (Vizamyl)16,22,23, and [18F]florbetaben (Neuraceq)24,25 have been approved by the US Food and Drug Administration for clinical AD diagnosis.

Similarly to SP in AD brains, there are several reports regarding the detection of cerebrovascular amyloid depositions using [11C]PIB26–28. However, since [11C]PIB is designed to penetrate the blood-brain barrier (BBB), it is considered to bind to not only vascular amyloid aggregates but also parenchymal amyloid aggregates, indicating that it detects amyloid depositions in the whole brain; therefore, [11C]PIB cannot help detecting SP as background signal in case of the diagnosis of CAA. Several efforts toward the development of imaging probes targeting Aβ deposition in CAA have been made. These probes, designed as fluorescent dye29, MRI contrast30–32, or PET/SPECT imaging31–34 agents, showed a potential use for CAA; however, in vivo specificity for Aβ aggregates in CAA was not demonstrated. Further research into the development of imaging probes for selective binding to Aβ deposited in the walls of the cerebral vasculature and to differentiate CAA from AD is desired.

To detect CAA but not SP, low brain uptake of an imaging probe targeting Aβ aggregates may be favorable33,34. We previously reported a series of ⁹⁹ᵐTc-hydroxamamide (⁹⁹ᵐTc-Ham) complexes with a multivalent amyloid ligand35, and utilized stilbene (SB) and benzothiazole (BT) as ligands for amyloid aggregates. These compounds are believed to hardly cross the BBB in vivo, and their high binding affinity for Aβ aggregates is feasible for imaging CAA. However, in that report, the binding affinity of ⁹⁹ᵐTc-Ham complexes was evaluated using Aβ(1–42) aggregates present mainly in SP and less often CAA. It is generally accepted that compounds with high binding affinity for Aβ(1–42) aggregates except for antibodies can bind to other amyloid aggregates such as tau and α-synuclein36–38. Therefore, ⁹⁹ᵐTc-Ham complexes are considered to bind to Aβ(1–40) aggregates, the predominant amyloid found in CAA, similarly to Aβ(1–42) aggregates.

In the present study, we evaluated the binding affinity for Aβ(1–40) aggregates deposited mainly in CAA of ⁹⁹ᵐTc-Ham complexes with a monovalent or bivalent amyloid ligand ([⁹⁹ᵐTc]SB1, [⁹⁹ᵐTc]SB2, [⁹⁹ᵐTc]BT1, and [⁹⁹ᵐTc]BT2) (Fig. 1), and their utility for the in vivo specific detection of vascular amyloid aggregates but not parenchymal amyloid aggregates.

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**Figure 1. Proposed structure of the ⁹⁹ᵐTc-Ham complexes.**
Results

Synthesis and ⁹⁹mTc labeling. The ⁹⁹mTc labeling reaction was performed by the complexation reaction using the Ham precursor, ⁹⁹mTc-pertechnetate, and tin (II) tartrate hydrate as a reducing agent. The ⁹⁹mTc complexation reaction with Ham derivatives provided two isomers of ⁹⁹mTc-Ham complexes, as described in previous reports. We defined the specific isomers with shorter retention times on reversed-phase high-performance liquid chromatography (RP-HPLC) as A-form ([⁹⁹mTc]SB1A, [⁹⁹mTc]SB2A, [⁹⁹mTc]BT1A, and [⁹⁹mTc]BT2A), and the others as B-form ([⁹⁹mTc]SB1B, [⁹⁹mTc]SB2B, [⁹⁹mTc]BT1B, and [⁹⁹mTc]BT2B).

₉⁹mTc-Ham complexes showed high binding affinity for Aβ(1–40) aggregates in solution. To evaluate binding affinity for Aβ(1–40) aggregates of ⁹⁹mTc-Ham complexes, we performed an inhibition binding assay with PIB as a competitive ligand. A fixed concentration of Aβ(1–40) aggregates and the ⁹⁹mTc-Ham complex were incubated with increasing concentrations of nonradioactive PIB. PIB showed IC₅₀ values of 0.38, 0.45, 4.59, 3.37, 0.24, 0.99, 1.58, and 4.96 μM in the presence of [⁹⁹mTc]SB1A, [⁹⁹mTc]SB2A, [⁹⁹mTc]BT1B, and [⁹⁹mTc]BT2B, respectively (Table 1).

