

***Whole-Body Diffusion Imaging with Background
Signal Suppression (DWIBS) versus FDG PET/CT in
lymphoma patients; Comparative study.***

THESIS

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Radio-diagnosis***

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Abstract

Purpose: We performed a comparison between the diagnostic value of F-18-FDG PET-CT and WB-MRI/DWIBS for detecting nodal and extra-nodal lymphomatous infiltrates.

Patients & Methods: thirty two patients with pathologically proven lymphoma (HL or NHL) underwent both F-18-FDG PET-CT and WB-MRI/DWIBS, to detect nodal and extra-nodal lymphomatous infiltration. Both F-18-FDG PET-CT and WB-MRI/DWIBS were independently interpreted using visual (qualitative) and quantitative analysis in the term of SUV max and ADC mean respectively. Using pathological data and / or combined clinical / radiological follow up as a reference standard, Sensitivity, specificity, PPV, NPV and overall accuracy were estimated for both techniques.

Results: F-18 FDG PET-CT demonstrated clearly higher parameters than WB-MRI/DWIBS. With the latter one showed a limited superiority in the context of bone marrow assessment.

Conclusion: F-18 FDG PET-CT is better than WB-MRI/DWIBS in evaluation of lymphomas. The latter one may play a complementary role especially in assessment of BM infiltration.

Key word: *lymphomas, F-18-FDG PET-CT, WB-MRI, DWIBS*

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CONTENTS

List of abbreviations.	II
List of figures.	V
List of tables.	V II
Introduction	1
Aim of work.	3
Review of literature	
Overview of Lymphomas:	
Pathology of Lymphomas.	4
Evaluation of Lymphomas; general considerations.	23
Imaging of Lymphomas.	26
Role of F-18-FDG PET-CT In Lymphomas.	32
Whole body diffusion MRI (DWIBS) and its role in Lymphomas:	
Basic principles of diffusion weighted imaging (DWI).	52
Principles of Whole body MRI (WB-MRI) and (DWIBS)	62
Role of (DWIBS) in Lymphomas.	73
Patients and Methods	81
Results	93
Cases Presentation	107
Discussion	129
Conclusion	144
Summary	145
References	147
Arabic summary	164

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ADC	apparent diffusion coefficient
ALCL	anaplastic large cell lymphoma
BMB	Bone Marrow Biopsy.
ceCT	Contrast enhanced computerized tomography.
CHL	Classic Hodgkin lymphoma
CMR	Complete metabolic remission
CNS	Central Nervous System
CNS	Central Nervus System
CR	Complete Response
CR	Complete remission
CT	Computerized tomography
DLBCL	Diffuse large B-cell lymphoma.
DW MRI	Diffusion-weighted magnetic resonance imaging
DWI	Diffusion Weighted Imaging
DWIBS	Diffusion Weighted Imaging With Background Signal Suppression
EBV	Epstein-Barr Virus
EPI	Echo Planner Imaging
FDG-PET	Fluorodeoxyglucose Positron emission tomography.
FL	follicular lymphoma
FOV	Field of view
G-CFS	Granulocyte Monocyte Colony Stimulating Facor
GLUT	glucose transport proteins
GTD	Greatest Transverse Diameter.
HD	Hodgkin disease.
HL	Hodgkin lymphoma.
HIV	Human Immune Deficiency Virus
ICML	International Conference on Malignant Lymphoma
IgA	Immunoglobulin A
IHP	International Harmonization Project.
iPET	interim PET-CT

