A large black silhouette of a human head in profile, facing right. The interior of the head is filled with numerous colorful gears of various sizes and colors (red, blue, green, yellow, orange).

Predicting Cerebrovascular Events with Carotid Imaging

Elizabeth Le
MB PhD Student
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Department of Medicine

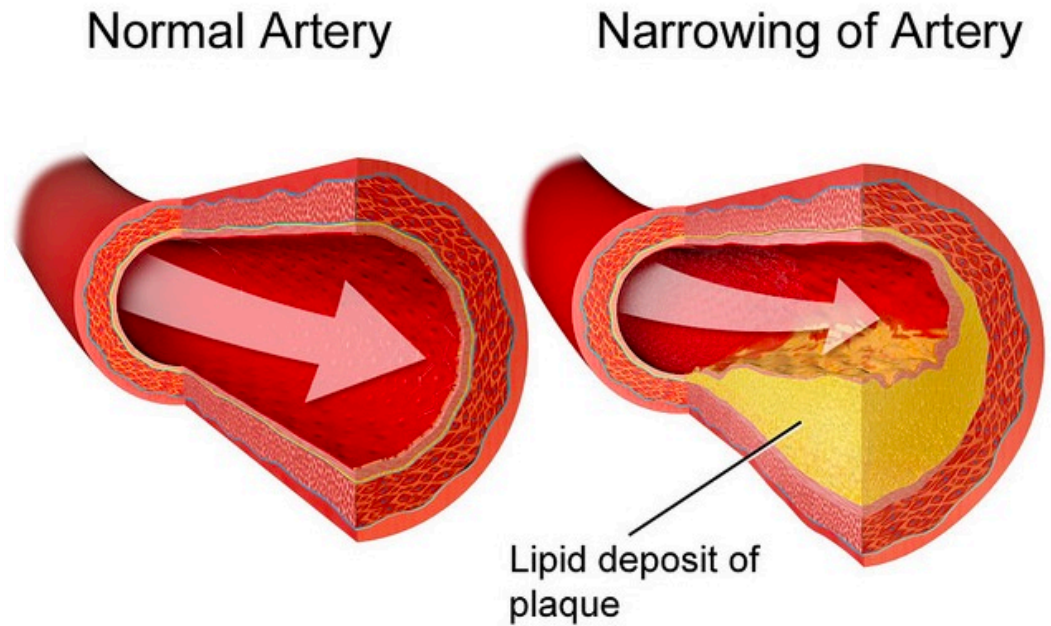
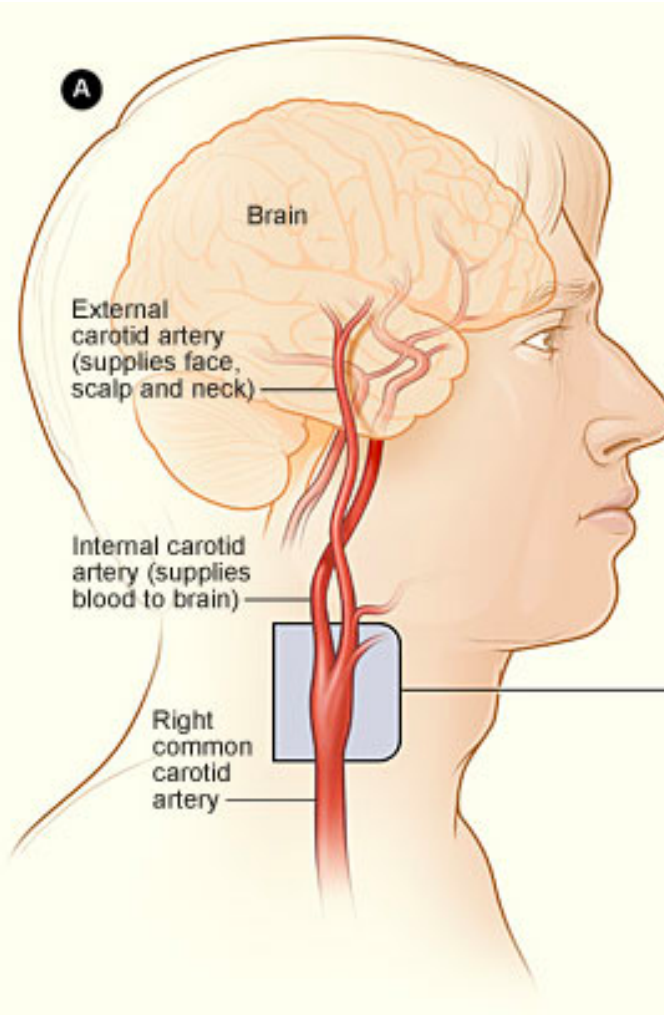


