



Added Value of Contrast-Enhanced Spectral Mammography in Malignant and Suspicious Breast lesions

Essay

*Submitted For Partial Fulfillment of the MSc
Degree in Radio Diagnosis*

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2018

Acknowledgment

*First and foremost, I feel always indebted to **ALLAH**, the
Most Kind and Most Merciful.*

*I'd like to express my respectful thanks and profound
gratitude to **Prof. Dr. Naglaa Shebrya**, Professor of Radio
diagnosis Faculty of Medicine Ain-Shams University for her keen
guidance, kind supervision, valuable advice and continuous
encouragement, which made possible the completion of this work.*

*I am also delighted to express my deepest gratitude and
thanks to **Dr. Ahmed Hassan Soliman**, Lecturer of Radio
diagnosis Faculty of Medicine Ain-Shams University, for his kind
care, continuous supervision, valuable instructions, constant help
and great assistance throughout this work.*

Ereny Tanious

List of Contents

Title	Page No.
List of Tables	i
List of Figures	ii
List of Abbreviations	v
Introduction	1
Aim of the Work.....	8
Normal Anatomy of the Breast.....	9
Pathology	26
Technical Overview of Contrast Enhanced Mammography	65
Manifestation of Contrast Enhanced Digital Mammography.....	78
Summary and Conclusion	103
References.....	105
Arabic Summary	—

List of Tables

Table No.	Title	Page No.
Table (1):	Summary of Changes in the Eighth Edition.....	58
Table (2):	American Joint Committee on Cancer Definition of Primary Tumor (T)—Clinical (cT) and Pathological (pT).....	61
Table (3):	American Joint Committee on Cancer Definition of Regional Lymph Nodes—Clinical (cN) and Pathological (pN).	62
Table (4):	American Joint Committee on Cancer Definition of Distant Metastasis (M).	64
Table (5):	American Joint Commission on Cancer TNM Anatomic Stage Groups.	64

List of Figures

Fig. No.	Title	Page No.
Figure (1):	Lymphatics and blood vessels of the breast.....	9
Figure (2):	Normal female breast anatomy	10
Figure (3):	Terminal ductal lobular unit.....	11
Figure (4):	Vascular blood supply of the breast	13
Figure (5):	Lymphatic drainage of the breast.....	16
Figure (6):	Illustration of Level I, level II and Level III axillary lymph nodes.....	18
Figure (7):	Internal mammary LNs	18
Figure (8):	Nerve supply of the breast.....	19
Figure (9):	Anatomy of the Axilla	20
Figure (10):	Standard examination in mammography machine.....	21
Figure (11):	Mammographic MLO projection of a normal breast.....	23
Figure (12):	BI-RADS edition 2013 the assignment of the breast composition/density	24
Figure (13):	Normal contrast enhanced spectral mammography MLO and CC of the breast.....	25
Figure (14):	Mastitis microscopic picture.....	28
Figure (15):	Granulomatous mastitis microscopic picture	29
Figure (16):	Fibrocystic changes microscopic picture.....	32
Figure (17):	A benign papilloma microscopic picture.....	34
Figure (18):	Florid epithelial hyperplasia pseudo- angiomatous stromal hyperplasia microscopic picture.....	36
Figure (19):	Fibro-adenoma microscopic picture.....	38
Figure (20):	Intra-ductal carcinoma, comedo type microscopic picture.....	41
Figure (21):	Ductal carcinoma in situ, cribriform types microscopic picture.....	41
Figure (22):	Grades of DCIS	42
Figure (23):	Lobular intraepithelial neoplasia microscopic picture.....	43

List of Figures Cont...