Table 1. Half-maximal inhibitory concentration (IC₅₀, μM) for the binding of PIB to Aβ aggregates determined using ⁹⁹mTc-Ham complexes as ligands. Values are the mean ± standard error of the mean of 6–15 independent experiments. *Data from our previous article (ref. 35).

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<tr>
<th>Compound</th>
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<th>Aβ(1–40)</th>
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<td>[⁹⁹mTc]SB1A</td>
<td>0.38 ± 0.06</td>
<td>0.72 ± 0.10</td>
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<td>[⁹⁹mTc]SB1B</td>
<td>0.45 ± 0.11</td>
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<tr>
<td>[⁹⁹mTc]SB2A</td>
<td>4.59 ± 0.77</td>
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<tr>
<td>[⁹⁹mTc]SB2B</td>
<td>3.37 ± 0.61</td>
<td>2.55 ± 0.45</td>
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<tr>
<td>[⁹⁹mTc]BT1A</td>
<td>0.24 ± 0.06</td>
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<tr>
<td>[⁹⁹mTc]BT1B</td>
<td>0.99 ± 0.17</td>
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<tr>
<td>[⁹⁹mTc]BT2A</td>
<td>1.58 ± 0.27</td>
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<tr>
<td>[⁹⁹mTc]BT2B</td>
<td>4.96 ± 0.90</td>
<td>5.78 ± 0.53</td>
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Assessment of BBB permeability. To evaluate brain uptake of ⁹⁹mTc-Ham complexes, biodistribution experiments of ⁹⁹mTc-Ham complexes were performed in normal mice. We selected ¹⁸F-florbetapir as a control and compared the results of ⁹⁹mTc-Ham complexes with that of ¹⁸F-florbetapir (Fig. 2). The brain uptake of [⁹⁹mTc] SB1A, [⁹⁹mTc]SB2A, [⁹⁹mTc]BT1B, and [⁹⁹mTc]BT2B at 2 min postinjection was 0.37, 0.28, 0.36, and 0.37% injected dose (ID)/g, respectively. The radioactivity in the brains remained low until 60 min postinjection. The results of the biodistribution study are shown in Table S1 in Supplementary information.

₉⁹mTc-Ham complexes including bivalent amyloid ligand displayed excellent labeling of Aβ depositions in human CAA brain sections. The binding of [⁹⁹mTc]SB2A and [⁹⁹mTc]BT2B to Aβ depositions...
Figure 3. In vitro autoradiogram of a brain section from a patient with CAA (female, 67 years old) labeled with [\(^{99m}\)Tc]SB2A (A). The same brain section was immunostained with an antibody against A\(\beta\)(1–40) (B). Blocking study with nonradioactive PIB was also performed using the adjacent brain section (C). In vitro autoradiogram of a brain section from a healthy control (male, 73 years old) labeled with [\(^{99m}\)Tc]SB2A (D).

Discussion

We previously reported \(^{99m}\)Tc-Ham complexes with a bivalent amyloid ligand showing high binding affinity for A\(\beta\)(1–42) aggregates\(^{35}\). In the present study, we evaluated their utility as CAA-specific imaging probes. Recently, several new \(^{99m}\)Tc-labeled CAA imaging agents were reported\(^{42–44}\). In spite of the fact that they were synthesized under heating and acidic conditions, \(^{99m}\)Tc-Ham complexes can be prepared under mild conditions (non-heating and neutral), indicating that \(^{99m}\)Tc-Ham complexes may be superior to the other CAA-imaging probes reported previously. In vitro binding study using A\(\beta\)(1–40) aggregates, a major form of amyloid in CAA, exhibited that the amyloid ligand dimers ([\(^{99m}\)Tc]SB2 and [\(^{99m}\)Tc]BT2) bound to A\(\beta\)(1–40) aggregates more strongly than their monomers ([\(^{99m}\)Tc]SB1 and [\(^{99m}\)Tc]BT1), and A-form of \(^{99m}\)Tc–Ham complexes with BT derivatives showed lower binding affinity than B-form, as demonstrated in our previous report using A\(\beta\)(1–42) aggregates (Table 1). However, specific isomers of \(^{99m}\)Tc-Ham complexes with SB derivatives displayed similar binding affinity for A\(\beta\)(1–40) aggregates to those of the other isomers, while significant differences between IC\(_{50}\) values with two isomers of SB derivatives were shown in the inhibition assay using A\(\beta\)(1–42) aggregates\(^{35}\). All \(^{99m}\)Tc-Ham complexes showed blocked binding to amyloid aggregates with a very high concentration (\(\mu\)M order) of PIB, although the A\(\beta\) imaging probes reported previously have a binding affinity equal to or lower than that of PIB, suggesting that they have a much higher binding affinity than any other tracers targeting A\(\beta\) including CAA-specific imaging
probes44. Among eight 99mTc-Ham complexes, both [99mTc]SB2A and [99mTc]BT2B showed high binding affinity for Aβ(1–40) aggregates (4.59 and 4.96 μM, respectively), which was higher than those of any other 99mTc-Ham complexes.