85% ischaemic stroke



15% haemorrhagic stroke

Carotid Atherosclerosis



Fundamental Questions

Who will have a stroke?

'Vulnerable Patient'

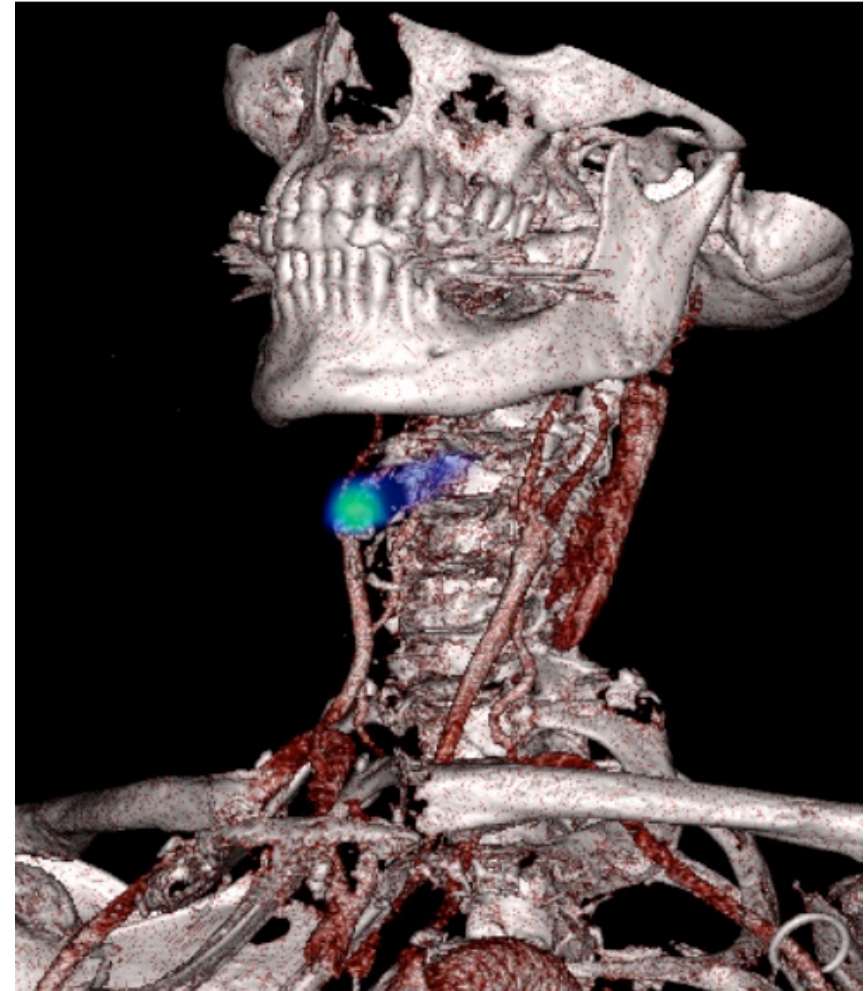
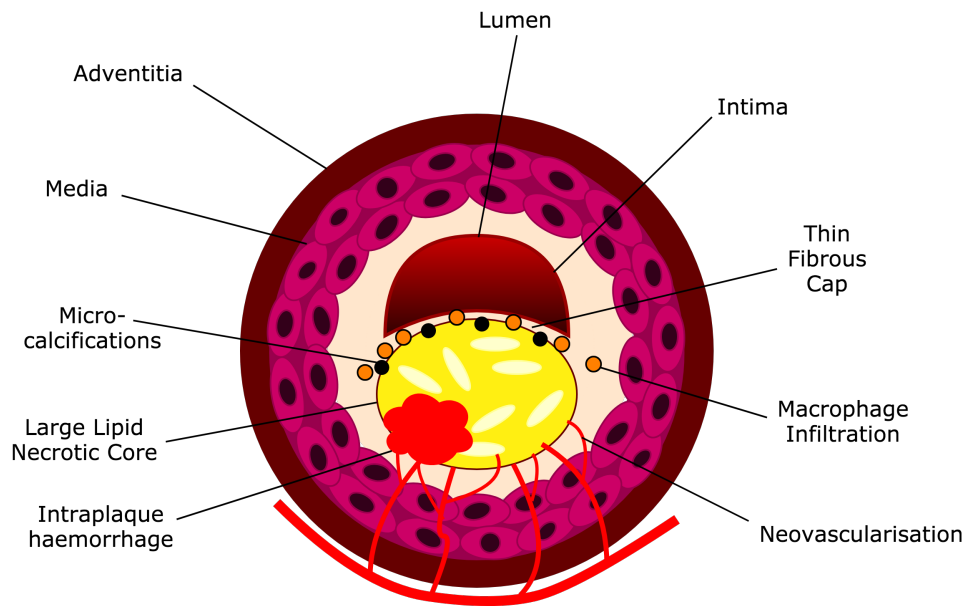


