

# The LORIS MyeliNeuroGene Rare Disease Database for Natural History Studies and Clinical Trial Readiness

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## Research Article

**Keywords:** leukodystrophy, rare diseases, information management systems, databases, registry, natural history, outcome measures, clinical trials, biomarkers

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24 surrogate markers, validate outcome measures, define historical control patients, and design  
25 therapeutic trials. **Results:** We customized a browser-accessible multi-modal (e.g. genetics,  
26 imaging, behavioral, patient-determined outcomes) database to increase cohort sizes, identify  
27 surrogate markers, and foster international collaborations. Ninety data entry forms were developed  
28 including family, perinatal, developmental history, clinical examinations and diagnostic  
29 investigations, neurological evaluations (i.e. spasticity, dystonia, ataxia, etc.), disability measures,  
30 parental stress, and quality of life. A customizable clinical letter generator was created to assist in  
31 continuity of patient care. **Conclusions:** Small cohorts and underpowered studies are a major  
32 challenge for rare disease research. This online, rare disease database will be accessible from all  
33 over the world, making it easier to share and disseminate data. We have outlined the methodology  
34 to become Title 21 Code of Federal Regulations Part 11 Compliant, which is a requirement to use  
35 electronic records as historical controls in clinical trials in the United States. Food and Drug  
36 Administration compliant databases will be life-changing for patients and families when historical  
37 control data is used for emerging clinical trials. Future work will leverage these tools to delineate  
38 the natural history of several rare diseases and we are confident that this database will be used on  
39 a larger scale to improve care for patients affected with rare diseases.

40 **Keywords:** leukodystrophy, rare diseases, information management systems, databases, registry,  
41 natural history, outcome measures, clinical trials, biomarkers

42

### 43 **Background**

44 According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the definition of a rare disease is one  
45 that affects every 1 in 2,000 people or less. Global prevalence of these approximately 8,000 rare  
46 genetic disorders is estimated to affect between 150 and 350 million people [1-7]. Historically,  
47 rare diseases have been notoriously difficult to diagnose due to their heterogeneous phenotypes

48 and genotypes [8]. Since only around 5% of all rare diseases have an FDA-approved treatment,  
49 many orphan diseases utilize off-label indications of medications approved for other purposes [9].  
50 However, an incredible amount of advancement has been accomplished over the last decade using  
51 rapidly evolving genetic technologies, including with the most recent use of next generation  
52 sequencing (NGS), to identify genes causing these diseases [6]. The description of novel rare  
53 disease entities and the identification of novel disease-causing genes have opened the door for  
54 studies investigating disease pathogenesis and potential therapeutic approaches [6]. Rare disease  
55 research has therefore pivoted from gene discovery towards investigating potential treatments [6].

56         With impending clinical trials on the horizon, rare disease researchers are realizing a  
57 tremendous need for natural history data [10, 11]. The goal of a natural history study is to recruit  
58 patients for longitudinal analysis of natural disease progression [12]. The data gathered is used to  
59 help identify surrogate markers, determine the best outcome measures to be used in potential  
60 therapeutic trials, and can serve as the control arm of a clinical trial [13-16]. Natural history studies  
61 result in incredible amounts of information being collected, including clinical, behavioral,  
62 sociodemographic, genetic, imaging, and patient and family reported outcomes.

63         This diversity and quantity of data can be difficult to manage, so rare disease researchers  
64 must begin to utilize information management systems, or databases, to facilitate natural history  
65 studies. Rare disease research relies heavily on international collaboration and data sharing in order  
66 to recruit large patient populations to obtain adequate statistical power [6, 17]. Therefore, utilizing  
67 an online database can uniquely benefit rare disease research more than other disease research  
68 fields where significant patient populations are more prevalent.

69         If rare disease databases are going to be successful in future clinical trials, they must adhere  
70 to local and international regulations for electronic records. Title 21 Code of Federal Regulations

71 (CFR) Part 11 published in 1997, from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, outlines what is  
72 considered trustworthy, reliable record keeping. These regulations apply to any FDA-regulated  
73 industry, such as pharmaceutical companies, medical device manufacturers, biotechnological  
74 companies, and clinical research organizations. We chose to adhere to all general requirements  
75 that will be detailed below in the Methods section.

76 There are a variety of different databases available to aid researchers such as RedCap [18],  
77 Deduce [19], HID [20], DFBIdb [21], LONI [22], MIND [23], NeuroLOG [24], etc. We elected  
78 to customize the Longitudinal Online Research and Imaging System (LORIS) [25-28] to help  
79 organize data and facilitate international collaborations when conducting multi-site natural history  
80 studies because of its strong track record and the fact that it is open source. Here, we detail below  
81 how our group used LORIS and 21 CFR Part 11 guidelines to set up workflows and developed the  
82 LORIS MyeliNeuroGene Database for Rare Diseases to lead us to clinical trial preparedness in the  
83 coming years.