Fig. No.	Title	Page No.
Figure (24):	Invasive ductal carcinoma microscopic picture	45
Figure (25):	Invasive Lobular carcinoma microscopic picture	46
Figure (26):	Mucinous carcinoma, gross appearance	47
Figure (27):	Pure mucinous carcinoma microscopic picture	48
Figure (28):	Intra-cystic papillary carcinoma microscopic picture	49
Figure (29):	Tubular carcinoma microscopic picture	50
Figure (30):	Medullary carcinoma, gross appearance	51
Figure (31):	Medullary carcinoma, lymphoplasmacytic reaction microscopic picture	51
Figure (32):	Paget disease microscopic picture	53
Figure (33):	A metaplastic spindle cell carcinoma gross and microscopic picture	54
Figure (34):	Standard mammographic views	66
Figure (35):	Principle of contrast-enhanced mammography using the temporal subtraction technique	69
Figure (36):	The technique of dual-energy CEDM examination	72
Figure (37):	Principle of dual-energy contrast-enhanced mammography	73
Figure (38):	A case of CEDM showing absence of malignancy	80
Figure (39):	A case of ductal carcinoma in situ	81
Figure (40):	A case of invasive duct carcinoma	82
Figure (41):	A case of granulomatous mastitis	83
Figure (42):	A case of atypical lobular hyperplasia	84
Figure (43):	A case of inflammatory stromal changes	85
Figure (44):	A case of fibro-adenoma	86
Figure (45):	A case of unremarkable dense breast tissue	87
Figure (46):	A case of invasive ductal carcinoma	88

List of Figures Cont...

Fig. No.	Title	Page No.
Figure (47):	A case of invasive lobular carcinoma	89
Figure (48):	A case of mixed invasive lobular and invasive ductal carcinoma measuring 3.5 cm.....	90
Figure (49):	A case of invasive lobular carcinoma	91
Figure (50):	A case of T0N0M0 denoting complete therapeutic response	92
Figure (51):	A case of invasive ductal carcinoma	93
Figure (52):	A case of invasive ductal carcinoma with neo-adjuvant chemotherapy showing response to treatment	94
Figure (53):	A case of T0N1M0 denoting minimal residual disease (I)	95
Figure (54):	A case of invasive lobular carcinoma	96
Figure (55):	A case of diabetic fibrous mastopathy.....	
Figure (56):	A case of adeno-myo-epitheliomata	98
Figure (57):	A case of fibro-adenoma with epitheliosis	99
Figure (58):	A case of mucinous carcinoma	95

List of Abbreviations

Abb.	Full term
2D.....	Dual energy digital mammography
ACR.....	American college of radiology
AJCC.....	American Joint Committee for Cancer
ALH	Atypical lobular hyperplasia
BI – RADS	Breast Imaging Reporting and Data System
CAP	College of American Pathologists
CC	Cranial-Caudal
CDEM	Contrast enhanced digital mammography
CE2D	Contrast-enhanced dual energy
CESM.....	Contrast-enhanced spectral mammography
CsI.....	Cesium iodide
DCIS	Ductal carcinoma in-situ
DM	Digital mammography
ER	Estrogen receptor
FFDM	Full field digital mammography
HER2	Human epidermal growth factor receptor 2
IDC.....	Invasive Ductal Carcinoma
ILC	Invasive Lobular Carcinoma
LCIS.....	Lobular carcinoma in situ
LIQ.....	Lateral inferior quadrant
LN	Lymph nodes
ML.....	Mediolateral
MLO	Medial lateral oblique
MRI	Magnetic resonance imaging
OS.....	Overall survival
PR	Progesterone receptor
pT1mi.....	Pathologic T1 tumors
pTis	Pathologic tumor in situ
TDLU.....	Terminal ductal-lobular unit
TNM.....	Tumor, lymph node, and metastasis

INTRODUCTION

Mammography remains the method of choice for breast imaging, despite the development and improvement of other imaging modalities in recent decades. In the field of mammography too, significant technical improvements were realized, mainly owing to the introduction of digital mammography (DM) (*Pisano et al., 2005*). However, even though the diagnostic accuracy of full field digital mammography is good, it depends heavily on breast density (*Carney et al., 2003*).

Abnormalities become more difficult to detect with increasing breast density, because of the latter's masking effects. It showed that sensitivity of screening mammography in extremely dense breasts was 62.9 %, versus 87.0 % in fatty involution breasts. Specificity was 89.1 % in extremely dense breasts, versus 96.9 % in fatty involution breasts (*Carney et al., 2003*).