Where is the high-risk plaque?

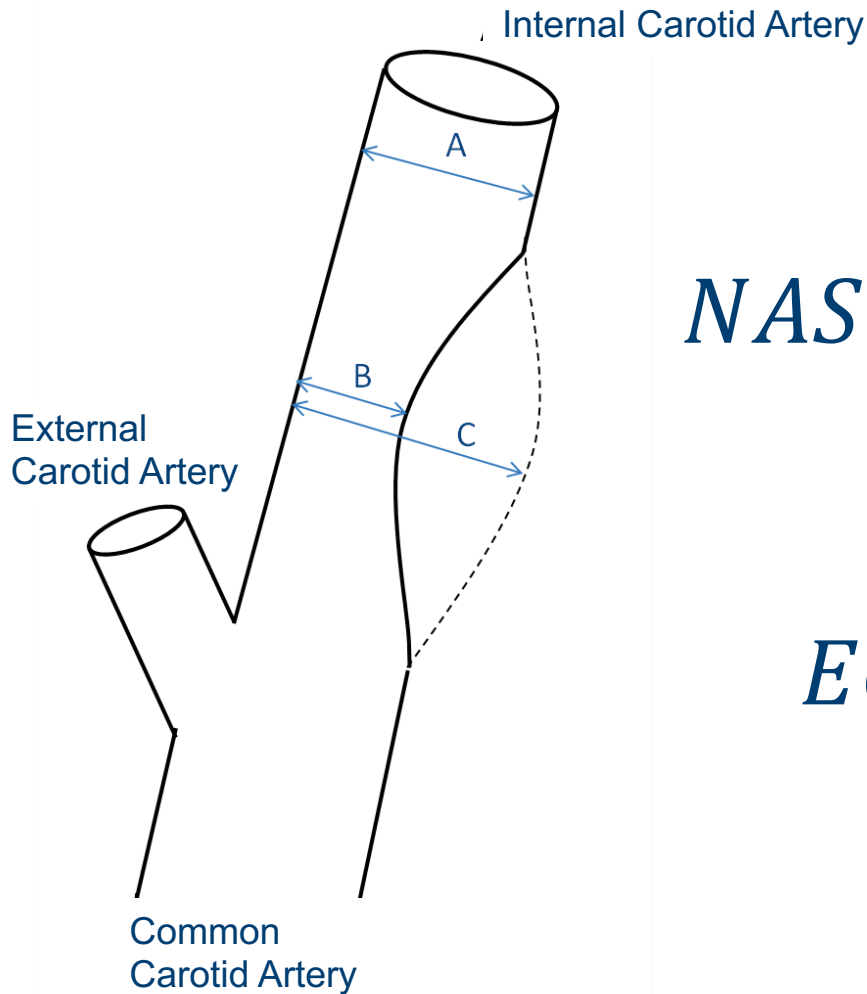
'Vulnerable Plaque'