84

## 85 **Results**

86 An iteration of LORIS was installed and configured for the MyeliNeuroGene Research  
87 Group at the Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre. This database is easily  
88 accessible via a web browser and multi-modal, with the ability to capture genetics data, medical  
89 history, medical imaging, detailed assessments of cognition and motor function, and patient-  
90 derived outcomes, among other things.

91 Within LORIS, data entry forms, or instruments, were created using the “Instrument  
92 Builder” module. Using the workflow found in the Methods section, 90 LORIS instruments were

93 created. Detailed phenotyping including family history, perinatal history, developmental history,  
 94 clinical evolution, time to event, neurological examination, neuropsychological assessment, etc.  
 95 were developed in conjunction with other parent- and patient-reported outcomes such as quality  
 96 of life, disability, and stress. Of the 90 instruments, 62 had scoring algorithms developed to aid in  
 97 data processing. The resulting instruments are summarized in Table 1.

98 **Table 1: Developed Instruments of the MyeliNeuroGene Loris Database**

<b>Instrument</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
Family History	Inheritance pattern
Perinatal History	Disease Onset/Progression
Developmental History	Disease Onset/Progression
Investigations	Diagnostic Odyssey
Demographics	Sociodemographic variables
Clinical Presentation	Disease Onset/Progression
Primary Diagnosis	Disease Onset/Progression
Gross Motor Function Measure - 88	Measure changes in motor function
Leiter-3 Intelligence Scale	Measure changes in intelligence
Neuropsych Examinations	Measure changes in cognition
Rehabilitation	PT, OT, SLT, etc. used
Clinical Evolution	Disease Onset/Progression
Time to Event	Disease Milestones
Clinical Examination	Disease Onset/Progression
Swallowing Scales	VFSS and FEES evaluation
MRI Analyses	Disease Onset/Progression
Modified Ashworth Scale (MAS)	Measure changes in spasticity
Fahn Marsden Scale (F-M)	Measure changes in dystonia
Global Dystonia Scale (GDS)	Measure Changes in dystonia
Guy's Neurological Disability Scale (GNDS)	Measure disability and ADL
Gross Motor Function Classification System (GMFCS)	Characterize gross motor function
Communication Function Classification System (CFCS)	Characterize communication function
Manual Ability Classification System (MACS)	Characterize fine motor function
Eating and Drinking Ability Classification System (EDACS)	Characterize eating function
Scale for the Assessment and Rating of Ataxia	Measure changes in ataxia
Non-communicating Children's Pain Checklist - Revised	Measure parent reported pain
Parent Reported Stress Questionnaires	Measure parental stress
Health-Related Quality of Life Questionnaires	Measure patient's quality of life

99 *Abbreviations: PT: physical therapy; OT: occupational therapy; SLT: Speech and language therapy;*  
100 *VFSS: Video fluoroscopic swallow study; FEES: Fiberoptic endoscopic evaluation of swallowing; MRI:*  
101 *Magnetic resonance imaging; ADL: Activities of daily living*

102           One thousand patients and family members with rare diseases have been included into  
103 LORIS and assigned unique identifiers. This includes activation of enrollment, informed consent  
104 designation, external identifier logging, and family relationship mapping.

105           In addition, a dynamic letter generator is currently in development to assist in forwarding  
106 patient information to other physicians. The tool compiles the patient's data, entered via the  
107 phenotyping instruments, into a Clinical Examination Letter. In place of the database field names,  
108 highlighted in yellow in Figure 1, an instance of the letter renders the patient data for the  
109 corresponding field. The Clinical Examination Letter can be exported as an editable word  
110 document that details patient information, such as family history, clinical evolution, time to event  
111 and future plans for investigations. This letter can then be sent to the referring physicians for  
112 continuity of care, and has the advantage of not duplicating work done by the data entry clinician;  
113 as the clinician sees the patient and enters the data in the LORIS MyeliNeuroGene Database, the  
114 clinical note is auto-populated.

DATE OF THE VISIT: { \$DateFromLastVisit }  
REFERRING MD: Dr. { \$ClinicalPresentation/Q02Presentation }  
CC: { \$ClinicalPresentation/Q02Presentation }  
RE: { NameOfPatient }  
MCH#: { MCHNUMBER }  
D.O.B.: { \$DOB }

**CONSULTATION FROM THE LEUKODYSTROPHIES AND  
NEUROMETABOLIC DISORDERS CLINIC**

Dear Dr. { \$ClinicalPresentation/Q02Presentation },

Thank you for referring this { \$DOB } year/month-old { \$ClinicalPresentation/Q04Presentation, Q03Presentation }-handed to the Leukodystrophies and Neurometabolic Disorders clinic. The patient was seen on { \$DateFromLastVisit }. The patient came with **OneOrBoth** parents.

You referred the patient for { \$ClinicalPresentation/Q01Presentation }.

**Family History:** { NameOfPatient } is the { \$FamilyHistory/Q02FamilyHistory } of { \$FamilyHistory/Q03FamilyHistory } children. They have { \$FamilyHistory/Q05FamilyHistory } sisters and { \$FamilyHistory/Q04FamilyHistory } brothers.

