



بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

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The role of Diffusion Weighted Imaging MRI in discrimination between benign and malignant axillary lymph nodes in breast cancer patients

Thesis

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

قَالَ

سَبِّحْ اِنَّكَ لَا تَعْلَمُ لَنَا
اِلَّا مَا عَلَّمْتَنَا اِنَّكَ اَنْتَ
الْعَلِيمُ الْعَظِيمُ

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List of Contents

Title	Page No.
List of Abbreviations.....	i
List of Tables	ii
List of Figures	iii
Introduction	1
Aim of the Work.....	3
Review of Literature	
Anatomy of the Breast.....	4
MRI Anatomy of the Axilla	12
Pathology of Lymph Node Metastasis	15
Protocol of Multimodality MRI Examination of the Breast	21
DWI Technique & Physics.....	33
Patients and Methods.....	44
Results	51
Illustrated Cases.....	60
Discussion	73
Summary and Conclusion.....	81
References	83
Arabic Summary	—

List of Abbreviations

Abb.	Full term
ADC	Apparent diffusion co-efficient
ALND	Axillary lymph node dissection
AUC	Area under the ROC curve
CE-FS- T1W1	Contrast enhanced fat suppressed T1 weighted image
DCE-MRI.....	Dynamic contrast enhanced MRI
DW-MRI.....	Diffusion weighted magnetic resonance imaging
L/S ratio.....	Long to short axis ratio
LN's	Lymph nodes
NPV	Negative predictive value
PPV.....	Positive predictive value
RF	Radiofrequency
ROC curve	Receiver operating characteristics curve
SE-EPI.....	Spin echo-echo planer imaging
SI	Signal intensity
SLN.....	Sentinel lymph node
SNB	Sentinel node biopsy
SPAIR	Spectral selective attenuation inversion recovery
STAIR.....	Short time inversion recovery
TSE.....	Turbo spin echo sequence

List of Tables

Table No.	Title	Page No.
Table (1):	DW-MRI: accuracy, sensitivity, specificity, PPV & NPV	53
Table (2):	ADC: accuracy, sensitivity, specificity, PPV & NPV	54
Table (3):	Relation of pathological results with Hilum, long axis, short axis, ratio, ADC and Area of the studied patients	56
Table (4):	Relation of pathological results with demographic data and characteristics of the studied patients.....	58
Table (5):	Comparison between MRI results and pathological results of the studied patients.....	59

List of Figures

Fig. No.	Title	Page No.
Fig. (1):	Represents Breast profile	5
Fig. (2):	Anatomy of the axilla.....	8
Fig. (3):	Lymph nodes of the axilla.....	10
Fig. (4):	Anatomical boundaries of axillary lymph nodes.....	11
Fig. (5):	Normal axillary lymph nodes in sagittal T2 fat suppressed MRI posterior to pectoralis muscle.....	13
Fig. (6):	Axial T2WS-TSE MRI showing an enlarged lymph node on the right axilla. Fatty hilum is absent with an increased asymmetrical cortical thickness.	13
Fig. (7):	Pitfalls in diagnosis of lymph node metastases.....	16
Fig. (8):	Schematic illustrates normal nodal architecture and the growth of metastatic disease	18
Fig. (9):	Axillary primary	20
Fig. (10):	Coils and supports used in breast MRI	25
Fig. (11):	Axial images from breast MRI in a 52-year-old woman with an invasive ductal carcinoma	27
Fig. (12):	Sagittal images from breast MRI in a 31-year-old woman with an invasive ductal carcinoma	30
Fig. (13):	Motion artefacts	31
Fig. (14):	Field non-uniformity artefact leading to non-uniformity of fat saturation.....	32
Fig. (15):	Relationship between degree of cellularity and restricted diffusion	34

List of Figures Cont...

Fig. No.	Title	Page No.
Fig. (16):	Pulse sequence diagrams illustrate how a diffusion-weighted sequence incorporates two symmetric motion-probing gradient pulses into a single-shot (SE) T2-weighted sequence, one on either side of the 180° refocusing pulse.....	35
Fig. (17):	Illustrated graph of the logarithm of relative signal intensity (SI) (y-axis) versus b value (in this case, 0 and 500 s/mm ²) (x-axis) for the tumor and normal tissue. the slope of the tumor line is less than that of normal tissue which means lower signal on the ADC map.....	38
Fig. (18):	Example images obtained with DWI scan	39
Fig. (19):	Common artifacts of breast DWI, illustrated in separate subjects.....	42
Fig. (20):	BI-RADS classification among the examined cases.....	51
Fig. (21):	Pathological results among the studied patients	52
Fig. (22):	Diagnostic accuracy of DW-MRI in discrimination between malignant & benign axillary lymph nodes.....	53
Fig. (23):	Receiver operating characteristic curve (ROC) of ADC value of MRI as a predictor of pathological results.	54
Fig. (24):	Comparison between histopathological results and the hilum of examined lymph nodes.....	57

List of Figures Cont...

Fig. No.	Title	Page No.
Fig. (25):	Case 1.....	60
Fig. (26):	Case 2.....	61
Fig. (27):	Case 3.....	62
Fig. (28):	Case 4.....	63
Fig. (29):	Case 5.....	65
Fig. (30):	Case 6.....	66
Fig. (31):	Case 7.....	67
Fig. (32):	Case 8.....	68
Fig. (33):	Case 9.....	69
Fig. (34):	Case 10	70
Fig. (35):	Case 11	71
Fig. (36):	Case 12	72

INTRODUCTION

Statistical studies of cancer have revealed that breast cancer is one of the most common malignancies and the second leading cause of death in women worldwide (*Li et al., 2018*).