According to the result of the inhibition assay using Aβ(1–40) and Aβ(1–42) aggregates, brain uptake studies were performed for only specific isomers with the higher binding affinity for Aβ aggregates (A-form of SB derivatives and B-form of BT derivatives). [99mTc]SB1A, [99mTc]SB2A, [99mTc]BT1B, and [99mTc]BT2B displayed much lower initial brain uptake than [18F]florbetapir under similar experimental conditions (4.90%ID/g at 2 min post-injection) (Fig. 2)45, while [18F]florbetapir has proved its utility for imaging Aβ plaques in the brain. In addition, 99mTc-Ham complexes also showed a lower initial brain entry than even other CAA imaging probes reported previously (0.61–1.21%ID/g at that time)44. These results suggest that 99mTc-Ham complexes could hardly cross the BBB. Therefore, they may be incapable of binding to Aβ aggregates deposited within the brain parenchyma. According to the results of binding affinity for Aβ(1–40) and Aβ(1–42) aggregates in vitro and brain uptake in normal mice ex vivo, further studies were conducted using [99mTc]SB2A and [99mTc]BT2B with high binding affinity for Aβ aggregates and very low brain uptake.

In vitro autoradiography of human CAA brain sections with [99mTc]SB2A showed intensive labeling of Aβ depositions (Fig. 3A), confirmed by immunostaining of the same brain sections with anti-Aβ(1–40) antibody (Fig. 3B). Many 99mTc-labeled Aβ imaging probes with preferable binding affinity have exhibited no marked labeling of Aβ depositions in human brain sections; however, Jia et al. recently reported a 99mTc-labeled tracer showing positive autoradiography results for brain sections from AD patients44. As well as those results, 99mTc-Ham complexes showed excellent labeling of Aβ depositions in human brain sections. Additionally, a blocking study with nonradioactive PIB confirmed the specific binding of [99mTc]SB2A to Aβ depositions in CAA brain sections (Fig. 3C). In vitro autoradiography with [99mTc]BT2B showed specific binding to Aβ depositions in CAA brain sections as well as [99mTc]SB2A (Fig. S1 in Supplementary information). In addition, two bivalent 99mTc-Ham complexes, [99mTc]SB2A and [99mTc]BT2B, also showed intensive labeling of Aβ depositions in brain sections from another patient with CAA (Fig. S2 in Supplementary information).

Ex vivo autoradiography with [99mTc]SB2A displayed specific binding to Aβ aggregates in the living Tg2576 mouse brain (Fig. 4A,B) but not wild-type mouse brain (Fig. 4C). Since Tg2576 mice are known to overproduce Aβ aggregates in the brain, they have been commonly used to evaluate the specific binding of Aβ aggregates in experiments in vitro and in vivo45,46. The accumulation of radioactivity in Tg2576 mouse brain sections was

