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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ADC Apparent diffusion coefficient

AGAT Arginine: glycine amidinotransferase

ALD Adrenoleukodystrophy

ARG Arginase

ASL Argininosuccinic acid lyase
ASS Argininosuccinic acid synthetase

ATP Adenosine triphosphate

BOLD Blood oxygen level dependent

BR Bilirubin

CAT Computed axial tomography
CCA Common carotid artery

CDG Carbohydrate deficient glycoprotein

Cho Choline

CNS Central nervous system

CPSI Carbamyl phosphate synthetase I

Cr Creatine

CSF Cerebrospinal fluid

CSP Cavum Septum Pellucidum CT Computed tomography **CTT** Central tegmental tract DTI Diffusion tensor imaging **DWI** Diffusion weighted imaging **ECA** External carotid artery **EPI** Echo planar imaging FA Fractional anisotropy FID Free Induction Decay

FLAIR Fluid attenuated inversion recovery **fMRI** Functional magnetic resonance imaging

FSE Fast spin echo

GAMT Guanidinoacetate methyltransferase

GFAP Glial fibrillary acidic protein

GRE Gradient recalled echo
ICA Internal carotid artery
IR Inversion recovery

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

MGN Medial geniculate nucleus

MHz/T Megahertz per tesla

MI Myo-inositol

MLC Megalenchephalic leukoenchephalopathy

MLCP Myosin light chain protein MRI Magnetic resonance imaging

MRS Magnetic resonance spectroscopy

msec Milli seconds

MSUD Maple syrup urine disease

NAA N-acetyl-aspartate

NCLs Neuronal ceroid lipofuscinosis
OTC Ornithine transcarboxylase
PCA Posterior carotid artery

PDHC Pyruvate dehydrogenase complex PET Positron emission tomography

PKU Phenylketonuria
PLP Proteolipid protein
Pm Parts per million

PPT palmitoyl-protein thioesterase

PRESS Pointed-resolved spectroscopy sequence

PWI Perfusion weighted imagerCBV Relative cerebral blood volume

RF Radiofrequency SE Spin echo

SNR Signal/noise ratio

STEAM Stimulated echo acquisition mode

TE Time to receive echo
TR Time to repeat sequence

US Ultrasonography

VWM Vanishing white matter

WD Wilson disease

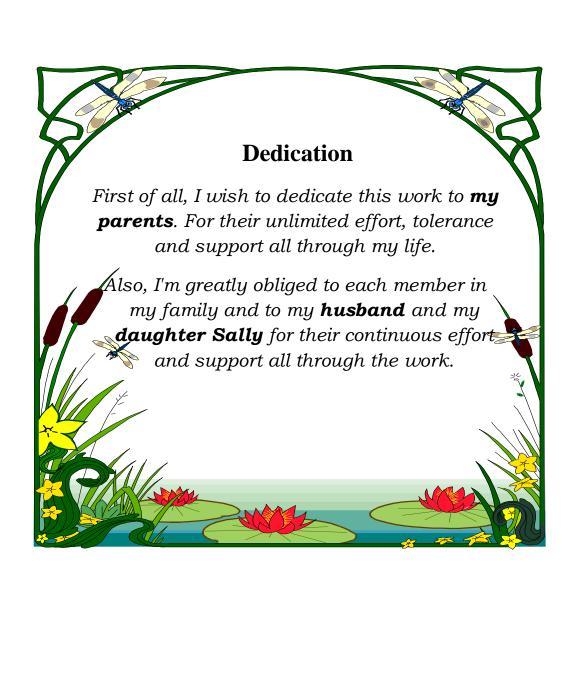
Acknowledgments

First of all I thank Allah the most gracious the most merciful for blessing this work until it has reached its end as a part of his generous gifts throughout my life.

I wish to express my sincere thanks and deepest gratitude to **Prof. Dr. Sahar Farouk Shaaban**, Professor of Radiodiagnosis, Ain Shams University for her kind supervision and constructive guidance. It was through her continuous help and moral support that this work was completed. The experience I had during working with her extended for beyond this work to affect many aspects of my personal and professional life.

I am deeply indebted to **Lecture.Dr. Mohamed Sobhi Hassan**, Lecture of Radiodiagnosis, Ain
Shams University, for his thoughtful ideas, kind
support and encouragement. He devoted much of
her time, effort and experience in the supervision
of this work till it has seen the light. The
experience I had during working with him
extended for beyond this work to affect many
aspects of my personal and professional life.

Last but not least, I am very grateful to all my family for their unlimited tolerance and support all through.



Protocol



Advanced MRI imaging technique in diagnosis of metabolic and degenerative brain disorders of pediatric age group.

Essay Submitted for partial fulfillment of the Master Degree in Radiodiagnosis

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2012

Contents:

1. Introduction and aim of the work.

Introduction

Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) is a non invasive medical test that helps physicians diagnose and treat medical conditions.