The mother is { \$FamilyHistory/Q01MotherHistory } years old and is { \$FamilyHistory/Q02MotherHistory } healthy. { \$FamilyHistory/Q03MotherHistory }. She has { \$FamilyHistory/Q04MotherHistory } had miscarriages. { If YES Q04MotherHistory=>FamilyHistory/Q05MotherHistory, Q06MotherHistory, Q07MotherHistory, Q08MotherHistory }. She works as a { \$FamilyHistory/Q09MotherHistory }. The maternal family is from { \$FamilyHistory/Q10MotherHistory }. The mother's last name is { MotherLastName }. The maternal grandmother is from { \$FamilyHistory/Q03ExtendedFamily } and is { \$FamilyHistory/Q01HistoryDisease } healthy. The maternal grandfather is from { \$FamilyHistory/Q04ExtendedFamily } and is { \$FamilyHistory/Q02HistoryDisease } healthy. The patient has { \$FamilyHistory/Q11MotherHistory } maternal aunts and { \$FamilyHistory/Q12MotherHistory } maternal uncles and has { \$FamilyHistory/Q13MotherHistory } cousins on their mother's side of the family.

115  
116 **Figure 1: Screenshot of the LORIS MyeliNeuroGene dynamic letter generator:** Yellow  
117 highlights customizable variables for the clinical letter generator. Black highlighted variables  
118 represent information that is not stored in LORIS and must be filled in by the physician.

119  
120 **Discussion**

121 Most patients affected with rare diseases, from mildly to severely affected, support data  
122 sharing to promote research, healthcare, and knowledge transfer [17]. We have built and  
123 customized a LORIS database and detailed our workflow to aid rare disease researchers to create  
124 their own information management system, electronic health records, or database. There is a major  
125 need and benefit to sharing data in rare disease research. De-identifying and sharing information

126 allows rare disease researchers to efficiently study disorders by collaborating and minimizing  
127 redundant studies [29], and by maximizing sample sizes.

128 An exportable dynamic letter generator has also been developed to save time when  
129 examining patients referred to the clinic. Patients with a rare disease who come to the Montreal  
130 Children's Hospital undergo a battery of tests that can take up to two days to complete. All  
131 information is stored in the LORIS MyeliNeuroGene Database and can be exported in the form of  
132 a Clinical Examination Letter detailing all results, impressions, and plans to help treat the patients.  
133 This letter is then sent back to the referring physician for continuity of care. When this letter is  
134 written by hand it takes a few hours and introduces numerous chances for human error. Exporting  
135 the letter from quality-controlled instruments reduces this error and saves researchers and  
136 physicians' time.

137 In addition to the clinical phenotyping instruments and dynamic letter generator, we have  
138 outlined, for the first time, the methodology to become Title 21 Code of Federal Regulations Part  
139 11 Compliant, which is a requirement to use electronic records as historical controls in clinical  
140 trials in the United States [30, 31]. To our knowledge, our manuscript is the first to outline the  
141 requirements to adhere to 21 Code of Federal Regulations Part 11 Compliance. Future work will  
142 leverage the tools developed in this project to delineate the natural history of several rare diseases  
143 and will hopefully be used by clinicians and researchers around the globe.

144

## 145 **Conclusions**

146 A major obstacle in rare disease research is overcoming small cohorts. Developing an  
147 online database that international collaborators can access and contribute to from all over the world  
148 is invaluable for increasing cohort sizes, discerning surrogate markers, and improving natural

149 history data. Using this FDA compliant natural history data to validate outcome measures will be  
150 life-changing for patients and families because it will lead to historical control data that can be  
151 used in emerging clinical trials.

152

## 153 **Methods**

### 154 **Title 21 Code of Federal Regulations Part 11 Compliance (Part 11 Compliance)[32]**

155 To adhere to Part 11 Compliance regulations, the LORIS MyeliNeuroGene Database has  
156 been customized to include additional security measures such as time stamped audit trails. We are  
157 currently implementing the electronic signatures and the 2-factor authentication. There is a gap in  
158 scientific literature detailing workflow and database development. As such, we will summarize the  
159 general requirements of Part 11 Compliance below and how they were implemented into our  
160 database.

161 *Training Verification:* Users are required to have their credentials (e.g. education, training,  
162 experience) verified before performing tasks within the database. Written policy must be signed  
163 holding users accountable and responsible for their electronic signatures (discussed further below).  
164 This written policy must be stored, and a hard copy sent to the Office of Regional Operations  
165 (HFC-100), 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857.

166 *Biometrics:* This is a method of verifying an individual's identity based on a measurement  
167 of the individual's physical features (i.e. fingerprints, etc.) or repeatable action that are unique to  
168 that person. In our case, we chose to use a unique pin separate from an authorized user's password  
169 for 2-factor authentication.

