
ROLE OF MULTISLICE COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY IN EVALUATION OF BOWEL DISEASES

Thesis

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of
MD Degree of Radiodiagnosis

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(2009)

دور الفحص بالأشعة المقطعية متعددة المقاطع في تقييم أمراض الأمعاء

رسالة

توطئة للحصول علي درجة الدكتوراة
في الأشعة التشخيصية

مقدمة من

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Acknowledgment

First and above all, all thanks to **Allah** the merciful, the compassionate without his help, I could not finish this work.

Words stand short to express my respect and thanks to **Prof. Dr. Yasser Abd El Azim Abass**, Professor of Radiodiagnosis, Faculty of Medicine, Ain Shams University, for his great support and continuous encouragement which have been the main factors to complete this work.

I would like to express my appreciation for **Prof. Dr. Hesham Khalil Dabos**, Professor of Tropical Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Ain Shams University, for his precious remarks and back up.

I wish to introduce my deep thanks to **Ass. Prof. Dr. Dalia Zaki Zidan**, Assistant Professor of Radiodiagnosis, Faculty of Medicine, Ain Shams University, for her help, guidance and accurate supervision.

I would like to offer my great respect and thanks to **Prof. Dr. Thomas Vogl**, Director of Institute of Diagnostic and Interventional Radiology, Frankfurt am Main, Johann Wolfgang Goethe University for offering the help and the maximal facilities to co-operate exchanging our work experiences.

I would like to introduce my great appreciation to all my **professors, staff and colleagues**.

I am delighted to express my deep gratitude and cardinal thanks to all members of my family, specially **my parents**, for their love, care and everlasting support. My overwhelming appreciation, love and respect to the greatest dad in my whole world whom I wished to share us these moments.

Rania Refaat

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Introduction

Imaging the small bowel is challenging technically. Because the organ is long and serpentine, a large field of view and a large volume are needed to display in entirety. Another problem for imaging is motion, both intrinsic motion of peristalsis and the positional changes caused by breathing. These two motion patterns can be additive and lead to a complex movement of individual bowel loops, making their tracing very difficult. In addition, because small bowel diseases have a low incidence, their appearance is less well known and there is an increased risk of missing them. Even most of the common diseases in the small bowel, early changes are subtle making their diagnoses difficult (*Patak et al., 2005*).

Small bowel follow through (SBFT) and enteroclysis are widely used for small bowel imaging and barium enema for large bowel imaging; however, these examinations provide only indirect information about the bowel wall and surrounding structures and prone to problems caused by overlapping bowel loops. Although computed tomography enteroclysis (CT E) profits from excellent distension of the entire small bowel and precise evaluation of the entire small bowel and precise evaluation of the extent of extraluminal disease, it has the major drawbacks of invasiveness and high radiation exposure. Recently, the role of wireless capsule endoscopy to assess small bowel diseases has been reported. However problems with technique include capsule obstruction by bowel strictures and battery failure in prolonged transit and also the false negative results if there is rapid peristalsis at the lesion site or if there is bowel angulation at a lesion that impairs the camera view (*Hong et al., 2006 a*).

Conventional colonoscopy potentially permits total colon evaluation but sometimes fails to show the entire colon in about 5% of cases owing to difficulties in reaching the right side; moreover, it does not allow evaluation of the liver and other organs outside the colon (*Neri et al., 2002*).