The use of contrast agents in breast imaging, other than in MRI, is not widespread. Several mammographic techniques that use iodine contrast agents have been proposed to improve the visualization of malignant lesions in the breast. It is known that a tumor needs to develop its own blood supply in order to grow beyond a few millimeters in size. This angiogenesis provides a potential method of improving the conspicuity of malignant lesions through differential uptake of contrast agent.

The advantage of full field digital mammography systems has allowed the investigation of some of these techniques for breast imaging (*Robson, 2010*).

Contrast enhanced spectral mammography is a new method in breast cancer diagnostics. In recent years, Contrast enhanced spectral mammography has developed dramatically and the number of mammography centers where these examinations are performed is gradually increasing. Typically, Contrast enhanced spectral mammography is used for evaluating patients with suspicious focal lesions where conventional mammography and additional ultrasound examinations fail to make a definitive diagnosis (*Harvey and Bovbjerg, 2004*).

Though Contrast-enhanced MRI seems to be currently the most sensitive breast cancer detection technique, it has high false positive rate and still carries the burden of higher costs and lower availability. On the other hand contrast enhanced spectral mammography has the advantage of being a fast imaging technique with immediate availability in the mammography suite without a new appointment and without loss of time (*Dromain et al., 2012*).

AIM OF THE WORK

To assess the added value of diagnostic contrast enhanced spectral mammography, as adjunct to mammography and ultrasound in patients with malignant and suspicious breast lesions.

NORMAL ANATOMY OF THE BREAST

The great advances achieved in the surgical treatment of breast cancer have made it essential for mastologists to have detailed knowledge of all anatomical features of the breast and its syntopy with the thoracic wall and axillary region (*Macèa and Fregnani, 2006*).

The breast is a modified skin gland enveloped in fibrous fascia. The superficial pectoral fascia is located just beneath the skin and in the retro-mammary space. The undersurface of the breast lies on the deep pectoral fascia (*Morris and Liberman, 2005*).

Although there are fascial layers between the breast proper and the pectoralis major muscle, the breast is not completely separate from the pectoralis major muscle, as there are penetrating lymphatics and blood vessels. (**figure1**)

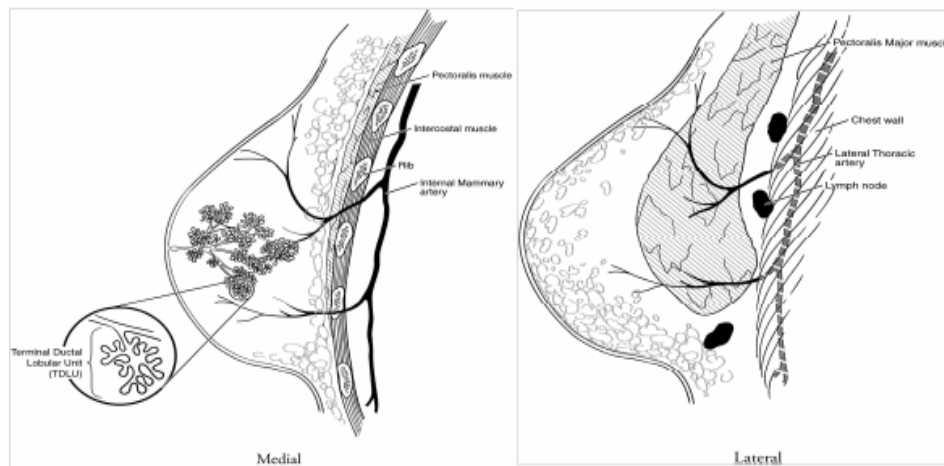


Figure (1): Penetrating lymphatics and blood vessels, medially the internal mammary artery and branches are seen; The terminal duct lobular unit (TDLU), Laterally the lateral thoracic artery and branches supply the breast (*Morris and Liberman, 2005*).

The pectoralis muscles, though attached to the chest wall, are not considered part of the chest wall. This is an important distinction when it comes to staging the patient (*Morris and Liberman, 2005*).

