**Supplementary Note 2**: Vegf delivery did also not change the levels of SOD1 protein, nor did it affect SOD1 enzymatic activity in the brain stem or lumbar spinal cord, when administered during 14 or > 60 days. SOD1 protein level (ng/mg protein) were 4,480 ± 1405 in Vegf-treated rats versus 6,430 ± 2,626 in aCSF-treated rats after short treatment ($n = 4-5; P = 0.55$) and 9,580 ± 1,276 in VEGF-treated rats versus 10,900 ± 2,085 in aCSF-treated rats after prolonged treatment ($n = 9-8; P = 0.59$). Corresponding values of the SOD1 activity were 2,810 ± 235 pixels in the aCSF-treated group and 3,090 ± 95 pixels in the Vegf-treated group, after Vegf delivery during 14 days ($n = 5-4; P = 0.31$).