Automated identification of piglet brain tissue from MRI images using Region-based Convolutional Neural Networks

Kayla L. Stanke[1], Ryan J. Larsen[1,*], Laurie Rund[1], Brian J. Leyshon[2], Allison Y. Louie[3], Andrew J. Steelman[1,3,4,5]

[1]Department of Animal Sciences, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Illinois, United States of America

[2]Abbott Nutrition, Discovery Research, Columbus, Ohio, United States of America

[3]Division of Nutritional Sciences, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Illinois, United States of America

[4]Neuroscience Program, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Illinois, United States of America

[5]Carl R. Woese Institute for Genomic Biology, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Illinois, United States of America

*Corresponding author

Email: larsen@illinois.edu (RJL)

Abstract

Magnetic Resonance Imaging is an important tool for characterizing volumetric changes of the piglet brain during development. Typically, an early step of an imaging analysis pipeline is brain extraction, or skull stripping. Brain extractions are usually performed manually; however, this approach is time-intensive and can lead to variation between brain extractions when multiple raters are used. Automated brain extractions are important for reducing the time required for analyses and improving the uniformity of the extractions. Here we demonstrate the use of Mask R-CNN, a Region-based Convolutional Neural Network (R-CNN), for automated brain extractions of piglet brains. We validate our approach using Nested Cross-Validation on six sets of training/validation data drawn from 32 pigs. Visual inspection of the extractions shows

26 acceptable accuracy, Dice coefficients are in the range of 0.95-0.97, and Hausdorff Distance

27 values in the range of 4.1-8.3 voxels. These results demonstrate that R-CNNs provide a viable

28 tool for skull stripping of piglet brains.

Introduction

Piglets are an important translational model for measuring the effect of nutrition on brain

development. Not only do piglet brain stages of development correlate with human infant

development, but their nutritional requirements are also comparable [1]. Magnetic resonance

imaging (MRI) is an important technique for obtaining non-invasive measurements of brain

volumes. An early step in volumetric analysis is the identification or "extraction" of the brain

from the surrounding tissue. Manual tracing has been the gold standard for brain extraction and

is performed by creating an outline that separates the surrounding skull, muscles, tissues, and fat

from the brain [1-6]. However, the method is not ideal when working with large data sets

because it is time intensive and is subject to inconsistencies between raters/evaluators.

Automated brain extraction techniques are needed to overcome these limitations. However,

reports of automated extractions of pig brains are limited. A graph theory approach that makes

use of prior information of anatomical structures has been used to perform automated extraction

of piglet brains [7]. However, deep learning technologies offer the possibility of automating the

training of anatomical structures to enable brain extractions [8-10]. A U-Net model trained on

humans, non-human primates, and 3 pig scans has been shown to successfully perform brain

extractions on 2 pig scans [11]. Also, a patch-based 3D U-Net trained on piglets has been used

for successful brain extractions of piglets of multiple ages, via transfer learning [12]. An

alternative segmentation tool is Mask R-CNN, a Region-based Convolutional Neural Network

(R-CNN). This tool has been used to create a mouse brain atlas that is generalizable across

developmental ages and imaging modalities [13]. These results suggest that Mask R-CNN may

be effective for piglet brain extraction. Here we demonstrate the use of Mask R-CNN for

automated brain extractions of piglet brains.

Methods

Animals and Care Practices

All animal care and handling procedures were approved by the University of Illinois Institutional

Animal Care and Use Committee (Protocol #18256) and were in accordance with federal

guidelines. Male and female average-for-gestational age, Yorkshire crossbred, full-term,

naturally-delivered piglets were obtained from University of Illinois Swine Farm at postnatal day

2 to allow for colostrum consumption. All piglets remained intact but did undergo routine

processing on the farm including iron dextran (Henry Schein Animal Health, Dublin, OH, USA)

and antibiotic injection (EXCEDE®, Zoetis, Parsippany, NJ 07054, USA) per routine farm

practice and according to label. Four groups of piglets were placed individually into a caging

system under standard conditions as described in a previous publication [14] and randomly

assigned to five diet treatment groups. The control group of piglets remained with the sow until

day 28 of age with free access to suckle and were weighed daily. The current study does not

distinguish between diet groups.