Vulnerable Plaque Features



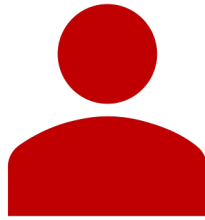
Measuring Carotid Stenosis



$$NASCET = \left(\frac{A - B}{A} \right) \times 100$$

$$ECST = \left(\frac{C - B}{C} \right) \times 100$$

Carotid Surgery Criteria



Symptomatic Patient:

Previously had a stroke or TIA

NASCET 50-99% OR
ECST 70-99%

Recommend Carotid Surgery

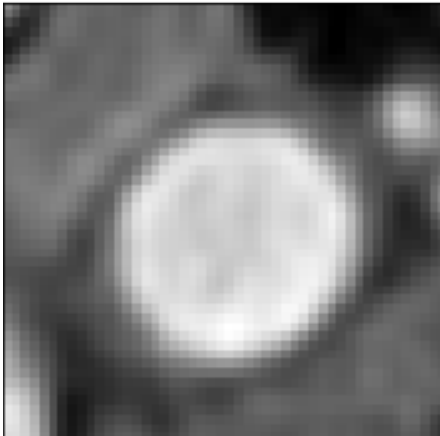


Asymptomatic Patient:

Never had a stroke or TIA

NASCET 50-99%

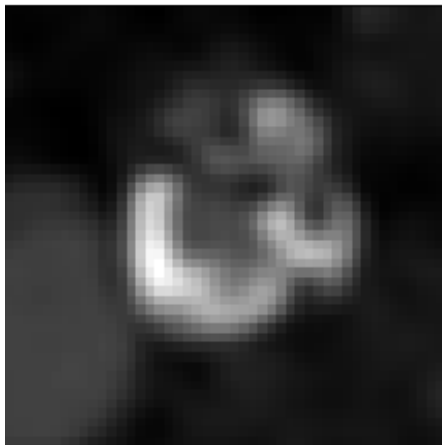
Join a Clinical Trial



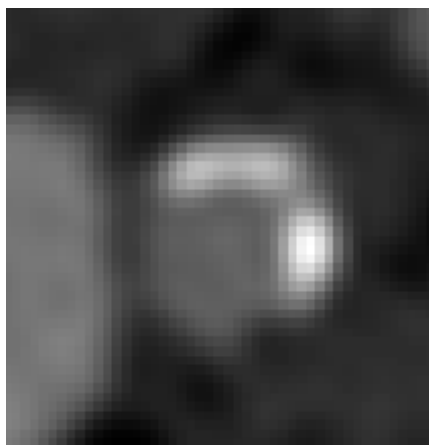
Asymptomatic



Symptomatic



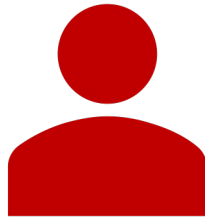
Asymptomatic



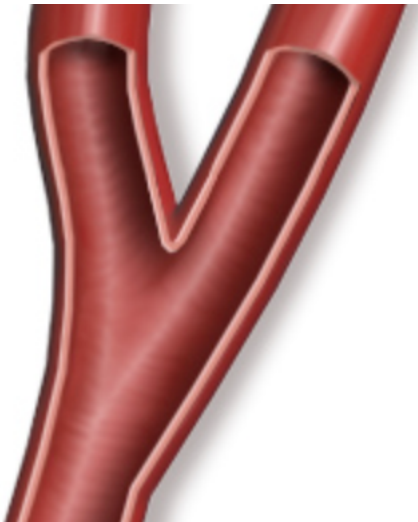
Symptomatic

Contrast Computed Tomography

Cambridge Carotid Dataset



41 Symptomatic Patients



**82
Symptomatic
Carotids**

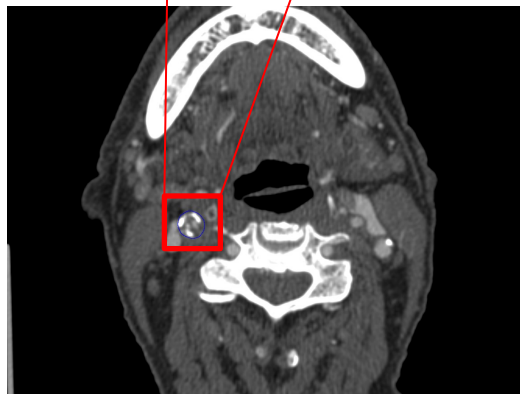
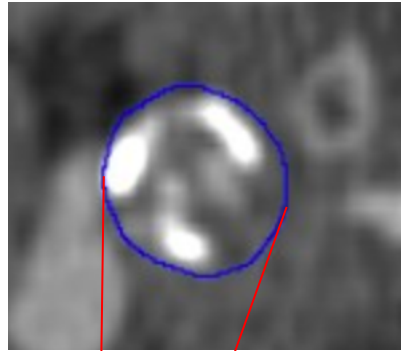