IPI	International Prognostic Index
IPS	International Prognostic System
IWG	International Workshop Group.
IWG	International Working Group
LDCHL	Lymphocyte-depleted HL
LRCHL	Lymphocyte-rich classic HL
MALT	Mucosa Associated Lymphoid Tissue.
MALT	Mucosa-associated Lymphoid Tissue
MCCHL	Mixed cellularity HL
MIP	Maximum Intensity Projection
MPG	Magnetic Pulse Gradient
MPR	multiplanner reformatting
MRI	Magnetic Resonance Imaging
MZL	Marginal Zone Lymphoma.
NHL	Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma
NHL	Non Hodgkin Lymphoma.
NK	Natural Killer
NLPHL	Nodular lymphocyte predominant HL
NPV	Negative predictive Value.
NSCHL	Nodular sclerosis classical HL
PD	Progressive disease.
PET/CT.	Positron emission tomography computerized tomography
PMPL	primary mediastinal large B-cell lymphoma
PPV	Positive Predictive Value.
PR	Partial response
ROC	Receiver operator characteristic
ROI	region of interest
RS	Reed-Sternberg
SEER	Surveillance Epidemiology And End Results.
SLL	Small Lymphocytic Lymphoma.
SLL/CLL	small lymphocytic lymphoma/chronic lymphocytic leukemia
SNR	Signal to noise ratio

SPD	Sum of Product of Perpendicular Diameters.
SPECT	Single Photon-Emission Computer Tomography
STIR	Short time inversion recovery.
SUV	Standardized uptake value
T	Tesla
TE	Time to Echo
TLG	Total lesion glycolysis
TR	Time of Repetition
US	Ultrasound
WBC	White blood cell
WB-MRI	whole body Magnetic Resonance Imaging
WHO	World Health Organization.

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure No	Page No	Figure content
Fig I.I.1	10	Risk factors for Hodgkin lymphoma
Fig.II.1.	39	A pretreatment PET/CT scan in a 48-year-old female patient with Burkitt's lymphoma
Fig.II.2	40	3-year-old woman with newly diagnosed follicular lymphoma. Baseline staging with PET/CT.
Fig II.3	42	Differences between 2 patients with residual mediastinal masses after treatment.
Fig II.4	46	Coronal 18F FDG PET scan shows normal physiologic 18F FDG uptake
Fig II.5	47	Hypermetabolic brown fat in a 24-year-old woman with a history of diffuse large B-cell lymphoma of the neck.
Fig II.6	48	Effect of granulocyte CSF treatment in a 15-year-old girl with Hodgkin disease.
Fig.II.7	49	Post-treatment PET/CT scan in a 20-year-old patient with Hodgkin lymphoma showing thymic hyperplasia
Fig II.8	50	Pretherapy fused PET/CT images in a patient with cavernous sinus diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL)
Fig III.1.1	52	Diffusion of water molecules. Restricted diffusion
Fig III.1.2	52	Diffusion of water molecules. Free diffusion
Fig III.1.3	55	Measuring water diffusion
Fig III.1.4	56	Tissue characterization by diffusion-weighted images.
Fig III.1.5	57	Apparent diffusion coefficient (ADC).
Fig III.1.6	60	T2 shine-through effect in a 53-year-old woman with a history of islet cell tumor of the pancreas
Fig. III.2.1	63	Whole body MRI of a Hodgkin Lymphoma
Fig III.2.2	66	Coronal maximum intensity projection DWIBS image
Fig III.2.3	66	15-year-old boy with stage II nodular sclerosing Hodgkin disease
Fig: III.2.4	68	A 78-year-old man with metastatic lung cancer and two benign lesions visualized with DWIBS.
Fig: III.2.5	68	T1 and DWIBS of a selected area of the neck in a 58- year old man
Fig III.2.6	69	Artifact near the diaphragm in a 15- year old girl with Hodgkin lymphoma stage IV.
Fig: III.2.7	70	64-year-old man with ascending colon cancer.
Fig. III.2.8	72	DWIBS image in a patient operated earlier for carcinoma ovary
Fig. III.3.1	73	Comparison of DWIBS and PET-CT coronal MIP images in a patient with Non Hodgkin's lymphoma
Fig. III.3.2	74	A 55-year-old man with small lymphocytic lymphoma/chronic lymphocytic leukemia (SLL/CLL)
Fig. III.3.3	77	Diffusion weighted and PET maximum-intensity projection