Sow-raised piglets were handled daily, as were the artificially raised animals to diminish

differences between the two types of rearing. After arrival at the Edward R. Madigan Laboratory

(ERML) Animal Facility, experimental piglets received one dose of antibiotic: the first of two

cohorts received Spectraguard™ (Bimeda, Inc, Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181) on postnatal day 2

and the second cohort received Baytril® (Bayer healthcare LLC Shawnee Mission, KS 66201)

on postnatal day 4. Additional doses of antibiotic were administered during the experiment only

under the direction of the staff veterinarian. Animals were individually housed in racks of

metabolism cages specifically designed to artificially rear neonatal piglets under constant 12-h

light/dark cycles. Piglet housing at ERML was as follows: space allowance for individual piglets

was 30" deep, 23" wide, and 18.5" high, providing 4.8 square feet of floor space per piglet. Each

piglet was supplied with a heating pad, toy, and blanket. Room temperatures were kept at 85-95

ºF using space heaters. Animals were also offered water or BlueLite® electrolyte solution ad

libitum. Cages and heating pads were disinfected, and toys and blankets replaced daily. Animal

care protocols were in accordance with National Institutes of Health Guidelines for Care and Use

of Laboratory Animals and were approved by the University of Illinois Laboratory Animal Care

and Use Committee.

MRI Acquisition

MRI data was acquired using 3 T Prisma scanner (Siemens, Erlangen) housed at the Biomedical

Imaging Center at the University of Illinois. Pigs were anesthetized using TKX (combination of

2.5 ml of xylazine (100 mg/ml) and 2.5 ml of ketamine (100mg/ml) added to a Telazol vial and

administered at a dosage of 0.02-0.03 ml/kg IM) then maintained on isofluorane (1-3%)

throughout the imaging. Animals were scanned in the supine position using a specialized piglet

head coil (Rapid Biomed, Rimpar). During scanning, the respiration rate, heart rate and blood

oxygen levels were monitored using a LifeWindow LW9x monitor (Digicare, Boynton Beach,

FL).

MRI Structural Imaging: Our structural MRI scan consisted of a 3D MPRAGE acquisition

(voxel size = 0.6 x 0.6 x 0.6 mm^3, FOV = 173 x 173 mm^2, 256 slices, GRAPPA - GeneRalized

Autocalibrating Partial Parallel Acquisition - acceleration factor R = 2; TR = 2060 ms, TI = 1060

ms, flip angle = 9□, for an overall scan time of 5:21 min).

Manual Brain Extraction

Manual brain extraction was facilitated by first performing a rigid alignment of T_1-weighted

images from all piglets to the brain atlas [15]. This was done using SPM12 imaging analysis

software. First, we performed a manual rotation to approximately align the T_1-weighted images

with 28-day piglet template [15], without resampling. We then used the "coregistration" function

of SPM12 to further align the T_1-weighted images to the template, again without resampling. The

resulting alignment was accurate for all piglets, even though it was performed without first

performing brain extraction, as shown by a representative image in Fig 1.

104   -------- Figure 1 about here -----------

Fig 1. Results of coregistration of piglet brain to the average brain template. The top row

shows images from a representative piglet brain and bottom row shows the same slices from

the average brain template. Blue lines within each image indicate the locations of the

perpendicular slices. The consistency of two sets of images confirms a good approximate

alignment of the T_1-weighted image with the average brain template.

An atlas-based brain mask was then resampled into the native space of each piglet, providing

initial estimates of the brain masks for each piglet. These initial estimates were then modified to

create individualized brain masks using Slicer3D, as shown in Fig 2. Most revisions were done

in the sagittal plane, but all three orthogonal views were reviewed and modified for improved

precision. All extractions were performed by one rater to minimize variability. No image

intensity normalization was performed prior to manual or automated brain extraction.

-------- Figure 2 about here -----------

Fig 2.   Demonstration of the creation of manually-defined brain mask via modification of the

template brain mask. A representative T_1-weighted image is overlayed with the template brain

mask, creating a brighter region. The green outline shows the manual-designated brain mask.

The manual brain mask was created by editing the template brain mask for each individual

piglet.