170           *Closed system:* The **MyeliNeuroGene** database is a closed environment, meaning that  
171 access to the system is controlled by the same people who are responsible for the content of the  
172 electronic records. This includes the researchers and principal investigator. Operational audits on  
173 the system are done on a routine basis. Time stamp audit trails are tracked for each authorized user  
174 to trace creation, modification, or deletion of any instrument, visit, or other electronic record. User  
175 access is hierarchical, meaning some users do not have full access to the database and may only  
176 have “read” or “write” access only. The database also must ensure that no user has the same pin  
177 or password, and that pins and passwords are periodically checked and changed to prevent  
178 unauthorized use. If unauthorized use occurs, there are immediate system security notifications.  
179 Per Canadian predicate rules, records must be stored for 25 years after study completion. United  
180 States record retention rules require storage for a minimum of 10 years.

181           *Quality Control:* Processing pipelines must ensure data fits specific parameters and types.  
182 This is discussed in depth under the Methods section “LORIS Database and Workflow”.

183           *Electronic signature:* This includes any combination of text, graphic, data, audio, or other  
184 information that is represented in digital form by the database. Electronic signatures must include  
185 printed names of the signers, dates and times, meanings (e.g. approval, creation, reviewing), and  
186 an internal audit trail. These signatures are legally binding. Authority checks are completed every  
187 month to ensure only authorized users may sign, input, output, or modify records.

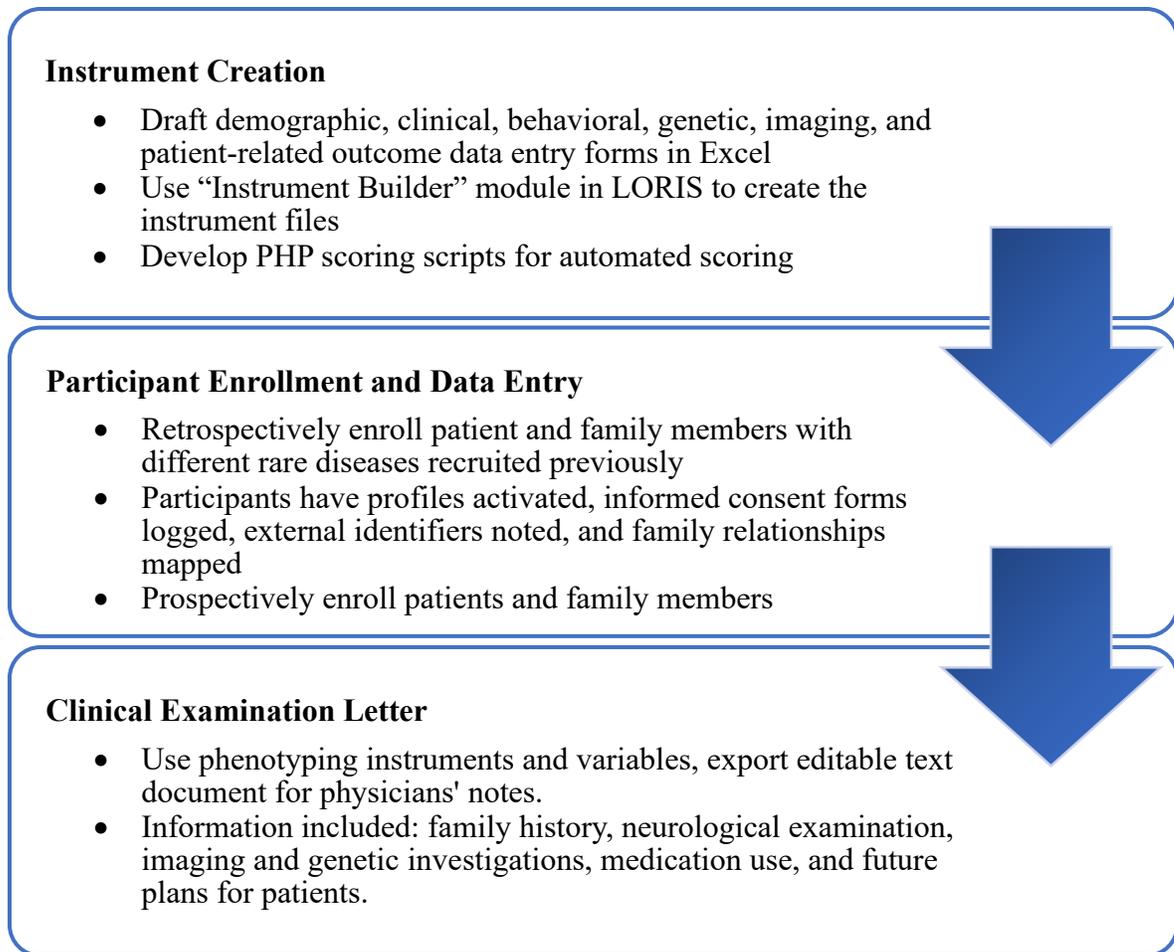
188           *Digital signature:* A digital signature combines the electronic signature and its  
189 corresponding cryptographic authentication, usually a pin and/or password that is used to verify  
190 the identity of the signer. It cannot be copied or pasted to or from another document, making it  
191 inexorably linked to the signed document. To not become cumbersome, continuous signing periods  
192 only require the first to be 2 factors authenticated with a biometric identification and password.