Figure 4. Ex vivo autoradiograms (ARG) from Tg2576 (A) and wild-type (C) mice with [99mTc]SB2A. The same sections were stained with thioflavin-S (ThS) (D,F). The same sections were also immunostained with an antibody against CD31 (G,I). Panel B,E,H represent magnified image details of panel A,D,G, respectively. Red arrows show Aβ depositions labeled with both ThS and anti-CD31 antibody. White arrowheads show Aβ depositions labeled with ThS, not anti-CD31 antibody.
observed only at the presence of both amyloid aggregates (Fig. 4D,E) and endothelial cells (Fig. 4G,H), suggesting that [99mTc]SB2A selectively bound to amyloid aggregates deposited along vessels but not within parenchyma. In addition, [99mTc]BT2B displayed specific detection of CAA in Tg2576 mice (Fig. S3 in Supplementary information). These results are consistent with the biodistribution study showing the low brain entry of 99mTc-Ham complexes. These findings in the present study suggest that our bivalent 99mTc-Ham complexes, [99mTc]SB2A and [99mTc]BT2B, can specifically detect CAA in vivo. However, these tracers seemed to label areas in the cortex that are not apparent in the thioflavin-S staining. Thioliavin-S has much lower affinity (Kd: μM order) than useful Aβ imaging probes reported previously such as PIB, florbetapir (Kd: nM order)19–47. An in vitro inhibition assay showed that our 99mTc-labeled compounds blocked binding to Aβ aggregates due to a much higher concentration of unlabeled-PIB, suggesting that our compounds have a much higher binding affinity than other Aβ and CAA imaging agents reported previously. Accordingly, it is considered that thioflavin-S can detect fewer depositions of amyloid than our compounds. In addition, we also carried out ex vivo autoradiography using perfused mouse brains, and obtained results showing differences with Tg2576 and wild-type mice (data not shown), suggesting that radioactivity was derived from tracers binding to depositions of amyloid, and not from tracers contained in the blood. Although the possibility that the BBB is leaky in the brains of AD patients has been suggested in several reports48–50, it has remained controversial whether or not the BBB dysfunction depends on the stage of AD. Not all studies have indentified an index of BBB disruption in AD brains50–52, but Zipser et al. recently reported that dysfunction of the BBB could increase stepwisely with the degree of pathology in AD, indicating that the BBB should be intact in an early stage of preclinical AD. Moreover, CAA imaging probes should be used in the preclinical stage of the disease when the BBB functions normally. Therefore, 99mTc-Ham complexes developed in the present study, which may be incapable of penetrating the BBB, can serve as CAA-specific imaging probes for the early diagnosis of AD.

In addition, we performed an in vivo SPECT/CT study with [99mTc]SB2A using Tg2576 and wild-type mice at 30 min postinjection (Fig. S4 in Supplementary information). Although ex vivo autoradiography demonstrated the specificity of [99mTc]SB2A for CAA, [99mTc]SB2A was not differentially distributed in the brains of Tg2576 and wild-type mice in vivo. The radioactivity accumulation was observed mostly in the limbic region of the brain, which seemed to be derived from the blood. This inference is supported by the observations that blood vessels were rich in this region of the brain confirmed by immunostaining of CD31 (Fig. 4G,I), and a biodistribution study which suggested that [99mTc]SB2A has a high retention rate in the blood (5.13±1D/g at 30 min postinjection, Table S1 in Supplementary information). Although the influence of radioactivity in the cerebral blood could be removed by perfusion in ex vivo autoradiography examination, it was inevitable to detect radioactivity in the blood as a background signal in the in vivo SPECT study. Furthermore, we carried out an in vivo SPECT imaging study at a later time point (120 min postinjection) of [99mTc]SB2A. However, we obtained a similar result to that of at 30 min postinjection, suggesting that the radioactivity in the blood still remained at 120 min postinjection (Fig. S3 in Supplementary information). Therefore, further acceleration of the clearance of 99mTc-labeled probes from the blood pool is essential for the development of in vivo imaging probes targeting CAA. The introduction of a hydrophilic substituted group including hydroxyl and carboxyl groups may constitute one of the strategies to enhance the clearance of probes from the blood. For instance, the replacement of the dimethylamino group in [99mTc]SB2A with a hydroxyl group reduces its lipophilicity, contributing to lower binding to plasma proteins. This modification of probes should facilitate the more rapid clearance of [99mTc]SB2A from the blood, leading to a lower background signal that can bring about an increase in the specific signal of the probes on binding to CAA.