MRI uses a powerful magnetic field, radio frequency pulses and a computer to produce detailed pictures of organs, soft tissues, bone and virtually all other internal body structures. The images can then be examined on a computer monitor, transmitted electronically, printed or copied to a CD. MRI does not use ionizing radiation (x-rays).

Detailed MR images allow physicians to better evaluate various parts of the body and determine the presence of certain diseases that may not be assessed adequately with other imaging methods such as x-ray, ultrasound or computed tomography (also called CT, MDCT or CAT scanning).

Currently, MRI is the most sensitive imaging test of the head (particularly in the brain) in routine clinical practice.

There are advanced techniques are known as diffusion-weighted, perfusion, magnetization transfer, functional MRI and MR spectroscopy. An important issue is that they can provide quantitative estimates of structural and functional characteristics that are below the voxel resolution. (Pagani et al 2008)

Proton magnetic resonance (MR) spectroscopy is a complementary method to MR imaging for understanding disease processes in the pediatric brain. By demonstrating the presence of various metabolites in the sampled tissue, MR spectroscopy helps in the understanding of abnormalities detected by MR imaging or clinical examination.

This capability is especially pertinent in the pediatric brain, where the manifestation of pathology is superimposed upon a background of normal or abnormal brain development. (Cecil et al, 2002)

Diffusion tensor imaging (DTI), is a new MR-based technique allowing, in -vivo, the assessment of the water diffusive transport in cerebral tissues, depending on the molecular and biochemical environment. Over the past decade, DTI has become an indispensable part of the MR evaluation of pediatric brain in the clinical practice. Quantitative analysis of fractional anisotropy (FA) and apparent diffusion coefficient (ADC), the two most common indices used to describe the diffusion characteristics, helps the comprehension of the childhood brain maturation and enables the early detection of several brain diseases. DTI also allows us to look at anisotropic diffusion within white matter tracts. To better demonstrate the location and orientation of the white matter tracts, new and/or more sophisticated methods such as Color-Encoded Map and Fiber

Tracking have been proposed. We review the theoretical background of DT-MRI, and some of its commonest applications, particularly in Pediatric Neuroradiology.(BERNARDI et al ,2005).

Imaging of the brain, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) in particular, is a key adjunctive tool in the diagnosis of degenerative, metabolic and toxic disorders such as, mitochondrial encephalopathies, disorders of iron or copper metabolism, exposure to carbon monoxide, radiotherapy, immunosuppressive agents, toluene, and recreational drugs. (Arora et al ,2008).

The neurodegenerative diseases of infancy and childhood include disorders in which there is progressive loss of neurological function due to structural abnormalities of the central nervous system, a classification is offered grouping the neurodegenerative disorders into five major categories: polioencephalopathies, leukoencephalopathies, corencephalopathies, spinocerebellopathies, and diffuse encephalopathies. Disorders in each subgroup may be either genetic or nongenetic. Neurodegenerative diseases have multiple causes, including metabolic, viral, immunopathic, environmental, and epileptogenic. The cause of many remains unknown. (Paul et al, 2004).

Metabolic Disorders: Inborn errors of the metabolism form a heterogeneous, ever-expanding group of disorders, involving white and gray matter. A large number of them are leukodystrophies, affecting primarily myelin and producing dysmyelination or hypomyelination. A different group of diseases is characterized by breakdown of normally formed white matter and are called demyelinating *diseases*. Many of them are acquired (such as multiple sclerosis), but have a strong genetic predisposition.

DT-MRI appears to be a very promising technique in the assessment of white matter diseases. Some authors consider DTI superior to conventional MRI in differentiating dysmyelinating disorders from demyelinating disorders. (BERNARDI et al ,2005).

In vivo magnetic resonance spectroscopy (MRS) addresses metabolic pathways and their steady states in different tissue types. The brain has by tradition, and due to technical limitations in other organs, been one of the tissues most studied by MRS, and both ¹H- and ³¹P-MRS have been used. Although ³¹P-MRS is outstanding for the evaluation of sources of metabolic energy in the brain, ¹H-MRS has become the major clinically applied method in neurospectroscopy, as it provides information on markers of neuronal function, myelin, cell membranes, and metabolic active compounds.(**Isabella et al ,2001**).

In this essay, we review the neuroimaging findings of common degenerative and metabolic disorders focusing on the role of advanced MRI techniques in evaluation and diagnosis of metabolic and degenerative disorders .

Aim of the work:

To emphasis the role of advanced MRI techniques in diagnosis of metabolic and degenerative brain disorders of pediatric age group.

Contents:

- 1. Introduction
- 2. MRI anatomy of the brain.
- 3. Pathology of metabolic and degenerative brain disorders of pediatric age group.
- 4. Physical and Technical aspects of advanced MRI techniques.
- 5. Manifestations of advanced MRI in evaluation of metabolic and degenerative brain disorder in pediatric age group.
- 6. Summary and Conclusion.
- 7. References.
- 8. Arabic Summary.