Automated Brain Extraction

This study uses a deep learning instance segmentation neural network using object detection

model Mask R-CNN with Inception Resnet v2 architecture [16], pretrained on the COCO 2017

data set [17]. Our model uses a Tensor Flow 2.4.0 implementation of Mask R-CNN [16], with

feature extractor Faster R-CNN [18]. Faster R-CNN utilizes a Region Proposal Network (RPN)

to select object proposals from a backbone, which for our study was generated using a combined

ResNet101 and Feature Pyramid Network (FPN) [19].

Training was performed using a single NVIDIA GeForce GTX 1070 Ti GPU, with NVIDIA

developer driver 465.21, CUDA 11.0, and CUDNN library 8.0.4. The network was trained with a

cosine decay learning rate of 0.008 and a momentum optimizer value of 0.9, and a batch size of

two images, or slices, per iteration. We performed 200,000 iterations, or 48.8 epochs. The

training and segmentation were performed only in 2D sagittal planes. During evaluation,

predicted masks were binarized at a confidence parameter threshold of 0.5. The masks created

from the 2D slices were then combined into 3D datasets for final cleaning. This involved largest

connected component (LCC) filtering to remove several small and spurious masks, typically

occurring in slices that did not include brain. Cleaning was done by first using the Matlab

function "bwconncomp" to identify all isolated masks, consisting of one or more connected

voxels, where connected voxels are defined as those with touching faces. Then we discarded all

but the largest mask, or brain mask.

Validation

Nested Cross-Validation was used to evaluate the performance of the training models. This

method has been shown to produce unbiased performance estimates, even in small datasets [20].

We randomly assigned each of the 32 pigs to one of six test groups. Four of the test groups

consisted of five pigs, and two of the test groups consisted of six pigs. For each test group, a

training model was generated using the remaining pigs, beginning with the same architecture

which was naïve to the test images. Validation of the test groups was performed by comparing

the machine-generated masks with the manually generated masks by visual inspection, by

computing Dice coefficients, 3D Hausdorff Distance (HD) values, and Pearson correlations

between the manual and machine-generated masks. Dice coefficients were calculated using the

formula $2|X \cap Y|/(|X| + |Y|)$, where $| ... |$ indicates the number of voxels within the mask, $\cap$

indicates the union, and X and Y indicate the manual and machine-generated masks. Dice

coefficients were calculated before and after LCC filtering. We calculated 3D Hausdorff

Distance (HD) values, using the freely-available "EvaluateSegmentation" command-line tool

(https://github.com/Visceral-Project/EvaluateSegmentation) [21]. Because HD values are

sensitive to outliers eliminated by LCC filtering, HD values were only calculated after LCC

filtering [21].

Results

Visual inspection of the brain extractions reveals good accuracy of automatic brain extractions

(Fig 3). The six models were labelled with letters from A to F. We found that Model D failed to

identify the brain within several sagittal slices of one of the test pigs, as shown in Fig 4(a) and

(b). These slices included an unusually bright region in the subcutaneous fat layer near the

superior area of the head (see Fig 4(b)). This bright region was removed by manually outlining it

in one of the slices, and then removing the traced voxels from all the slices (see Fig 4(d)). The

modified structural images were then re-evaluated using the same model, producing a more

accurate brain mask (see Fig 4(c) and (d)). This manual correction boosted the Dice coefficient

of the pre-LCC filtered images from 0.91 to 0.96. The brain mask from the modified images was

used for subsequent validation.

170   -------- Figure 3 about here -----------

171 *Fig 3. Sample extractions from two piglets. The overlay that creates a brighter region indicates*

172 *machine extractions, and the green outline shows the manual brain masks. The top row shows*

173 *a piglet tested using Model A, and the bottom row shows a piglet tested using Model B.*

175   -------- Figure 4 about here -----------

Fig 4. A segmentation error generated by Model D that was subsequently corrected. Panels (a) and (b) show the inaccurate mask, indicated by green lines, and panels (c) and (d) show the mask generated by the same model after image modification, with the same views and the same slices. Axial slices are shown in (a) and (c); sagittal slices are shown in (b) and (d). The yellow lines in the axial views, (a) and (c), show the location of the sagittal view and the red lines in the sagittal views, (b) and (d), show the location of the axial views. For the inaccurate mask there are several sagittal slices in which no brain regions were identified, as shown in (a). These slices included a bright region in the fat layer of the superior region of the head, as shown in (b). The bright region was manually traced and removed from the same voxels of all sagittal slices as shown in (d). A re-evaluation of the edited images using the same model, Model D, produced an accurate brain extraction, as shown in (c) and (d).