In the current study, we applied bivalent 99mTc-Ham complexes that we reported previously to imaging probes targeting CAA. All 99mTc-Ham complexes including a monovalent or bivalent amyloid ligand showed binding affinity for Aβ(1–40) aggregates in vitro and very low brain uptake in normal mice ex vivo. In vitro autoradiography showed specific binding of 99mTc-Ham complexes including a bivalent amyloid ligand ([99mTc]SB2A and [99mTc]BT2B) with high binding affinity in the inhibition assay to Aβ depositions in brain sections from a CAA patient. Additionally, [99mTc]SB2A and [99mTc]BT2B displayed excellent and selective labeling of Aβ depositions in vessels but not parenchyma in mouse brains. The results suggest that [99mTc]SB2A and [99mTc]BT2B have potential as CAA-specific imaging probes. Although the in vivo SPECT/CT study with [99mTc]SB2A showed no marked difference in radioactivity accumulation in the brain between Tg2576 and wild-type mice, the findings in the present study reveal new possibilities of developing clinically useful CAA imaging probes based on the 99mTc-Ham complex. Further optimization to improve the clearance of 99mTc-Ham complexes from the blood is underway.

Methods

General All reagents were obtained commercially and used without further purification unless otherwise indicated. PIB was purchased from ABX (Saxony, Germany). Na99mTcO4 was purchased from Nihon Medi-Physics Co., Ltd. (Tokyo, Japan) or was obtained from a commercial 99Mo/99mTc generator (Ultra-Techno Kow; FUJIFILM RI Pharma Co., Ltd., Tokyo, Japan). RP-HPLC was performed with a Shimadzu LC-20AT pump with a SPD-20A UV detector, a LC-20AT pump with a SPD-20A UV detector, λ = 254 nm) with a Cosmosil C18 column (Nacalai Tesque, Kyoto, Japan, S5CAR-AR-II, 4.6 mm × 150 mm) using a mobile phase (10 mM phosphate buffer (pH 7.4)/ acetonitrile: 0 min 3/2 to 30 min 3/7) delivered at a flow rate of 1.0 mL/min.

Animals Animal experiments were conducted in accordance with our institutional guidelines and were approved by the Kyoto University Animal Care Committee. Male ddY mice were purchased from Japan SLC, Inc. (Shizuoka, Japan). Female Tg2576 mice and wild-type mice were purchased from Taconic Farms, Inc. (New York, USA). Animals were fed standard chow and had free access to water. All efforts were made to minimize suffering.

Human brain tissues. Experiments involving human subjects were performed in accordance with relevant guidelines and regulations and were approved by the ethics committee of Kyoto University and National Cerebral
and Cardiovascular Center. Informed consent was secured from all subjects in this study. Postmortem brain tissues from autopsy–confirmed cases of CAA (female, 67 years old, and female, 85 years old) and a control (male, 73 years old) were obtained from the Graduate School of Medicine, Kyoto University, National Cerebral and Cardiovascular Center, and BioChain Institute, Inc. (California, USA), respectively.

**Synthesis and \(^{99m}\text{Tc}\) labeling.** \(^{99m}\text{Tc}\)-Ham complexes ([\(^{99m}\text{Tc}\)]SB1, [\(^{99m}\text{Tc}\)]SB2, [\(^{99m}\text{Tc}\)]BT1, and [\(^{99m}\text{Tc}\)] BT2) were prepared as we reported previously. In brief, to solutions of 0.2 mg Ham precursors (Z)-4-((E)-4-(dimethylamino)styryl)-N'-hydroxybenzimidamide, (Z)-2-((E)-dimethylamino)phenyl)-N'-hydroxybenz[d]thiazole-6-carboximidamide, and (Z)-4-(dimethylamino)-N'-hydroxybenzimidamide in acetate/ethanol (1:4, 200 μL) were added 100 μL Na\(^{99m}\text{Tc}\)O\(_4\) solution and 15 μL tin (II) tartrate hydrate solution [2 mg tin (II) tartrate hydrate (7.50 μmol) dissolved in water (2.5 mL)]. The reaction mixtures were incubated at room temperature for 30 min and purified by RP-HPLC. The \(^{99m}\text{Tc}\)-Ham complexes were analyzed by analytical RP-HPLC on a Cosmosil C\(_18\)-column (5C18-AR-II, 4.6 mm × 150 mm) with a solvent of phosphate buffer (10 mM, pH 7.4)/acetone/tetrile (0 min 3/2 to 30 min 3/7) as the mobile phase at a flow rate of 1.0 mL/min. The radioactivity of the \(^{99m}\text{Tc}\)-labeled compounds was recorded for 30 min.