193           *External Auditing:* It is highly recommended that after database development a third-party  
194 auditor inspects the system and documentation put in place. Auditors alert parties of any gaps or  
195 shortcomings and can advise developers of what needs to be changed for full compliance with  
196 local and international regulations. This will be organized for the MyeliNeuroGene database.

## 197 **LORIS Database and Workflow**

198           *Architecture:* LORIS is a web-based data and project management software that stores  
199 demographic, clinical, behavioral, genetic, imaging, and patient-related outcomes accessible from  
200 any computer browser connected to the internet [25]. Multiple sites can enter, organize, and  
201 validate data under one management framework. Longitudinal data is organized around the  
202 “Subject Profile”. Clinical examination, imaging data, outcome measures, and metadata are  
203 organized by “Visits”. All stored information is de-identified and can be queried by an authorized  
204 user. Source documentation can be uploaded and affiliated with each visit. Quality control is  
205 ensured by automated scoring of clinical, behavioral and patient-reported outcomes, validating  
206 data types (string vs numerical), and requiring double data entry where necessary.

207           *Workflow:* To properly set up our rare disease database, we first began by drafting a data  
208 dictionary in the form of an Excel sheet. This spreadsheet outlined all of the data entry forms, or  
209 instruments, that would be developed using the LORIS Instrument Builder module detailed below.  
210 After instrument creation, participant enrollment and data entry can begin, with query and  
211 dissemination details tackled later. An overview of the workflow can be found in Figure 2.



212  
 213 **Figure 2: Database development workflow to create instruments, scoring algorithms, enroll**  
 214 **patients, enter data, and output information into a clinical examination letter**

215 *Instrument Builder:* Within LORIS are different modules to help researchers with no  
 216 computer science or programming experience. The Instrument Builder module aids in the creation  
 217 of demographic, clinical phenotyping, behavioral, genetic, imaging, and patient-related outcome  
 218 measures. Each instrument can be customized with specific information such as a “Header”,  
 219 “Label”, and “Scored Field” that give the instrument title, background information, and  
 220 automatically calculated scoring respectively.

221 Data entry can be standardized using a “Textbox”, “Text area”, “Dropdown”,  
 222 “Multiselect”, “Date”, and “Numeric” question entry. Each question is assigned a variable name  
 223 “Question Name”, for calculations and data querying, and “Question Text” which asks the

224 pertinent question at hand. For Dropdown questions, instrument specific options can be added for  
225 every question.

226 *Instrument Creation:* Instruments were first planned and drafted using Excel in the form of  
227 a Data Dictionary. Columns consisted of Question Names, type of question (e.g. Numeric,  
228 Dropdown, etc.), Question Text, Question Options (available choices), and Formulas (for later  
229 calculations). Each row represented one question. Using the Data Dictionary and the Instrument  
230 Builder module on LORIS, each instrument was created: demographic forms, clinical phenotyping  
231 (i.e. spasticity and dystonia measures, gross and fine motor, eating, and drinking function, ataxia,  
232 intelligence, disability, swallowing evaluations etc.), behavioral , genetic, imaging (i.e. MRI  
233 analyses), and patient-related outcomes (i.e. health-related quality of life, parental stress, pain  
234 characterization, etc.). Instruments' files were then uploaded onto the MyeliNeuroGene private  
235 repository on GitHub as Pull Requests for review.

236 *Scoring Algorithms:* After instrument completion, a PHP scoring script was developed for  
237 instruments that required them. Automatic scoring reduces human error and dramatically decreases  
238 time spent on calculations. Scoring scripts were also uploaded onto the GitHub repository for  
239 review.

240 *Instrument Implementation:* After instruments and scoring scripts were reviewed and  
241 modified, the Pull Requests on GitHub were approved and the instruments made available on an  
242 insulated LORIS staging server where beta testing occurred. After testing was completed,  
243 instruments were pushed to the LORIS production server for instrument pipeline completion and  
244 data entry.

245            *Participant Enrollment:* Before data entry could be completed, Subject Profiles had to be  
246 entered. Our group has consented more than 1,000 patients and family members with different rare  
247 diseases since 2011, and patient and family recruitment is ongoing. To create a new profile, “Date  
248 of Birth”, “Sex”, “Site” (in the case of a multi-site study), and “Project” must be entered. Projects  
249 can be separated into different studies such as natural history, imaging, genetic, or even clinical  
250 trials assessing therapeutics. A new Subject Profile, or candidate, generates two identifier codes, a  
251 DCCID and a PSCID which are unique LORIS identifiers.

252            After the creation of the Subject Profile, each candidate was activated in the study,  
253 designated for which informed consent form was signed, and mapped to any external identifier  
254 codes. Under “Participant Status”, we tracked the participant’s status in the study (e.g. Active,  
255 Death, Lost to Follow-up, etc.). Comments can be entered with both time, date, and author history  
256 tracked in the internal audit trail. “Consent Status” tracks the latest signed Research Ethics Board  
257 (REB) approved informed consent form. Finally, mapping the “External Identifier” is crucial for  
258 future correspondence with family doctors and other collaborators.