Visual inspection of the results also revealed that the LCC filter was important for one of the pigs, for which the automated brain extraction inaccurately identified large brain patches within 5 slices outside of the head. This pig exhibited a Dice coefficient of 0.92, which improved to 0.957 after LCC filtration. The LCC filter improved Dice coefficients for all other pigs as well. However, this benefit was smaller due to the lower volumes of outlier voxels; for the remaining 31 pigs, the maximum improvement in Dice coefficient was 0.008 and the mean improvement was 0.001. The final brain extractions, after application of the LCC filter, exhibited Dice coefficients in the range of 0.95-0.97 (mean: 0.961, standard deviation: 0.0036, see histogram in Fig 5(a)), and HD values in the range of 4.1-8.3 voxels (mean: 5.48, standard deviation: 1.16, see histogram in Fig 5(b)), or 2.5-5.0 mm (mean: 3.3, standard deviation: 0.7). The Pearson

correlation coefficient, R, of the volumes, V_{manual} and $V_{machine}$, of the manual and machine-

generated masks was R=0.90, with p<0.001 (see Fig 6).

-------- Figure 5 about here -----------

Fig 5. Histograms of (a) Dice coefficients and (b) Hausdorff Distance (HD) values calculated

from each of the 32 test cases after LCC filtration.

-------- Figure 6 about here -----------

Fig 6. The consistency of brain volumes, V_{manual} and $V_{machine}$, from manual and machine

brain extractions, respectively. The solid line indicates unity and the colors denote the models

used. Brain volume units are cubic centimeters.

Discussion

We have shown that Mask R-CNN trained on manually generated masks can be used to perform

accurate piglet brain extractions. However, for one of the 32 test cases, a model failed to identify

brain tissue within several slices. This problem was eliminated when the evaluation was repeated

after the removal of an unusually bright region of subcutaneous fat was removed from the

images. It is possible that that problem could have been avoided by using more training data, or

by performing a bias field correction, or intensity normalization, before training. Image intensity

normalization is often important for automated segmentation [22, 23]. We did not perform this

step before brain extraction, because in SPM, a bias field correction is typically done

simultaneous to tissue segmentation[24]. However, incorporation of a normalization before brain

extraction might improve the generalization of our model to other scanning conditions, such as

different scanners and coils.

Dice coefficients were >0.95 and HD values were <5 mm; these are similar to values that have

been achieved by neural networks for the skull-stripping of non-human primates [11], rodents

[25, 26], and piglets [12].

The use of automated brain extraction has the potential to reduce analysis time because it

requires minimal supervision. This process is scalable to a high number of piglets, avoiding

complications and inconsistencies that might arise from having multiple raters perform manual

brain extractions.

Improvements to our approach could be implemented in a variety of ways. Training with a larger

sample size is expected to increase performance and accuracy of machine learning algorithms

[27]. Performance may also be improved by hyperparameter tuning and optimization [28, 29].

Improved performance might have been obtained by using 3D Mask R-CNN; however we

employed 2D Mask R-CNN to obtain shorter training times [30]. The use of 3D, or 2.5D,

segmentation has the potential to create a brain mask with greater smoothness at the edge of the

brain between adjacent slices. However, the non-smoothness of the automated segmentations is

similar to that seen with manual brain extractions, which are also performed in 2D. Also, any

inaccuracies due to non-smoothness appear to be localized in the CSF layer surrounding the

brain and unlikely to influence the results of automated segmentation of grey matter on the edge

of the brain, performed on the extracted brain images. Brain exaction performance may also be

improved by using quantitative imaging techniques, such as MT saturation [31, 32], to improve

the contrast between brain and non-brain tissues. Further research is required to access whether

network architectures such as U-Net [33], may improve upon results obtained with Mask R-

CNN.

The effectiveness of Mask R-CNN for performing piglet brain extractions implies that it may be

a useful tool for segmenting sub-regions of the brain. Further research is needed to assess

whether such an approach may compliment or improve upon existing methods for volumetric

analysis of piglet brain MRI data [4, 24, 34].

Funding

250 The study was funded by Abbott Nutrition, www.abbott.com, grant number 00490326 to A.S.

251 The funder aided with study design, data analysis, decision to publish, and preparation of the

252 manuscript.

