



The Role of Diffusion Weighted MR Imaging in Assessment of Hepatic malignancy after Radiofrequency Ablation

Thesis

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By

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

قَالَ

سَبَّحَانَكَ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا مَا عَلَّمْتَنَا إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ
الْعَلِيمُ الْعَظِيمُ

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List of Contents

<i>Subject</i>	<i>Page No.</i>
List of Abbreviations.....	i
List of Tables.....	iii
List of Figures	v
Introduction	1
Aim of the Work.....	5
Review of Literature	
Anatomy of the Liver.....	6
Pathology of hepatic malignancy and its MR correlation	19
MRI Technique	54
MRI Findings after Percutaneous RFA	76
Patients and Methods.....	85
Results.....	90
Illustrative cases	108
Discussion	118
Summary and Conclusion	125
References	128
Arabic Summary	—

List of Abbreviations

<i>Abbrev.</i>	<i>Full-term</i>
ADC	: Apparent diffusion coefficient.
AFP	: Alpha feto-protein.
CHA	: Common hepatic artery.
CT	: Computed tomography.
DCE-MRI	: Dynamic contrast enhanced- magnetic resonance imaging
DEL	: Delayed
DW	: Diffusion weighted.
DWI	: Diffusion weighted imaging.
FOV	: Field of view.
Gd-DTPA	: Gadolinium-diethylenetriaminepentaacetic acid.
HA	: Hepatic artery
HCC	: Hepatocellular carcinoma
HCV	: Hepatitis C virus
ICC	: Intra-hepatic cholangiocarcinoma
IP	: In-phase
IVC	: Inferior vena cava
LI-RADS	: Liver Imaging-Reporting And Data System
MRI	: Magnetic resonance imaging.
ms	: Millisecond
OP	: Out-of-phase.
PV	: Portal vein
RE	: Relative enhancement
RFA	: Radio-frequency ablation
ROI	: Regions of interest
s/mm²	: Second per square millimeter.
Sat	: Saturation.
SE	: Spin echo.
SI	: Signal intensity.
SNR	: Signal to noise ratio.
T	: Tesla.

TACE	: Trans-arterial chemoembolization
TE	: Echo Time
THRIVE	: T1-weighted high resolution isotropic volume examination.
TR	: Repetition time
TSE	: Turbo spin echo.
US	: Ultrasound
WI	: Weighted images

List of Tables

<i>Table No.</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Page No.</i>
Table (1):	Imaging Features of Observations by LI-RADS Category	49
Table (2):	Age (years) distribution of the study group. ...	90
Table (3):	Sex distribution of the study group.	91
Table (4):	Intensity of the lesion in T2 sequence.....	92
Table (5):	DWI distribution of the study group.	93
Table (6):	Arterial phase enhancement in the group.....	94
Table (7):	Venous phase in the study group	95
Table (8):	Delay phase in the study group	96
Table (9):	Ablated distribution of the study group.	97
Table (10):	Comparison between well ablated lesion and recurrence lesion according to age (years).....	98
Table (11):	Comparison between well ablated lesion and recurrence lesion according to sex.	99
Table (12):	Comparison between well ablated lesion and recurrence lesion according to intensity of T2..	100
Table (13):	Comparison between well and recurrence according to DWI.	101
Table (14):	Comparison between well ablated lesion and recurrence lesion according to arterial phase.	102

Table (15): Comparison between well ablated lesion and recurrence lesion according to venous phase.....	103
Table (16): Comparison between well ablated lesion and recurrence lesion according to delay phase.....	104
Table (17): Frequency and percentage of ADC in normal parenchymal background.....	105
Table (18): ADC values of the residual lesions.	106
Table (19): ADC values of the necrotic tissue after RFA.	106
Table (20): Diagnostic Performance of DWI in Discrimination of ablated.....	107

List of Figures

<i>Figure No.</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Page No.</i>
Figure (1):	The anterior-superior surface of the liver.....	6
Figure (2):	Diagram showing hepatic segmentation	8
Figure (3):	Segments of the liver (after Couinaud).	10
Figure (4):	Anatomy of portal vein	11
Figure (5):	Normal anatomy of the hepatic arterial, venous and biliary tract.....	12
Figure (6):	Diagram showing anatomy of the biliary system.....	13
Figure (7):	Axial MIP based on 3D contrast - enhanced delayed phase gradient echo images at various levels shows the hepatic segments (I–VIII)	17
Figure (8):	Coronal MR Portography images of the liver showing better assessment of hepatic vasculature.....	18
Figure (9):	Typical changes in intranodular hemo-dynamics during multistep hepatocarcinogenesis.....	26
Figure (10):	MR images in a 66-year-old man with HCC show corona enhancement and capsule appearance.....	28
Figure (11):	HCCs with and without definite capsule appearance.....	30
Figure (12):	MR Images in 39-year-old man with liver cirrhosis and multiple cirrhotic nodules, some of which resemble dysplastic nodules at imaging.	32
Figure (13):	Gross pathological examination, nodule differs in size and color from background	

nodules, the gross pathologic definition of a dysplastic nodule	33
Figure (14): Transverse T1-weighted MR images in 50-year-old woman with cirrhosis secondary to autoimmune hepatitis.	35
Figure (15): High-grade dysplastic nodule or early HCC in a 52-year-old man with cirrhosis resulting from hepatitis C infection	36
Figure (16): MR images in a 66-year-old woman with fat-containing HCC and hepatitis B-related cirrhosis.	38
Figure (17): Transverse MR and pathologic images in 61-year-old man with hepatitis C- related cirrhosis.	39
Figure (18): Hepatocellular carcinoma in an 81-year-old woman.	40
Figure (19): Images in a 69-year-old man with encapsulated progressed HCC.	42
Figure (20): Infiltrative HCC in a 67-year-old man with a history of excessive alcohol use and portal venous thrombosis found at CT performed for follow-up of aortic aneurysm.	43
Figure (21): A 64-year-old woman axial pre-contrast T1-weighted (a), post-contrast T1- weighted (b), and subtraction (c) MR images.	44
Figure (22): HCC extending into IVC.....	45
Figure (23): Arterial phase CT (a) shows increased enhancement of the entire left lobe. It is difficult to discern the boundaries of the lesion.	46
Figure (24): Contrast-enhanced MRI. Homogeneous hypointensity at T1 WI.....	48

