

Value of DW MRI of pancreatic tumors : correlation with enhanced MRI

Thesis

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Abstract

In our study using combined qualitative analysis of DWIs and quantitative analysis of ADC values we concluded that results of DW MRI are approaching that of contrast enhanced MRI not only in detecting pancreatic neoplasms but also in detection of vascular encasement, tumor necrosis and liver metastasis which are essential information for the clinician that reflects disease prognosis and treatment strategies. However, in view of limited number of cases and other limitations of the study larger studies are needed to confirm these results. We recommend using DWI in conjunction to conventional imaging as a useful modality that aids in assessment of pancreatic neoplasms. In cases with contraindication to contrast administration DW MR imaging can be used as a reasonable alternative technique to contrast-enhanced imaging

Key word

ADC-MR-ERCP- IPMN-PPV

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CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION.....	1
CHAPTER 1: ANATOMY OF THE PANCREAS	5
CHAPTER 2: PATHOLOGY OF PANCREATIC TUMORS.....	18
CHAPTER 3: MR IMAGING TECHNIQUE	43
CHAPTER 4: DIFFUSION WEIGHTED IMAGING.....	52
CHAPTER 5: MR APPEARANCE OF PANCREATIC TUMORS	64
CHAPTER 6: PATIENTS AND METHODS	90
CHAPTER 7: RESULTS	95
CHAPTER 8: CASE PRESENTATION.....	104
CHAPTER 9 : DISCUSSION	136
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION.....	142
REFERENCES	145
ARABIC SUMMARY.....	

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS.

CBD COMMON BILE DUCT

CHD COMMON HEPATIC DUCT

CT COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY

DWI DIFFUSION WEIGHTED IMAGING

ERCP ENDOSCOPIC RETROGRADE CHOLANGIOPANCREATOGRAPHY

FLASH FAST LOW ANGLE SHOT

FSE FAST SPIN ECHO

GRE GRADIENT RECALL

HASTE HALF FOURIER ACQUISITION SINGLE SHOT TURBO SPIN ECHO

IPMN INTRADUCTAL PAPILLARY MUCINOUS NEOPLASM

LHD LEFT HEPATIC DUCT

MCN MUCINOUS CYSTIC NEOPLASM

MnDPDP MANGANESE DIPYRIDOXYL DIPHOSPHATE

MPD MAIN PANCREATIC DUCT

MPGR MULTIPLANAR GRADIENT RECALL

MRA MAGNETIC RESONANCE ANGIOGRAPHY

MRCP MAGNETIC RESONANCE CHOLANGIOPANCREATOGRAPHY

MRI MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING

NPV NEGATIVE PREDICTIVE VALUE

PI PARRALLEL IMAGING

PPV positive predictive value

ROI region of interest

RF radiofrequency

RHD RIGHT HEPATIC DUCT

SCA SEROUS CYSTADENOMA

SE SPIN ECHO

SI SIGNAL INTENSITY

SPT Solid Pseudopapillary Tumor

SSFSE SINGLE SHOT FAST SPIN ECHO

SNR SIGNAL TO NOISE RATIO

T1WI T1 WEIGHTED IMAGES

T2WI T2 WEIGHTED IMAGES

TE Echo Time

TR TIME OF REPETITION

TSE TURBO SPIN ECHO

US ULTRASONOGRAPHY

1.5 T 1.5 TESLA

LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURE 1.1: NORMAL EMBRYOLOGIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE PANCREAS AND BILIARY TREE	7
FIGURE 1.2: RETROPERITONEAL COMPARTMENTS	8
FIGURE 1.3:THE RELATIONS OF THE PANCREAS	9
FIGURE 1.4:NORMAL PANCREATIC DUCTAL ANATOMY	12
FIGURE 1.5: NORMAL MR PANCREATIC SIGNAL INTENSITY	16
FIGURE 2.1: GROSS AND MICROSCOPIC APPEARANCE OF DUCTAL ADENOCARCINOMA	23
FIGURE 2.2: GROSS AND MICROSCOPIC APPEARANCE OF ANAPLASTIC CARCINOMA	25
FIGURE 2.3: GROSS AND MICROSCOPIC APPEARANCE OF ACINAR CELL CARCINOMA	27
FIGURE 2.4: GROSS AND MICROSCOPIC APPEARANCE OF MUCINOUS MACROCYSTIC NEOPLASM	30
FIGURE 2.5: GROSS APPEARANCE OF PANCREATOBLASTOMA IN AN ADULT MALE	34
FIGURE 2.6: GROSS AND MICROSCOPIC APPEARANCE OF INSULINOMA	39
FIGURE 2.7:GASTRINOMA	40
FIGURE 3.1: NORMAL PANCREATIC PARENCHYMAL ENHANCEMENT	48
FIGURE 3.2:MnDPDP-ENHANCED MRI	49
FIGURE 3.3: DYNAMIC MR PANCREATIC IMAGING	53
FIGURE 4.1:WATER MOLCULES MOVEMENT IN TISSUES	55
FIGURE 4.2: EFFECT OF DIFFUSION WEIGHTED SEQUENCE ON WATER MOLECULES	57
FIGURE 4.3:DWI SIGNAL LOSS IN HIGHLY MOBILE WATER MOLECUES	58
FIGURE 4.4: BRIGHT DWI SIGNAL OF THE ENDOMETRIUM	59
FIGURE 4.5: RELATION BETWEEN B VALUES AND SIGNAL INTENSITY IN DWI	61
FIGURE 4.6 T2 SHINE THROUGH ARTIFACT	62
FIGURE 4.7 :SLOW FLOWING BLOOD	63
FIGURE 5.1:MR APPEARANCE OF DUCTAL ADENOCARCINOMA	67
FIGURE 5.2:METASTATIC PANCREATIC ADENOCARCINOMA	69
FIGURE 5.3: MODERATELY DIFFERENTIATED PANCREATIC ADENOCARCINOMA	70
FIGURE 5.4:POORLY DIFFERENTIATED PANCREATIC ADENOCARCINOMA	71
FIGURE 5.5: WELL DIFFERENTIATED PANCREATIC ENDOCRINE NEOPLASM	73
FIGURE 5.6: POORLY DIFFERENTIATED PANCREATIC ENDOCRINE NEOPLASM	74