259            *Data Entry:* “Create time point” allows for data entry of clinical, behavioral, and patient  
260 determined outcomes that were created during the Instrument Creation process. It also enables  
261 uploading of any imaging data collected. We customized our time points to correspond to the age  
262 of the patient. For instance, a participant’s birth date would be time point T000, and a follow-up  
263 appointment 6 months later would be time point T006. A prenatal examination 1 month before a  
264 T000 examination would be designated as T-001. The steps to creating a time point can be seen in  
265 Figures 3, 4, and 5.

Access Profile > Candidate Profile 343247 / MTL0007

DOB	Biological Sex	Project
1800-01-01	Male	Myelineurogene

Actions:

[Create time point](#)
[Edit Candidate Info](#)
[Family Information](#)
[View Imaging datasets](#)

List of Visits (Time Points)

Visit Label (Click to Open)	Subproject	Site	Stage	Stage Status	Date of Stage	Sent To DCC	Imaging Scan Done	Feedback	BVL QC	BVL Exclusion	Registered By
No timepoints have been registered yet.											

266  
267

**Figure 3: Creating longitudinal time points for patient visits**

Access Profile > Candidate Profile 343247 / MTL0007 > Create Time Point

## Create Time Point

DCCID: 343247

Subproject: Leukodystrophy and Leukoencephalo

Site: Center Universitaire de Santé McGill

Visit label: T000

[Create Time Point](#)

268  
269

**Figure 4: Associating time points with subprojects and study sites**

Access Profile > Candidate Profile 343247 / MTL0007

DOB	Biological Sex	Project
1800-01-01	Male	Myelineurogene

Actions:

[Create time point](#)
[Edit Candidate Info](#)
[Family Information](#)
[View Imaging datasets](#)

List of Visits (Time Points)

Visit Label (Click to Open)	Subproject	Site	Stage	Stage Status	Date of Stage	Sent To DCC	Imaging Scan Done	Feedback	BVL QC	BVL Exclusion	Registered By
T000	Leukodystrophy and Leukoencephalopathies	MTL	Not Started			-	?	-	X	X	Aaron Spahr

270

271 **Figure 5: Visualizing time point information in the LORIS Candidate Profile**

272 Selecting time point T000 opens a page for all instruments developed to work on our  
273 database (Figure 6). Time points can be customized so that only specific instruments are available  
274 to participants at specific ages. Entering multiple visits allows for prospective tracking.

Behavioral Battery of Instruments					
Instrument (Click To Open)	Data Entry	Administration	Feedback	Double Data Entry Form	Double Data Entry Status
Family History	In Progress		-		
Perinatal History			-		
Developmental History			-		
Investigations			-		
Molecular Genetics			-		
Demographics			-		

275  
276 **Figure 6: Test battery of instruments customized for each participant based on time point**  
277 **and age appropriateness**

278 *Family Information:* We have further customized LORIS to include Family Relationship  
279 information. Linking de-identified individuals allows us to link a given patient’s disease  
280 characteristics to his/her parents’ reported measures such as parental stress or  
281 patient/parents/sibling’s quality of life. It also allows us to organize family genetic results when  
282 next generation sequencing (NGS) investigations are being conducted as well as any family/parent  
283 reported outcomes.

284 **Declarations**

285 *Ethics approval and consent to participate:* Written and informed consent was obtained  
286 from all research participants. This study was approved by the Research Ethics Board of the McGill  
287 University Health Center Research Institute (11-105-PED, 2019-4972)

288 *Consent for publication:* All participants have given consent for publication.

289           *Availability of data and materials:* The datasets used and/or analyzed during the current  
290 study are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

291           *Competing interests:* Our group, the MyeliNeuroGene Lab, is a collaborator of Dr. Alan C  
292 Evans' research group, the McGill Centre for Integrative Neuroscience, who developed LORIS, a  
293 free and open-source web-accessible database solution for multi-modal data and multi-site studies.

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303 study design, collection of data, analysis and interpretation of data, or writing of this manuscript.

304           *Author's contributions:* AS, ZR, ML, SD, ACE, GB were responsible for the conception  
305 and design of this project. AS developed, all of the instruments, with contributions from HT and  
306 expert guidance from GB, ZR, LD and ML. AS, ZR, and ML developed the scoring scripts. CL  
307 and MS helped perform quality control on the scoring scripts. CM developed the imaging platform.  
308 AS retrospectively entered over 1,000 participants and was responsible for initial data entry. AS  
309 generated the figures and the tables, with contributions from SF. AS drafted the initial manuscript,  
310 with contributions and modifications from SF and LT. ZR, ML, CM, SD, LT, SF, HT, LD, ACE,  
311 and GB provided feedback and all authors approved the current submitted version.