Figure (25): Hypervascular metastases in 55-years old man with hepatic metastases from colorectal cancer.....	53
Figure (26): Fatty liver with focal fatty sparing.	58
Figure (27): Illustration of water molecule movement.....	63
Figure (28): Gradient acquisition scheme showing the diffusion sensitizing gradients	67
Figure (29): Axial diffusion-weighted image obtained in a 60-year-old woman shows a signal void within the inferior vena cava	69
Figure (30): Transverse breath-hold (BH) versus respiratory-triggered (RT) fat-suppressed single-shot SE echo-planar diffusion acquisition in a 78-year old woman with liver cysts.	72
Figure (31): T2 shine-through effect with DWI.	74
Figure (32): 66-year-old woman who underwent radiofrequency ablation (RF A) of hepatocellular carcinoma.....	79
Figure (33): MR images in a 59-year-old male with cirrhosis secondary to nonalcoholic steatohepatitis and treated HCC in segment VII of the liver.....	80
Figure (34): 67-year-old man who underwent radiofrequency ablation (RFA) of hepatocellular carcinoma.....	81
Figure (35): 55-year-old man who underwent radiofrequency ablation (RF A) of hepatocellular carcinoma.....	83
Figure (36): Post-RF A contrast-enhanced CT image reveals enlargement of ablation zones with new air pockets; these, as seen in more inferiorly located ablation zone suggesting abscess formation.	84

Figure (37): Pie chart age distribution of the study group.	90
Figure (38): Pie chart sex distribution of the study group.....	91
Figure (39): Pie chart T2 distribution of the study group.....	92
Figure (40): Pie chart DWI distribution of the study group.	93
Figure (41): Pie chart arterial distribution of the study group.....	94
Figure (42): Pie chart venous distribution of the study group.....	95
Figure (43): Pie chart delay distribution of the study group.	96
Figure (44): Pie chart ablated distribution of the study group.....	97
Figure (45): Bar chart between well and recurrence according to age (years).	98
Figure (46): Bar chart between well and recurrence according to sex.....	99
Figure (47): Bar chart between well and recurrence according to T2.....	100
Figure (48): Bar chart between well and recurrence according to DWI.	101
Figure (49): Bar chart between well and recurrence according to arterial.....	102
Figure (50): Bar chart between well and recurrence according to venous.....	103
Figure (51): Bar chart between well and recurrence according to delay.	104
Figure (52): ROC curve, diagnostic Performance of DWI in Discrimination of ablated.	107

List of Cases

Case No.	Title	Page No.
----------	-------	----------

Case (1) 108

Case (2) 110

Case (3) 112

Case (4) 114

Case (5) 116

Abstract

Background: MRI is a sensitive modality in detection and characterization of hepatic focal lesion. MRI has traditionally been used to evaluate treatment response in malignant liver lesions. However, the assessment of tumor response after certain treatments, such as radiofrequency ablation (RFA) can be difficult. **Aim of the Work:** To assess role of diffusion weighted MRI in evaluation of treatment response after radiofrequency ablation for hepatic malignancy. **Patients and Methods:** Ethics committee of the Faculty of Medicine, Ain Shams University, approved this prospective analysis study and cases were supplied by Hospitals of Ain Shams University. 20 cases treated by Radiofrequency ablation for hepatic malignancy were involved in our study. Patients were recruited from Interventional Unit in Radiology Department, Ain Shams University Hospitals. **Results:** Regarding DWI, our study showed that sensitivity of 83.3% specificity of 85.7% positive predictive value of 71.4%, negative predictive value of 92.3% with diagnostic accuracy of 85%. Our present study showed that the mean ADC of the well ablated lesion was $1.4 \times 10^{-3} \text{ mm}^2/\text{sec}$ and of the residual lesion $0.8 \times 10^{-3} \text{ mm}^2/\text{sec}$ with significant statistical difference between the residual viable tumor and the well ablated lesions. Moreover, it has been shown in our study that the level of ADC may help us to recommend a cut-off value of $1.233 \times 10^{-3} \text{ mm}^2/\text{s}$. **Conclusion:** periphery of the ablation zone, which is principally most at risk of tumor residue, should be analyzed separately. **Recommendations:** Further studies on larger scale of patients are needed to confirm the results obtained by this work.

Key words: Diffusion Weighted MRI, hepatic malignancy, radiofrequency ablation

Introduction

Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) and secondary liver metastases comprise a large proportion of malignancies diagnosed in the United States and worldwide.

Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) is the most common primary liver malignancy and is a leading cause of cancer-related death worldwide (*Balogh et al., 2016*).

DWI can provide information about molecular tissue characteristics, thus it has an additional value in the evaluation & follow up of local ablative therapy in patients with malignant liver tumors.

Correct detection, classification, and characterization of focal hepatic lesions are of paramount importance as they may significantly affect the choice of therapeutic approach in many cases (*Holzapfel et al., 2010*).

Surgical resection is currently the accepted standard treatment method for potential cure, demonstrating benefit in overall survival time in primary and secondary liver malignancies.

Although liver resection continues to be the standard for curative care in patients with hepatic malignancies, most patients are not candidates for surgical therapy. Therefore,