The breast is composed of three major structures: skin (Normal skin appears smooth and measures usually 0.5- to 2.0-mm thick), except caudally where it may be slightly thicker due to its usual dependency. (*Wilson and Adam, et al 2005*), subcutaneous tissue, and breast tissue (parenchyma and stroma). The parenchyma is composed of lobes that comprise lobules containing 10–100 alveoli that are approximately 0.12 mm in diameter. Each breast lobe is generally considered to exist as a single entity (*Moffat, 2004*). (*figure 2*)



Figure (2): Normal female breast anatomy (A-illustrating diagram, B-mammographic image MLO view) (*Jesinger, 2014*).

Each breast lobe converges into 6-10 major collecting ducts terminating in the nipple and connecting to the outside. The collecting duct arborizes having several branches, which end in a terminal ductal-lobular unit (TDLU), the basic functional and histo-pathological unit of the breast. The TDLU is composed of a small segment of terminal duct and a cluster of ductules, which are the effective secretory units. The functional structures are surrounded by specialized connective tissue. A normal terminal ductal lobular unit ranges from 1-4 mm. The TDLU consists of, extra-lobular terminal duct; intralobular terminal duct and lobule (functional unit of the breast) (*figure 3*) (*Kopans, 2007*).

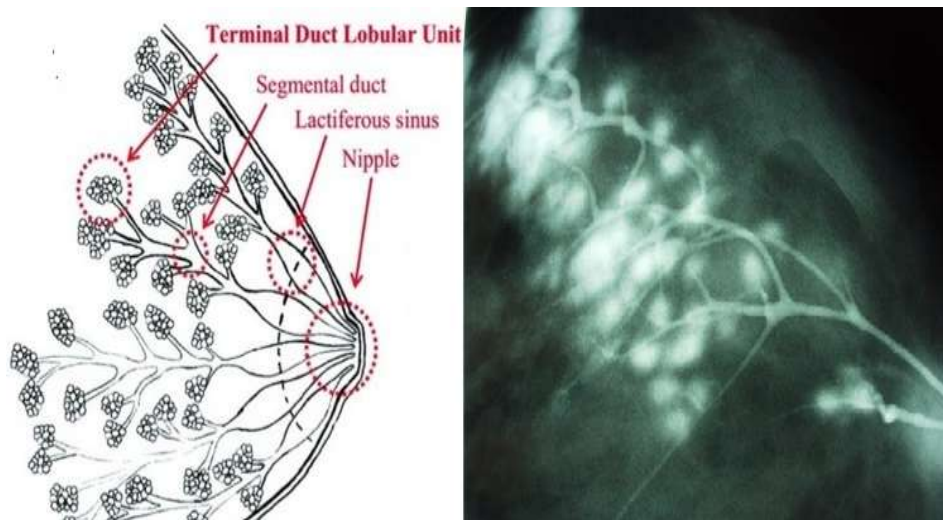


Figure (3): Terminal ductal lobular unit (on the right illustrative diagram, on the left ductography) (*Kopans, 2007*).

The nipple-areolar complex contains the Montgomery glands, large intermediate-stage sebaceous glands that are embryological transitional between sweat glands and mammary

glands and are capable of secreting milk (*Kopans, 2007*). The Montgomery glands open at the Morgagni tubercles, which are small (1–2-mm-diameter) raised papules on the areola (*Blech et al., 2004*). The nipple-areolar complex also contains many sensory nerve endings, smooth muscle, and an abundant lymphatic system called the subareolar or Sappey plexus. Because the skin of the nipple is continuous with the epithelium of the ducts, cancer of the ducts may spread to the nipple (*Kopans, 2007*).

Breast density, is represented in mammography as the amount of breast parenchyma present in the breast that will be altered as the hormonal environment of the breast changes. Age and fluid status will also alter appearance. Both the epithelial ductal tissue and the surrounding connective tissue elements comprising the parenchyma are affected by the hormonal changes (*Morris and Liberman, 2005*).

Breast changes during pregnancy

Pregnancy produces extreme changes in the breast parenchyma with associated vascular engorgement. Early in pregnancy, terminal ducts and lobules grow rapidly with lobular enlargement and depletion in fibro-fatty stroma. Lobular growth continues throughout pregnancy. Following cessation of lactation, involution of the breast occurs over a period of 3 months (*Morris and Liberman, 2005*).