		images of 37-year-old woman with follicular lymphoma
Fig: III.3.4	77	16-year-old boy with stage IV nodular sclerosing Hodgkin disease
Fig. III.3.5	78	12-year-old girl with stage I diffuse large B-cell lymphoma arising in the pharyngeal tonsils
Fig. III.3.6	80	Comparison of pre- and post-chemotherapy FDG-PET and DWIBS images in a 44-year-old man with DLBCL.
Fig IV.1	86	Schematic representation of nodal stations
Fig V.1	94	Staging of HL and NHL patients
Fig V.2	94	Patients distribution according to sex
Fig V.3	97	Overall comparison between F-18 FDG PET/CT and DWIBS in detection of sites involved in 32 lymphoma patient
Fig V.4	101	Accuracy evaluation in both PET/CT and MRI-DWIBS regarding each of the assessed nodal and extra-nodal sites
Fig V.5	106	ROC curves for detection of lymphomatous infiltration using SUV and ADC results.
Fig VI.1	107	PET-CT versus WB-MRI/DWIBS (case 1)
Fig VI.2	108	Axial PET-CT images for the same patient
Fig VI.3	109	Axial DWIBS images for the same patient
Fig VI.4	110	PET-CT versus WB-DWIBS at initial staging (case 2)
Fig VI.5	111	Axial PET-CT images for the same patient
Fig VI.6	112	Axial DWIBS images for the same patient
Fig VI.7	113	PET-CT versus WB-MRI/DWIBS (case 3)
Fig VI.8	114	Axial PET-CT images for the same patient
Fig VI.9	114	Axial DWIBS images for the same patient
Fig VI.10	115	Negative PET-CT study (case 4)
Fig VI.11	116	Negative WB- MRI/DWIBS study.
Fig VI.12	117	PET-CT versus WB-DWIBS (case 5)
Fig VI.13	118	Axial PET-CT versus DWIBS images for the same patient
Fig VI.14	119	PET-CT versus WB-DWIBS (case 6)
Fig VI.15	120	Axial PET-CT images for the same patient
Fig VI.16	120	Axial DWIBS images at the same level
Fig VI.17	121	PET-CT versus WB-DWIBS (case 7)
Fig VI.18	122	Axial PET-CT images for the same patient
Fig VI.19	122	Axial DWIBS images at the same levels
Fig VI.20	123	Axial PET-CT versus DWIBS images for the same patient
Fig VI.21	124	pre-therapy PET-CT versus WB-DWIBS (case 8)
Fig VI.22	125	Axial PET-CT versus DWIBS images for the same patient
Fig VI.23	126	Axial PET-CT versus DWIBS/ADC images for the same patient
Fig VI.24	127	post therapy PET-CT versus WB-DWIBS of the same patient
Fig VI.25	128	Axial PET-CT versus Axial DWIBS images.

LIST OF TABLES

Table I.1.1	Feature of major categories of Hodgkin's Lymphoma	Page 7
Table I.1.2	Common and Uncommon Manifestations of Hodgkin's Lymphoma at the Time of Initial Diagnosis	Page 8
Table I.I.3	The 2008 WHO classification of NHL	Page 12
Table I.1.4	Ann Arbor Staging Classification for HD	Page 21
Table I.I.5	Cotswold-modified Ann Arbor classification	Page 22
Table II.1	F-18-FDG Uptake in Various histological subtypes of NHL and Hodgkin Disease	Page 33
Table II.2	Malignancy Grade and Type of Lymphoma at FDG PET	Page 34
Table II.3	ICML Recommendations for Using PET-CT in Lymphoma.	Page 35
Table II.4	Revised Criteria for Response Assessment	Page 43
Table IV.3	Categorization of PET-CT and DWIBS results in comparison with the reference standard.	Page 92
Table V.1	The main clinico-pathological characteristics in lymphoma patients	Page 93
Table V.2	Correlation between F-18 FDG PET/CT and clinical /radiological follow up results in 32 lymphoma patients	Page 95
Table V.3	Correlation between DWIBS and clinical /radiological follow up results in 32 lymphoma patients	Page 96