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313 participation, time, and patience to complete questionnaires. The authors also wish to thank all  
314 collaborators and clinicians who referred patients, research would not be possible without you.

315            *Author's information:* GB is a pediatric neurologist and clinician scientist leading the  
316 Leukodystrophy and Neurometabolic Disorders Clinic at the McGill University Health Centre  
317 Research Institute.

### 318 **List of Abbreviations**

ADL	Activities of Daily Living
CFCS	Communication Function Classification System
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
DCCID	LORIS Identifier
	Eating and Drinking Ability Classification
EDACS	System
FDA	Food and Drug Administration
FEES	Fiberoptic Endoscopic Evaluation of Swallowing
GDS	Global Dystonia Scale
GMFCS	Gross Motor Function Classification System
GNDS	Guy's Neurological Disability Scale
HID	Human Clinical Imaging Database
LORIS	Longitudinal Online Research and Imaging System
LONI	LONI Image Data Archive
MACS	Manual Ability Classification System
MAS	Modified Ashworth Scale
MRI	Magnetic Resonance Imaging
NGS	Next Generation Sequencing
OT	Occupational Therapist
PHP	PHP: Hypertext Preprocessor
PSCID	LORIS Identifier
PT	Physical Therapist
REB	Research Ethics Board
SaLT	Speech and Language Therapist
VFSS	Video Fluoroscopic Swallow Study

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# Figures

DATE OF THE VISIT: { \$DateFromLastVisit }  
REFERRING MD: Dr. { \$ClinicalPresentation/Q02Presentation }  
CC: { \$ClinicalPresentation/Q02Presentation }  
RE: { NameOfPatient }  
MCH#: { MCHNUMBER }  
D.O.B.: { \$DOB }

## CONSULTATION FROM THE LEUKODYSTROPHIES AND NEUROMETABOLIC DISORDERS CLINIC

Dear Dr. { \$ClinicalPresentation/Q02Presentation },

Thank you for referring this { \$DOB } year/month-old { \$ClinicalPresentation/Q04Presentation, Q03Presentation }-handed to the Leukodystrophies and Neurometabolic Disorders clinic. The patient was seen on { \$DateFromLastVisit }. The patient came with **OneOrBoth** parents.

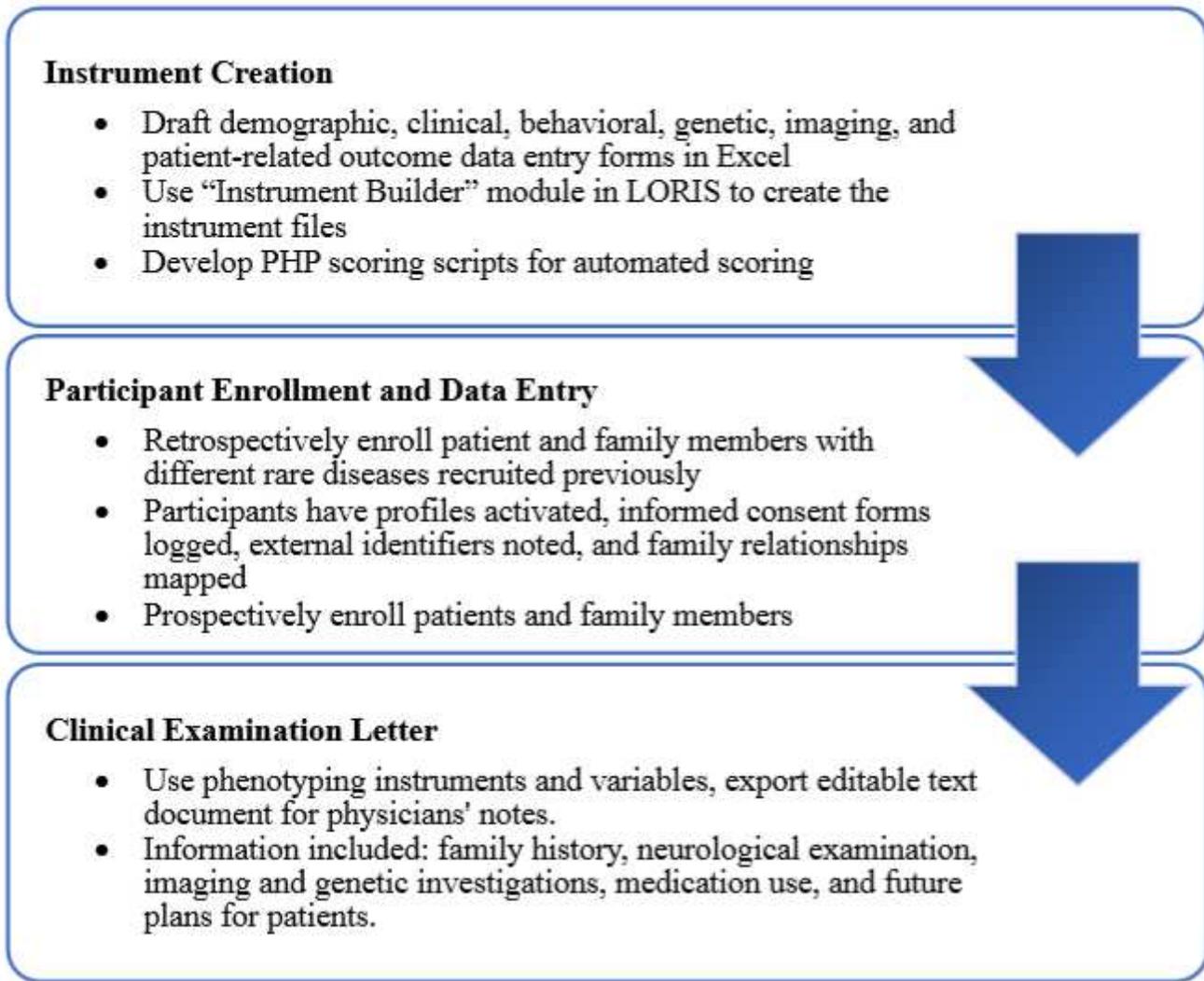
You referred the patient for { \$ClinicalPresentation/Q01Presentation }.