**Competitive inhibition assay using A\(^{3}(1–40)\) aggregates in solution.** A solid form of A\(^{3}(1–40)\) was purchased from the Peptide Institute (Osaka, Japan). Aggregation was carried out by gently dissolving the peptide (0.50 mg/mL) in phosphate-buffered saline (PBS) (pH 7.4). The solution was incubated at 37 °C for 42 h with gentle and constant shaking. A mixture containing 50 μL A\(^{3}(1–40)\) aggregates (final conc., 1.25 μg/mL), 50 μL \(^{99m}\text{Tc}\)-Ham complex (final conc., 8.3 kBq/mL), 50 μL PIB (final conc., 64 pM–125 nM in 30% EtOH), and 850 μL of 30% EtOH was incubated at room temperature for 3 h. The mixture was filtered through Whatman GF/B filters (Whatman, Kent, U.K.) using a Brandel M-24 cell harvester (Brandel, Maryland, USA), and the radioactivity of the filters containing the bound \(^{99m}\text{Tc}\)-Ham complex was measured using a γ-counter (Wallac 1407 Wizard; PerkinElmer, Massachusetts, USA). Values for the half-maximal inhibitory concentration (IC\(_{50}\)) were determined from displacement curves using GraphPad Prism 5.0 (GraphPad Software, Inc., California, USA).

**Ex vivo biodistribution in normal mice.** A saline solution (100 μL) of \(^{99m}\text{Tc}\)-Ham complexes (20 kBq) containing EtOH (10 μL) was injected directly into the tail vein of ddY mice (male, 5 weeks old). The mice were sacrificed at 2, 10, 30, and 60 min postinjection. The organs of interest were removed and weighed, and radioactivity was measured using a γ-counter (PerkinElmer). The %ID/g of samples was calculated by comparing the sample counts with the count of the diluted initial dose.

**In vitro autoradiography of human CAA brain sections.** Six micrometer thick serial human brain sections of paraffin-embedded blocks were used for autoradiography. To completely deparaffinize the sections, they were incubated in xylene for 30 min two times and in 100% EtOH for 1 min two times. Subsequently, they were subjected to 1-min incubation in 90% EtOH and 1-min incubation in 70% EtOH, followed by a 5-min wash in water. Each slide was incubated with a 50% EtOH solution of [\(^{99m}\text{Tc}\)]SB2A or [\(^{99m}\text{Tc}\)]BT2B (370 kBq/mL) at room temperature for 1 h. For blocking experiments, the adjacent sections were incubated with a 50% EtOH solution of [\(^{99m}\text{Tc}\)]SB2A or [\(^{99m}\text{Tc}\)]BT2B in the presence of nonradioactive PIB (1.0 mM). The sections were washed in 50% EtOH for 3 min two times and exposed to a BAS imaging plate (Fuji Film, Tokyo, Japan) for 2 h. Autoradiographic images were obtained using a BAS5000 scanner system (Fuji Film). After autoradiographic examination, the same sections were immunostained by an antibody against A\(^{β}\) (1–40) to confirm the presence of A\(^{β}\) depositions. For immunohistochemical staining of A\(^{β}\), the sections were incubated in PBST for 5 min three times, and incubated with biotinylated goat anti-rabbit secondary antibody (Dako, California, USA) and stovitminated goat anti-mouse IgG (Wako) at room temperature for 30 min. After three 5-min incubations in PBS-Tween 20 (PBST), they were incubated with anti-A\(^{β}\) (1–40) primary antibody (BA27; Wako, Osaka, Japan) at room temperature overnight. Subsequently, they were incubated in PBST for 5 min three times, and incubated with biotinylated goat anti-mouse IgG (Wako) at room temperature for 3 h. After three 5-min incubations in PBST, the sections were incubated with Streptavidin–Peroxidase complex at room temperature for 30 min. After three 5-min incubations in PBST, they were incubated with diaminobenzidine (Merck, Hesse, Germany) as a chromogen for 5 min. After washing with water, the sections were observed under a microscope (BIOREVO BZ-9000; Keyence Corp., Osaka, Japan).