<u>FIGURE 5.7: MRI APPEARANCE AND MICROSCOPIC PICTURE OF PANCREATICOBLASTOMA.....</u>	76
<u>FIGURE 5.8: MRI AND MICROSCOPIC PICTURE OF SOLID PSEUDOPAPILLARY EPITHELIAL NEOPLASM.</u>	78
<u>FIGURE 5.9: MUCINOUS NON NEOPLASTIC CYST</u>	80
<u>FIGURE 5.10: MRI APPEARANCE AND MICROSCOPIC PICTURE OF MUCINOUS CYSTADENOMA.</u>	82
<u>FIGURE 5.11: MRI APPEARANCE AND MICROSCOPIC PICTURE OF IPMT</u>	84
<u>FIGURE 5.12: IPMT WITH MODERATE DYSPLASIA</u>	85
<u>FIGURE 5.13: MRI APPEARANCE AND MICROSCOPIC PICTURE OF SEROUS CYSTADENOMA.</u>	87
<u>FIGURE 5.14: LYMPHOMATOUS INFILTRATION OF THE PANCREAS, LIVER, GALLBLADDER, AND KIDNEYS..</u>	88
<u>FIGURE 5.15: LYMPHOMA PRESENTS AS A MASS IN THE HEAD OF THE PANCREAS</u>	89
<u>FIGURE 5.16: METASTATIC CLEAR CELL CARCINOMA OF THE PANCREAS</u>	89
<u>FIGURE 7.1: SEX DISTRIBUTION IN THE STUDIED 20 PANCREATIC CASES</u>	96
<u>FIGURE 7.2: SITE OF THE LESION IN THE PANCREAS.....</u>	97
<u>FIGURE 7.3: PATHOLOGY OF THE LESIONS IN THE PANCREAS.....</u>	97
<u>FIGURE 7.4: ADC IN MALIGNANT, BENIGN AND INFLAMMATORY CASES OF THE PANCREAS</u>	103
<u>FIGURE 7.5: ADC IN DIFFERENT PATHOLOGICAL TYPES IN PANCREATIC LESIONS</u>	103

LIST OF TABLES

<u>TABLE 5.1</u> FREQUENCY OF OCCURRENCE OF COMMON PANCREATIC NEOPLASMS	65
<u>TABLE 7.1</u> SENSITIVITY AND PPV OF DWI	98
<u>TABLE 7.2</u> SENSITIVITY AND PPV OF MRI-C	99
<u>TABLE 7.3</u> SENSITIVITY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN DWI AND MRI-C	99
<u>TABLE 7.4</u> VASCULAR ENCASEMENT IN MRI-C WITHIN MALIGNANT GROUP	100
<u>TABLE 7.5</u> VASCULAR ENCASEMENT IN DWI WITHIN MALIGNANT GROUP	100
<u>TABLE 7.6</u> TUMOR NECROSIS IN MRI-C WITHIN MALIGNANT GROUP	100
<u>TABLE 7.7</u> TUMOR NECROSIS IN DWI WITHIN MALIGNANT GROUP	101
<u>TABLE 7.8</u> LIVER METASTASIS IN MRI-C WITHIN MALIGNANT GROUP	101
<u>TABLE 7.9</u> LIVER METASTASIS IN DWI WITHIN MALIGNANT GROUP	101
<u>TABLE 7.10</u> ADC VALUES OF MALIGNANT , NORMAL PANCREATIC TISSUE, NECROSIS AND LIVER METASTASIS. .	103

INTRODUCTION

Pancreatic cancer has an unfavourable overall 5-year survival of about 5% and one major reason is late diagnosis. At the time of diagnosis, less than 10% of patients are candidates for the only curative treatment, surgical resection (Jemal et al 2008).