Axillary lymph node metastasis is common in breast cancer patients which affect the treatment modalities as well as surgical procedures (*Jessing et al., 2018*). Axillary lymph node metastasis is one of the main criteria affecting the prognosis of breast cancer patients and 5-year survival (*Li et al., 2014*). Axillary lymph node dissection and biopsy are considered invasive methods which have long and short term complications on patients with breast cancer negatively affecting their life quality (*Zaiton et al., 2016*).

It has been shown that complete nodal axillary dissection (ALND) for breast cancer patients with limited nodal invasion (1-3 nodes) is not useful, additionally nodal biopsy which is an invasive technique carries a potential risk of complications (*Elmesidy et al., 2021*).

Classification of axillary lymph nodes into malignant or benign on morphological basis is constantly challenging (*Razek et al., 2016*).

Diffusion weighted magnetic resonance imaging (DW-MRI) is a noninvasive technique that works on Brownian motion of water molecules, which are dependent on certain

parameters such as size of the cell, cell membrane permeability and inside and outside cellular volume fraction (*Hasanzadeh et al., 2017*).

ADC is a quantitative parameter that acquired by (DW-MRI) which can exclude the T2 shine -effect besides quantitative assessment of water diffusivity in the target tissue making differentiation between different lesions easier (*Zaiton et al., 2016*).

During the acquisition motion-sensitizing gradients are used b-value in the real DW-MRI or sensitization (s/mm²), so no need for contrast because the DW-MRI has its own tissue contrast, ADC is the representative extent of the water molecules of the examined tissue occupies as square mm per second (*Durur-Subasi, 2019*). Identification of the nodes on DW-MRI is remarkably higher than that on T2WI, with marked high SI compared with adjacent muscles & surrounding normal vessels made it easy to identify (*Ismail et al., 2014*).

AIM OF THE WORK

The purpose of this study was to evaluate the role of DW-MRI and ADC in discrimination between benign and malignant axillary lymph nodes in breast cancer patients.

Chapter 1

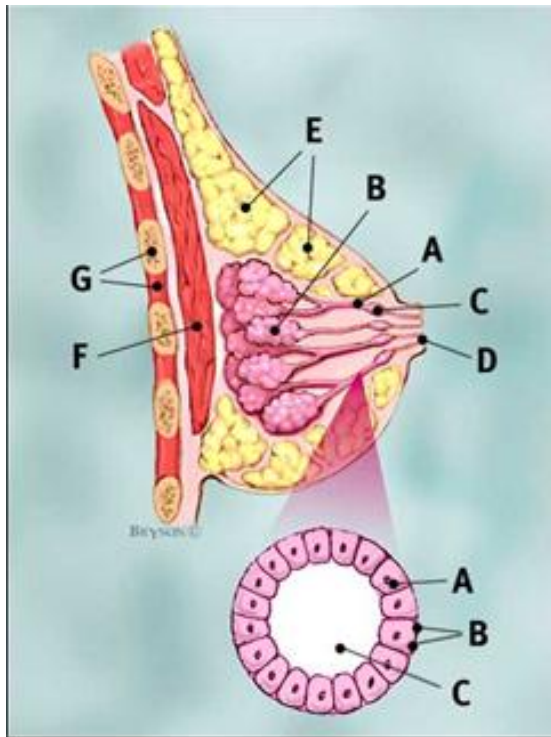
ANATOMY OF THE BREAST

The human breast is considered a modified cutaneous exocrine gland that is composed of skin, subcutaneous tissue, breast parenchyma (ducts& lobules) and supporting stroma. Fat is interposed in a complex network of ligaments, veins, arteries, nerves and lymphatics (*Osborne and Boolbal, 2009*).

The female breast is laying on the anterior chest wall, extending from the second intercostal space superiorly down to the inframammary fold at the sixth or seventh intercostal space inferiorly. It extends medially from the lateral border of the sternum laterally to the midaxillary line (*Lemaine and Simmons, 2012*).

The axillary tail is extending up to the axilla. The breast could be divided into four quadrants: the upper inner, lower inner, upper outer, lower outer quadrants. The upper outer quadrant contains more fibro glandular tissue than other quadrantes. It is also the most common location of tumors in the breast (*Pandya and Moore, 2011*).

The fibroglandular tissue of the breast is composed of 15-20 lobes, each one divided into 20-40 lobules, which is consisting of 10-100 alveoli. Each lobe contains minor interlobular ducts, which drain into major lactiferous ducts which dilate into subareolar lactiferous ampullae. Ten major ducts open at the nipple (*Lemaine and Simmons, 2012*).



- A. Ducts
 - B. Lobules
 - C. Dilated section of duct to hold milk
 - D. Nipple
 - E. Fat
 - F. Pectoralis major muscle
 - G. Chest wall/rib cage
- Enlargement:
- A. Normal duct cells
 - B. Basement membrane
 - C. Lumen (center of duct)

Fig. (1): Represents Breast profile (*Ellies et al., 1993*).

The nipple and areola

The areola has a round shape varying in size from (3-6cm) in average, situated around the forth rib level. It has sebaceous glands that make projections on its surface that form tubercle of morgana. In the center of the areola emerges a papillary cylindrical formation varying in size from (10-12mm) wide in average by (9-10mm) in height (*Zucca et al., 2016*).