## SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

## Glycosaminoglycans and Contrast Agents: The Role of Hyaluronic Acid as MRI Contrast Enhancer

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**Table S1.** Values of water self-diffusion coefficient at different DVS concentrations measured at 20 MHz after 8h and 24h from DVS addition.

HA (% w/v)	DVS/HA (g/g)	D (10 <sup>-9</sup> m <sup>2</sup> /s) <sup>1</sup> mean ± std	D (10 <sup>-9</sup> m <sup>2</sup> /s) <sup>2</sup> mean ± std
0.25	0	$3.05 \pm 0.01$	$3.06 \pm 0.01$
0.25	2.35	$3.01 \pm 0.01$	$3.02 \pm 0.01$
0.25	4.70	$2.97 \pm 0.02$	$2.98 \pm 0.01$
0.25	7.06	$2.95 \pm 0.02$	$2.96 \pm 0.01$
0.25	9.42	$2.93 \pm 0.01$	$2.94 \pm 0.01$
0.25	11.77	$2.91 \pm 0.01$	$2.92 \pm 0.01$

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> after 8h from the addition of DVS. <sup>2</sup> after 24h from the addition of DVS.

**Table S2.** Longitudinal relaxation times of the crosslinked and non-crosslinked samples without Gd-DTPA measured with Saturation and Inversion Recovery sequences.

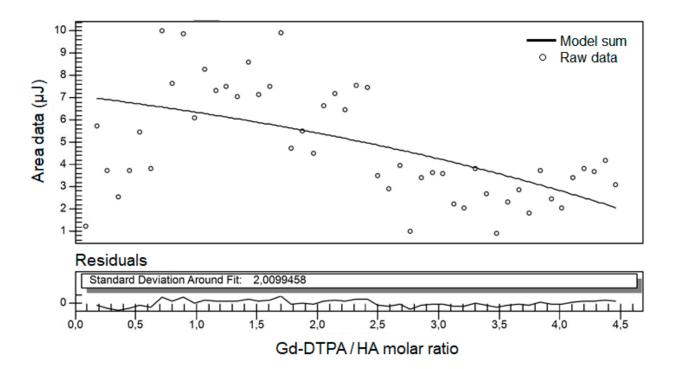
HA (% w/v)	HA (mM)	DVS/HA (g/g)	T1 (ms) <sup>1</sup> mean ± std	T1 (ms) <sup>2</sup> mean ± std
0	0	0	$3650 \pm 10$	$3770 \pm 40$
0.3	0.071	0	$3730 \pm 10$	$3790 \pm 20$
0.3	0.071	8	$3500 \pm 10$	$2926 \pm 7$
0.5	0.12	0	$3630 \pm 10$	$3660 \pm 10$
0.5	0.12	8	$3000 \pm 10$	$3018 \pm 7$
0.7	0.17	0	$3640 \pm 10$	$3770 \pm 40$
0.7	0.17	8	$3290 \pm 20$	$3321 \pm 7$

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> measured using a Saturation Recovery (SR) sequence. <sup>2</sup> measured using an Inversion Recovery (IR) sequence.

**Table S3.** Relaxivity of the crosslinked and non-crosslinked samples without Gd-DTPA measured with Saturation and Inversion Recovery sequences.

Sample	DVS/HA (g/g)	r1 (mM-1s-1) <sup>2</sup> mean ± std	r1 (mM <sup>-1</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> ) <sup>2</sup> mean ± std
non-crosslinked	0	$0.014 \pm 0.032$	$0.017 \pm 0.041$
crosslinked	8	$0.26 \pm 0.18$	$0.22 \pm 0.30$

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> measured using a Saturation Recovery (SR) sequence. <sup>2</sup> measured using an Inversion Recovery (IR) sequence.



**Figure S1.** Fitting of ITC data for Gd-DTPA titrated into 0.1%w/v HA. ITC peak area data (empty circles) are plotted as a function of the Gd-DTPA / HA molar ratio. The model curve (solid line) is calculated as the sum of two models: independent sites model plus a constant used for the blank (i.e. Gd-DTPA in water). Residuals of the model and the standard deviation around fit are displayed in the bottom graph.