25 Asymptomatic Patients

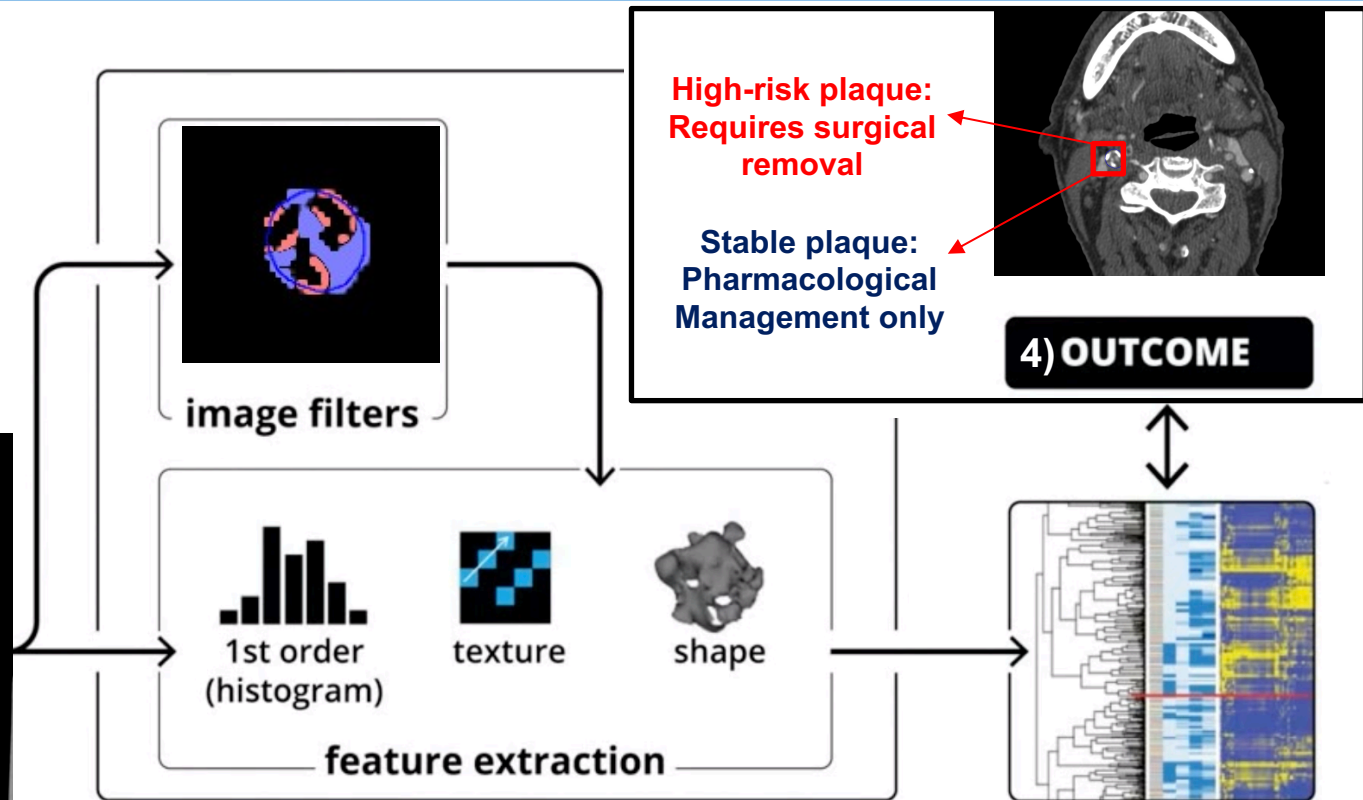


**50
Asymptomatic
Carotids**

Carotid Texture Analysis



1) Image segmentation:
ROI around vessel wall



2) TexRAD and
PyRadiomics Toolbox