One crucial consideration in the treatment of patients suspected of having pancreatic tumors is how to proceed diagnostically. So far, ultrasonography (US) and contrast material–enhanced computed tomography (CT) have been widely used to diagnose pancreatic tumors. However, in previous series, differentiating benign lesions from pancreatic cancer was considerably difficult. This dilemma is clinically relevant and to overcome this dilemma, the development of sensitive and specific imaging modalities appears highly desirable. (Hänninen et al,2002)

More recently the use of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) for detection of pancreatic tumors was demonstrated. In particular, faster sequences reduced motion artifacts substantially and facilitated successful characterization of pancreatic lesions. In addition, one major advantage of MR imaging is the possibility to examine the pancreatobiliary system non invasively. (Hänninen et al., 2002)

Diffusion-weighted imaging is based upon the principles of Brownian motion (random thermal diffusion) of small molecules in a tissue. By applying diffusion weighting to a sequence (a combination of pulses and strong gradients) one can measure the apparent diffusion coefficient (ADC) in a given tissue and thus quantify the combined effects of capillary perfusion and water diffusion. The use of DWI as a diagnostic tool in neoplastic diseases is based on the principle that in malignant lesions cells have a larger volume and are more closely aligned to each other. This hypercellularity diminishes the extracellular space leading to restriction

of the free movement of water particles resulting in a depressed ADC and hyperintensity on diffusion-weighted (DW) images. In contrast, benign lesions (such as cysts, hemangiomas) are characterised by expansion of the extracellular space and not by hypercellular populations, which in turn eases the diffusion of water molecules which is displayed as high ADC and hypointensity on DW images. (Robertson et al 2007)

Diffusion-weighted magnetic resonance imaging has been used for diagnosis of diseases of the central nervous system for two decades being a particularly important tool in the diagnosis of ischemic stroke—and the musculoskeletal system for one decade. (Bruegel M et al 2008)

During recent years, DWI of diseases of the lower abdomen, e.g. prostate, urinary bladder, uterus and rectum, has presented promising results. DWI of the upper abdomen has been a technical challenge due to respiration, bowel peristalsis, blood flow and long acquisition times. (Ichikawa T et al 2007)

The implementation of ultrafast imaging techniques, such as parallel imaging, has made DWI of the upper abdomen a feasible option and has been found to be useful in differentiation of malignant from benign liver lesions. Recent studies indicate that DWI is promising also in pancreatic imaging. (Matsuki M et al 2007)

Diffusion-weighted (DW) images can be helpful in detecting the pancreatic carcinoma and accessing the extent of the tumor. The ADC value ($\times 10^{-3} \text{ mm}^2/\text{s}$) in the carcinoma was 1.44 ± 0.20 , which was significantly lower compared to that of normal pancreas (1.90 ± 0.06) and tumor-associated chronic pancreatitis (2.31 ± 0.18). (Matsuki et al, 2007)

Aim of the work

In view of an increasing use of MRI application in diagnosis and management of the pancreatic malignancies, the purpose of our study is to show the value of DW MRI in the diagnosis of pancreatic cancer and to correlate the results of DW MRI with that of contrast enhanced MRI aiming to use DWI MRI as a reasonable alternative modality especially when contrast administration is contraindicated.

Chapter 1

ANATOMY OF THE PANCREAS

- ***Embryologic Development***

By the 4th week of embryologic growth, ventral (caudal) and dorsal (cranial) outpouchings develop at the junction of the foregut and midgut. The gallbladder, extrahepatic bile ducts (EBDs), central intrahepatic bile ducts (IBDs), and ventral pancreas with its ductal network are derived from the ventral outpouching, the hepatic diverticulum (Fig 1.1). The dorsal bud arises from the dorsal mesogastrium and is the precursor of the dorsal pancreas and its ductal system. At about this time, the developing ventral pancreas, gallbladder, and bile duct rotate clockwise (when viewed from the top) posterior to the duodenum and join the dorsal pancreas in the retroperitoneum. The ventral pancreatic duct and the CBD are therefore, linked by their embryologic origins, resulting in the adult configuration of their common entrance into the duodenum at the major duodenal papilla (*Mortele et al, 2006*).

At approximately the 7th gestational week, the dorsal and ventral pancreatic ducts fuse in the region of the neck. The territory drained by each system can vary, but in general the dorsal pancreatic ductal system drains the tail, body, and anterior portion of the pancreatic head, whereas the ventral component drains the posterior aspect of the pancreatic head. Both dorsal and ventral ducts variably drain the uncinate process of the pancreatic head. The portion of the ventral duct between the dorsal-ventral fusion point and the major papilla is termed the duct of Wirsung. The portion of the dorsal duct proximal to the dorsal-ventral fusion point is called the main pancreatic duct (MPD); if a segment of the dorsal duct persists distal to the dorsal-ventral fusion point, it is termed the duct of Santorini, or accessory duct. In 30% of individuals, however, the duct of Santorini loses its communication with the minor duodenal papilla and persists only as a branch of the MPD. (*Schulte ,1994*)