**Ex vivo autoradiography using Tg2576 and wild-type mice.** Tg2576 transgenic mice (female, 29 months old) and wild-type mice (female, 29 months old) were used as the AD model and age-matched control, respectively. A saline solution (150 μL) of [\(^{99m}\text{Tc}\)]SB2A or [\(^{99m}\text{Tc}\)]BT2B (18.5 MBq) containing EtOH (30 μL) was injected through the tail vein. The mice were sacrificed at 2, 10, 30, and 60 min postinjection. The organs of interest were removed and weighed, and radioactivity was measured using a γ-counter (PerkinElmer). The %ID/g of samples was calculated by comparing the sample counts with the count of the diluted initial dose.

**Ex vivo autoradiography of human CAA brain sections.** Six micrometer thick serial human brain sections of paraffin-embedded blocks were used for autoradiography. To completely deparaffinize the sections, they were incubated in xylene for 30 min two times and in 100% EtOH for 1 min two times. Subsequently, they were subjected to 1-min incubation in 90% EtOH and 1-min incubation in 70% EtOH, followed by a 5-min wash in water. Each slide was incubated with a 50% EtOH solution of [\(^{99m}\text{Tc}\)]SB2A or [\(^{99m}\text{Tc}\)]BT2B at room temperature for 1 h. For blocking experiments, the adjacent sections were incubated with a 50% EtOH solution of [\(^{99m}\text{Tc}\)]SB2A or [\(^{99m}\text{Tc}\)]BT2B in the presence of nonradioactive PIB (1.0 mM). The sections were washed in 50% EtOH for 3 min two times and exposed to a BAS imaging plate (Fuji Film, Tokyo, Japan) for 2 h. Autoradiographic images were obtained using a BAS5000 scanner system (Fuji Film). After autoradiographic examination, the same sections were immunostained by an antibody against A\(^{β}\) (1–40) to confirm the presence of A\(^{β}\) depositions. For immunohistochemical staining of A\(^{β}\), the sections were autoclaved for 15 min in 0.01 M citric acid buffer (pH 6.0) to activate the antigen. After three 5-min incubations in PBS-Tween 20 (PBST), they were incubated with anti-A\(^{β}\) (1–40) primary antibody (BA27; Wako, Osaka, Japan) at room temperature overnight. Subsequently, they were incubated in PBST for 5 min three times, and incubated with biotinylated goat anti-mouse IgG (Wako) at room temperature for 3 h. After three 5-min incubations in PBST, the sections were incubated with Streptavidin–Peroxidase complex at room temperature for 30 min. After three 5-min incubations in PBST, they were incubated with diaminobenzidine (Merck, Hesse, Germany) as a chromogen for 5 min. After washing with water, the sections were observed under a microscope (BIOREVO BZ-9000; Keyence Corp., Osaka, Japan).
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Acknowledgements
This research was supported by a grant from the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) through the “Funding Program for Next Generation World-Leading Researchers (NEXT Program),” initiated by the Council for Science and Technology Policy (CSTP) and JSPS KAKENHI Grant Number 26293274. We thank Department of Neurology, Kyoto University for providing brain samples of a CAA case.

Author Contributions
S.I., M.O., H.W., H.K. and H.S. designed the study. S.I., M.O., H.W., K.M., M.Y., Y.O., H.I.-U. and M.I. carried out the experiments. S.I., M.O., H.W., H.K. and H.S. analyzed the data. S.I. and M.O. wrote the paper. All authors discussed the results and reviewed the manuscript.

Additional Information
Supplementary information accompanies this paper at http://www.nature.com/srep

Competing financial interests: The authors declare no competing financial interests.

How to cite this article: Iikuni, S. et al. Imaging of Cerebral Amyloid Angiopathy with Bivalent 99mTc-Hydroxamamide Complexes. Sci. Rep. 6, 25990; doi: 10.1038/srep25990 (2016).

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