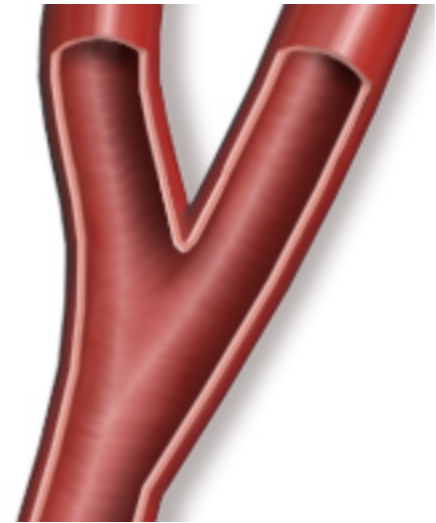
3) Statistical Data
Analysis and Machine
Learning

Preliminary Findings



Asymptomatic Carotids

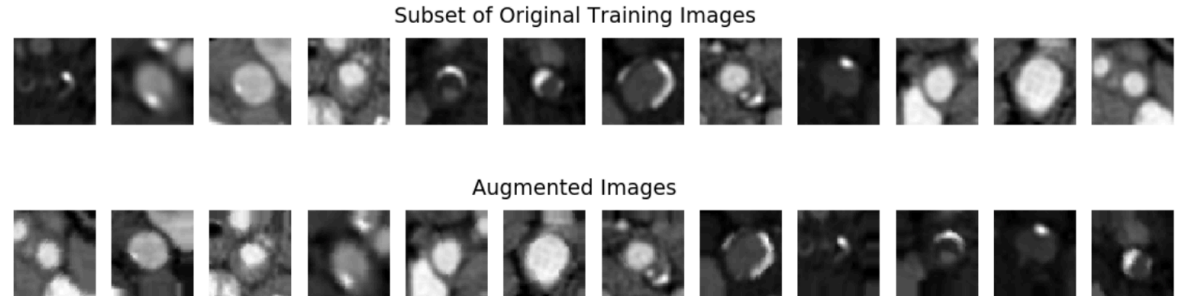
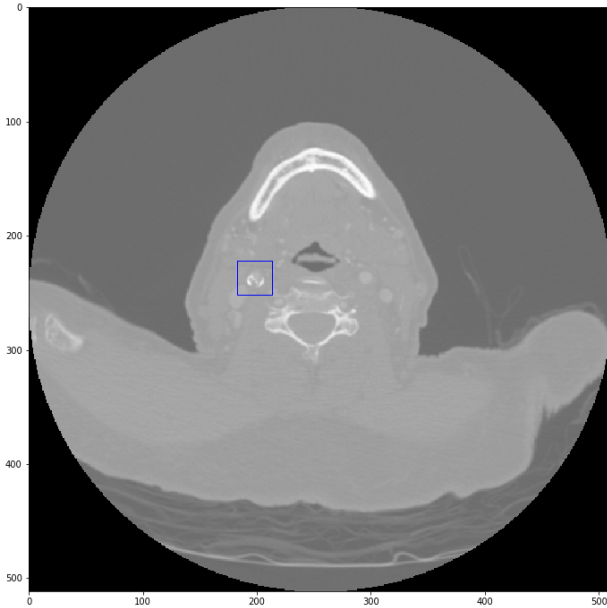
Increased image
homogeneity