Acknowledgments

254 This work was conducted in part at the Biomedical Imaging Center of the Beckman Institute for

255 Advanced Science and Technology at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC-BI-

256 BIC).

Author contributions

KLS: Conceptualization, Data Curation, Formal Analysis, Investigation, Methodology,
Software, Validation, Visualization, Writing – Original Draft Preparation, Writing-Review &
Editing **RJL:** Conceptualization, Data Curation, Formal Analysis, Funding Acquisition,
Investigation, Methodology, Project Administration, Resources, Software, Supervision,

Validation, Visualization, Writing – Original Draft Preparation, Writing-Review & Editing **AL:**

Investigation, Resources   **BJL:** Conceptualization, Funding Acquisition, Investigation, Project

Administration, Supervision, Writing-Review & Editing **LR:** Funding Acquisition, Investigation,

Project Administration, Resources, Supervision **AS:** Funding Acquisition, Supervision, Writing-

Review & Editing

Data Sharing

Processing scripts are available at https://github.com/kaylals2/Piglet_RCNN.

____

References

1. Mudd AT, Dilger RN. Early-Life Nutrition and Neurodevelopment: Use of the Piglet as a
Translational Model. Advances in Nutrition. 2017;8(1):92-104.
2. Bokde AL, Teipel SJ, Schwarz R, Leinsinger G, Buerger K, Moeller T, et al. Reliable manual
segmentation of the frontal, parietal, temporal, and occipital lobes on magnetic resonance images of
healthy subjects. Brain Res Brain Res Protoc. 2005;14(3):135-45.
3. Conrad MS, Dilger RN, Nickolls A, Johnson RW. Magnetic resonance imaging of the neonatal
piglet brain. Pediatr Res. 2012;71(2):179-84.
4. Gan H, Zhang Q, Zhang H, Chen Y, Lin J, Kang T, et al. Development of new population-averaged
standard templates for spatial normalization and segmentation of MR images for postnatal piglet brains.
Magn Reson Imaging. 2014;32(10):1396-402.
5. Mudd AT, Alexander LS, Berding K, Waworuntu RV, Berg BM, Donovan SM, et al. Dietary
Prebiotics, Milk Fat Globule Membrane, and Lactoferrin Affects Structural Neurodevelopment in the
Young Piglet. Front Pediatr. 2016;4:4.
6. Leyshon BJ, Radlowski EC, Mudd AT, Steelman AJ, Johnson RW. Postnatal Iron Deficiency Alters
Brain Development in Piglets. J Nutr. 2016;146(7):1420-7.
7. Durandeau AF, J.-B.; Bloch, I.; Mazerand, E.; Menei, P.; Montero-Menei, C.; Dinomais, M. , editor
Structural information and (hyper)graph matching for MRI piglet brain extraction. International
Conference on Pattern Recognition Systems; 2019 8-10 July 2019; Tours, France.
8. Akkus Z, Galimzianova A, Hoogi A, Rubin DL, Erickson BJ. Deep Learning for Brain MRI
Segmentation: State of the Art and Future Directions. J Digit Imaging. 2017;30(4):449-59.
9. Hurtz S, Chow N, Watson AE, Somme JH, Goukasian N, Hwang KS, et al. Automated and manual
hippocampal segmentation techniques: Comparison of results, reproducibility and clinical applicability.
Neuroimage Clin. 2019;21:101574.
10. Iqbal A, Khan R, Karayannis T. Developing a brain atlas through deep learning. Nature Machine
Intelligence 2019;1:277-87.
11. Wang X, Li XH, Cho JW, Russ BE, Rajamani N, Omelchenko A, et al. U-net model for brain
extraction: Trained on humans for transfer to non-human primates. Neuroimage. 2021;235:118001.
12. Coupeau P, Fasquel JB, Mazerand E, Menei P, Montero-Menei CN, Dinomais M. Patch-based 3D
U-Net and transfer learning for longitudinal piglet brain segmentation on MRI. Comput Meth Prog Bio.
2022;214.