**Family History:** { NameOfPatient } is the { \$FamilyHistory/Q02FamilyHistory } of { \$FamilyHistory/Q03FamilyHistory } children. They have { \$FamilyHistory/Q05FamilyHistory } sisters and { \$FamilyHistory/Q04FamilyHistory } brothers.

The mother is { \$FamilyHistory/Q01MotherHistory } years old and is { \$FamilyHistory/Q02MotherHistory } healthy. { \$FamilyHistory/Q03MotherHistory }. She has { \$FamilyHistory/Q04MotherHistory } had miscarriages. { If YES Q04MotherHistory=>FamilyHistory/Q05MotherHistory, Q06MotherHistory, Q07MotherHistory, Q08MotherHistory }. She works as a { \$FamilyHistory/Q09MotherHistory }. The maternal family is from { \$FamilyHistory/Q10MotherHistory }. The mother's last name is { MotherLastName }. The maternal grandmother is from { \$FamilyHistory/Q03ExtendedFamily } and is { \$FamilyHistory/Q01HistoryDisease } healthy. The maternal grandfather is from { \$FamilyHistory/Q04ExtendedFamily } and is { \$FamilyHistory/Q02HistoryDisease } healthy. The patient has { \$FamilyHistory/Q11MotherHistory } maternal aunts and { \$FamilyHistory/Q12MotherHistory } maternal uncles and has { \$FamilyHistory/Q13MotherHistory } cousins on their mother's side of the family.

Figure 1

creenshot of the LORIS MyeliNeuroGene dynamic letter generator: Yellow highlights customizable variables for the clinical letter generator. Black highlighted variables represent information that is not stored in LORIS and must be filled in by the physician.



**Figure 2**

Database development workflow to create instruments, scoring algorithms, enroll patients, enter data, and output information into a clinical examination letter

[Access Profile](#) > [Candidate Profile 343247 / MTL0007](#)

DOB	Biological Sex	Project
1800-01-01	Male	Myelineurogene

Actions:

[Create time point](#)
[Edit Candidate Info](#)
[Family Information](#)
[View Imaging datasets](#)

List of Visits (Time Points)

Visit Label (Click to Open)	Subproject	Site	Stage	Stage Status	Date of Stage	Sent To DCC	Imaging Scan Done	Feedback	BVL QC	BVL Exclusion	Registered By
No timepoints have been registered yet.											

**Figure 3**

Creating longitudinal time points for patient visits

[Home](#) > [Access Profile](#) > [Candidate Profile 343247 / MTL0007](#) > [Create Time Point](#)

## Create Time Point

**DCCID** 343247

**Subproject**

**Site**

**Visit label**

[Create Time Point](#)

Figure 4

Associating time points with subprojects and study sites

[Home](#) > [Access Profile](#) > [Candidate Profile 343247 / MTL0007](#)

DOB	Biological Sex	Project
1800-01-01	Male	Myelineurogene

**Actions:**  
[Create time point](#) [Edit Candidate Info](#) [Family Information](#) [View Imaging datasets](#)

**List of Visits (Time Points)**

Visit Label (Click to Open)	Subproject	Site	Stage	Stage Status	Date of Stage	Sent To DCC	Imaging Scan Done	Feedback	BVL QC	BVL Exclusion	Registered By
T000	Leukodystrophy and Leukoencephalopathies	MTL	Not Started			-	?	-	X	X	Aaron Spahr

Figure 5

Visualizing time point information in the LORIS Candidate Profile

Behavioral Battery of Instruments					
Instrument (Click To Open)	Data Entry	Administration	Feedback	Double Data Entry Form	Double Data Entry Status
Family History	In Progress		-		
Perinatal History			-		
Developmental History			-		
Investigations			-		
Molecular Genetics			-		
Demographics			-		

**Figure 6**

Test battery of instruments customized for each participant based on time point and age appropriateness