Symptomatic Carotids

Increased image
heterogeneity

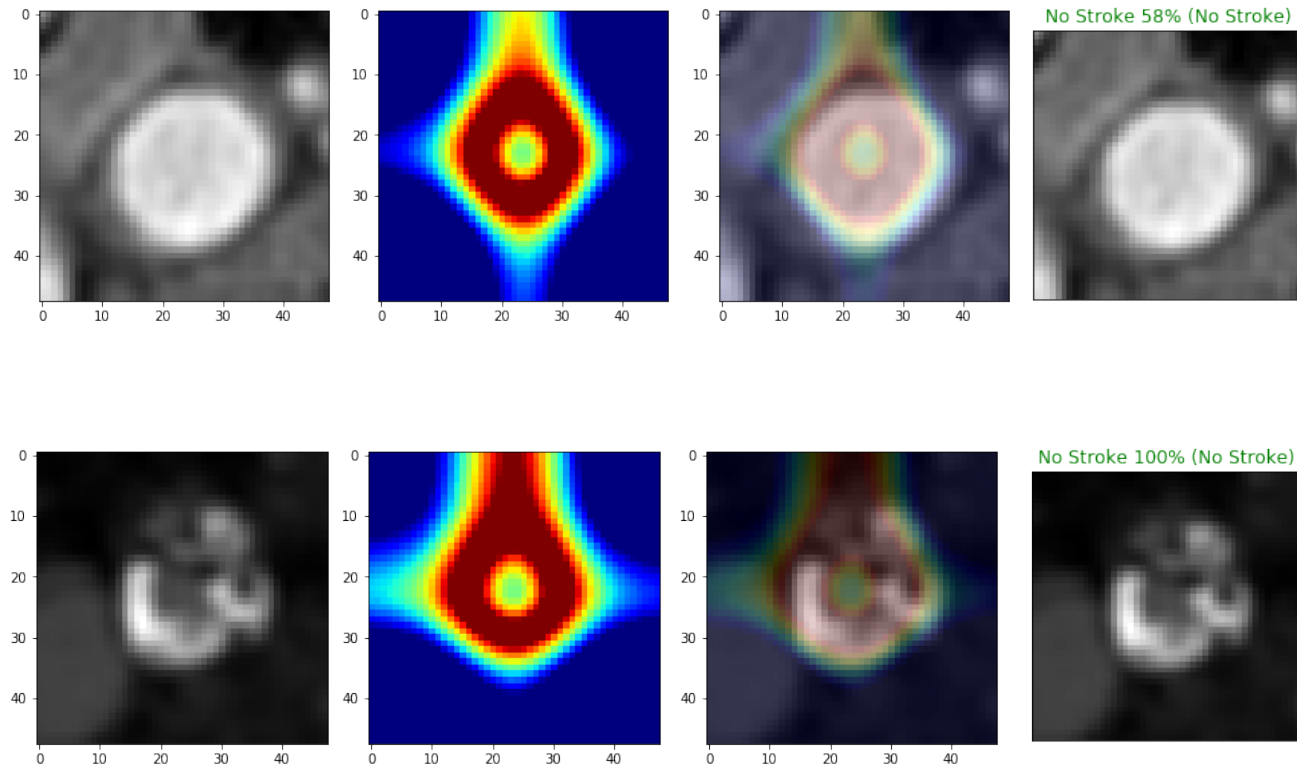
Deep Learning with Carotids



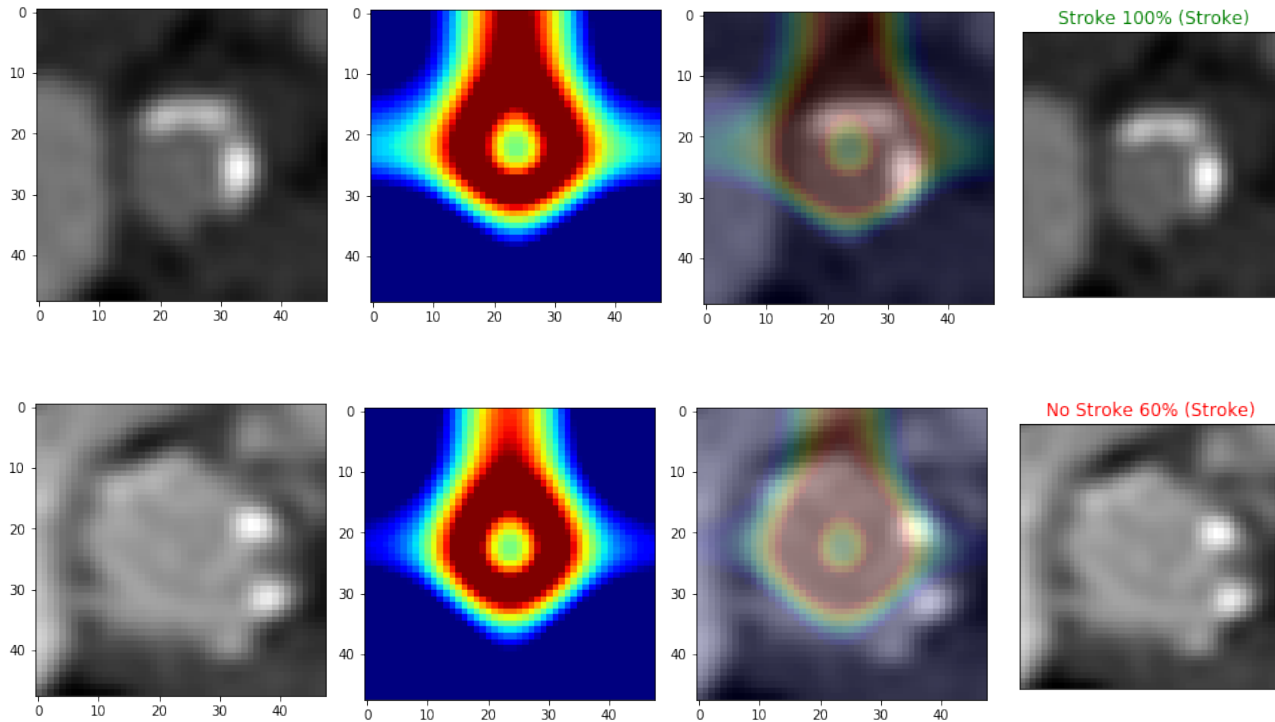
Transfer learning with
modified VGG16 architecture

100 Epochs
75% training, 25% testing
92% validation accuracy

Asymptomatic Carotids

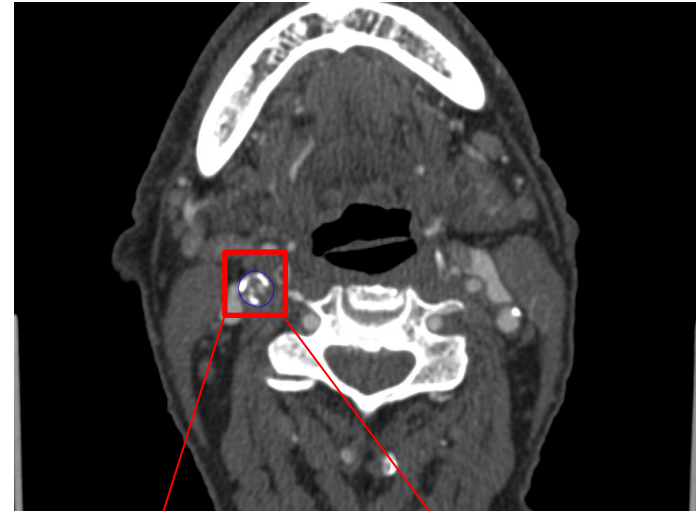


Symptomatic Carotids



Potential in Medicine and Industry

- ✓ Carotid imaging contains further information that can be exploited by texture analysis and machine learning.
- ✓ A non-invasive biomarker for prediction of the vulnerable plaque
- ✓ Easy to integrate into the imaging workflow. No additional radiation.
- ✓ Still further work to be done



High-risk plaque:
Requires surgical removal

Stable plaque:
**Pharmacological
Management only**

Coming Next...

1. External validation

- Acquire external carotid dataset for testing

2. Biological and functional imaging correlation:

- Preliminary work in Department of Medicine indicates correlation with angiogenesis
- Cambridge carotid dataset has FDG PET imaging

3. Prospective, multi-centre validation:

- Have texture parameters as clinical endpoints

Thank you to all

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