13.   Iqbal A, Khan R, Karayannis T. Developing a brain atlas through deep learning. Nat Mach Intell.
2019;1(6):277-87.
14.   Rytych JL, Elmore MR, Burton MD, Conrad MS, Donovan SM, Dilger RN, et al. Early life iron
deficiency impairs spatial cognition in neonatal piglets. J Nutr. 2012;142(11):2050-6.
15.   Conrad MS, Sutton BP, Dilger RN, Johnson RW. An in vivo three-dimensional magnetic
resonance imaging-based averaged brain collection of the neonatal piglet (Sus scrofa). PLoS One.
2014;9(9):e107650.
16.   He KM, Gkioxari G, Dollar P, Girshick R. Mask R-CNN. Ieee I Conf Comp Vis. 2017:2980-8.
17.   Lin T-Y, Maire M, Belongie S, Hays J, Perona P, Ramanan D, et al., editors. Microsoft COCO:
Common Objects in Context2014; Cham: Springer International Publishing.
18.   Ren SQ, He KM, Girshick R, Sun J. Faster R-CNN: Towards Real-Time Object Detection with
Region Proposal Networks. Ieee T Pattern Anal. 2017;39(6):1137-49.
19.   Lin TY, Dollar P, Girshick R, He KM, Hariharan B, Belongie S. Feature Pyramid Networks for
Object Detection. Proc Cvpr Ieee. 2017:936-44.
20.   Vabalas A, Gowen E, Poliakoff E, Casson AJ. Machine learning algorithm validation with a limited
sample size. PLoS One. 2019;14(11):e0224365.
21.   Taha AA, Hanbury A. Metrics for evaluating 3D medical image segmentation: analysis, selection,
and tool. BMC Med Imaging. 2015;15:29.
22.   Birenbaum A, Greenspan H. Longitudinal Multiple Sclerosis Lesion Segmentation Using Multi-
view Convolutional Neural Networks. Lect Notes Comput Sc. 2016;10008:58-67.
23.   Drozdzal M, Chartrand G, Vorontsov E, Shakeri M, Di Jorio L, Tang A, et al. Learning normalized
inputs for iterative estimation in medical image segmentation. Med Image Anal. 2018;44:1-13.
24.   Ashburner J, Friston KJ. Unified segmentation. Neuroimage. 2005;26(3):839-51.
25.   Hsu LM, Wang S, Ranadive P, Ban W, Chao THH, Song S, et al. Automatic Skull Stripping of Rat
and Mouse Brain MRI Data Using U-Net. Front Neurosci-Switz. 2020;14.
26.   Oguz I, Zhang H, Rumple A, Sonka M. RATS: Rapid Automatic Tissue Segmentation in rodent
brain MRI. J Neurosci Methods. 2014;221:175-82.
27.   Jollans L, Boyle R, Artiges E, Banaschewski T, Desrivieres S, Grigis A, et al. Quantifying
performance of machine learning methods for neuroimaging data. Neuroimage. 2019;199:351-65.
28.   Yang L, Shami A. On hyperparameter optimization of machine learning algorithms: Theory and
practice. Neurocomputing. 2020;415:295-316.
29.   Wu J, Chen X-Y, Zhang H, Xiong L-D, Lei H, Deng S-H. Hyperparameter Optimization for Machine
Learning Models Based on Bayesian Optimizationb. Journal of Electronic Science and Technology.
2019;17(1):26-40.
30.   Jeong J, Lei Y, Kahn S, Liu T, Curran WJ, Shu HK, et al. Brain tumor segmentation using 3D Mask
R-CNN for dynamic susceptibility contrast enhanced perfusion imaging. Phys Med Biol. 2020;65(18).
31.   Helms G, Draganski B, Frackowiak R, Ashburner J, Weiskopf N. Improved segmentation of deep
brain grey matter structures using magnetization transfer (MT) parameter maps. Neuroimage.
2009;47(1):194-8.
32.   Helms G, Dathe H, Kallenberg K, Dechent P. High-resolution maps of magnetization transfer with
inherent correction for RF inhomogeneity and T1 relaxation obtained from 3D FLASH MRI. Magn Reson
Med. 2008;60(6):1396-407.
33.   Ronneberger O, Fischer P, Brox T, editors. U-Net: Convolutional Networks for Biomedical Image
Segmentation2015; Cham: Springer International Publishing.
34.   Radlowski EC, Conrad MS, Lezmi S, Dilger RN, Sutton B, Larsen R, et al. A neonatal piglet model
for investigating brain and cognitive development in small for gestational age human infants. PLoS One.
2014;9(3):e91951.