Table V.4	Overall comparison between F-18 FDG PET/CT and DWIBS in detection of involved sites in 32 lymphoma patients	Page 96
Table V.5	Comparison between F-18 FDG PET/CT and DWIBS in correlation with the reference pathological data in detection of lymphoma in 32 cancer patients	Page 98
Table V.6	F-18 FDG PET/CT and DWIBS staging of the 32 patients in correlation with the reference staging	Page 99
Table V.7	Comparison between F-18 FDG PET/CT and DWIBS regarding the staging of the 32 patients in correlation with the reference staging	Page 99
Table V.8	Nodal versus extra-nodal data analysis	Page 100
Table V.9	Detailed site specific data analysis	Page 102
Table V.10	Clinical status based comparison between F-18 FDG PET/CT and MRI-DWIBS.	Page 103
Table V.11	Pathological type based comparison between F-18 FDG PET/CT and MRI-DWIBS	Page 105

Introduction

Malignant lymphomas [Hodgkin lymphomas (HL) and non-Hodgkin lymphoma (NHL)] rank third in incidence, of all childhood cancers. Furthermore, in adolescents (aged 15–19 years) the malignant lymphomas are the leading cause of cancer. (*Kwee et al, 2010*).

The management of both NHL and HL follows well-established guidelines based on the initial staging assessment. An accurate staging is the basis for the selection of an appropriate therapeutic approach in order to prevent over or under treatment as well as to minimize morbidity related to the radio-chemotherapy regimens given. (*Ferrari C. et al, 2014*). Once a malignant lymphoma has been diagnosed histologically, extent of the disease has to be assessed (i.e. staging), as this determines treatment planning and prognosis as well as monitoring the effect of therapy. (*Lin C. et al, 2010*).

¹⁸F-FDG-PET is currently regarded as the reference standard imaging modality in the staging of the majority of lymphoma types, for evaluation of distribution of the disease by providing both functional and anatomic information in a single whole body examination. (*Ferrari C. et al, 2014*).

Whole body MRI has been proven to be an extremely useful method for multifocal diseases and oncology with the same routine MR contraindications. It should be, respecting the limitations, inherent to any radiology method, accepted as another powerful tool, especially in pediatric oncology, avoiding radiation exposure related disease. (*Luiz J. et al, 2014*).

Introduction

Diffusion weighted MRI does not require the use of ionizing radiation or MR contrast agents and can be easily implemented into a standard MRI protocol (***Calandriello L. et al, 2013***).

DWI techniques coupled with anatomic conventional morphologic techniques allows greater lesion conspicuity and characterization compared with other functional and anatomic imaging modalities. (***Attariwala R, et al 2013***).

In 2004, **Takahara et al.** introduced an interesting new concept of DWI, called DWIBS “diffusion-weighted whole-body imaging with background body signal suppression” which made it possible to obtain high quality diffusion images of the whole-body during free breathing (***Takahara et al 2004***).

The recently introduced concept of (DWIBS) now allows acquisition of volumetric diffusion weighted images of the entire body. This new concept has unique features different from conventional DWI and may play an important role in whole body oncological imaging (***Kwee, T. C. et al, 2008***).

Whole-body MRI with DWIBS seems a feasible and promising technique for both initial staging and response assessment in patients with lymphoma (***Lin C. et al, 2012***).

F-FDG PET/CT remains the reference standard imaging modality for patients affected by HL or aggressive NHL (***Ferrari C. et al, 2014***). There are, however, some shortcomings to these techniques, amongst which are patient's exposure to ionizing radiation, contrast and isotope agents. Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) with its lack of ionizing radiation may be a useful application for tumor detection and staging of malignancies and could overcome the limits of FDG-PET/CT (***Sumkauskaite, M. et al 2013***).

Aim of the work

The aim of this work is to set a comparison between F-18-FDG PET-CT and whole-body diffusion-weighted imaging MR protocol (DWIBS) for initial staging and post chemotherapy evaluation in patients with pathologically proven lymphoma (Hodgkin and Non-Hodgkin), and to explore the role of the latter one as well as its drawbacks and limitations as an emerging whole body imaging modality.