



ΤΜΗΜΑ ΡΑΔΙΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ ΑΚΤΙΝΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ ΤΕΙ ΑΘΗΝΩΝ

στην ογκολογία • ιατρική απεικόνιση • πυρηνική ιατρική

AKTINOΤΕΧΝΟΛΟΓΙΑ

ΤΕΥΧΟΣ 25

Diffusion tensor imaging

Technical considerations and clinical applications

MRS
Ingredients and recipes

CMR for Technologists

**Πανελλήνια
καταγραφή συστημάτων**

Μαγνητικής τομογραφίας
Δημόσιου και Ιδιωτικού τομέα

ISSN 1108 - 7455 ΦΕΚ: 813/Β' 9-5-2008

ΕΞΑΜΗΝΙΑΙΑ ΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΟΝΙΚΗ ΕΚΔΟΣΗ ΤΜΗΜΑΤΟΣ ΡΑΔΙΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ
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Τηλ: 210 6187000
Τιμολόγιο Αποστολής στην Κύπρο: Νοσοκομείο Ltd. εκδ. 00987 20 347347

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Printed in the United States of America
This book is published by Pearson Education, Inc., 501 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02116.
For more information, contact Pearson Education, Inc., 501 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02116.

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ΚΑΛΟΚΑΙΡΙ 2012 • ΤΕΥΧΟΣ 25°

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Η «Ακτινοτεχνολογία» ανοίγει τα φτερά της.

Είχαμε προαναγγείλει στο 23ο τεύχος, για τις επικείμενες μελλοντικές αλλαγές στην δομή και την ποιότητα του μοναδικού επιστημονικού περιοδικού των Τεχνολόγων Ακτινολόγων. Την «Ακτινοτεχνολογία». Η συντακτική ομάδα του περιοδικού, δεν έχει επαναπαυθεί στις «δάφνες», της επί σειράς ετών επιτυχούς έκδοσης του εγκεκριμένου από το ΥΓΚΚΑ επιστημονικού εντύπου, αλλά κοιτάζει πάντα μπροστά θέτοντας ολοένα νέους στόχους. Οι στόχοι μας κατακτώ-

νται ένας προς έναν με πολλή δουλειά, απίστευτη αγωνία και ειλικρινά πολύ κόπο. Όλα όμως ξεχνιούνται όταν κρατάμε στα χέρια μας το κάθε νέο τεύχος, προσφέροντάς μας την ικανοποίηση της κατάκτησης του στόχου και της επιτυχίας. Αυτά τα συναισθήματα άλλωστε αποτελούν την ανταμοιβή μας. Για πρώτη φορά λοιπόν ή έκδοση της «Ακτινοτεχνολογίας» πραγματοποιείται σε άλλη γλώσσα πλην της Ελληνικής. Συγκεκριμένα στην Αγγλική. Αυτό, είναι αποτέλεσμα της για πρώτη φορά στα ελληνικά δρώμενα των Τεχνολόγων Ακτινολόγων, ανάπτυξης συγγραφικής συνεργασίας με συναδέλφους των Ευρωπαϊκών (και ευελπιστούμε όχι μόνο) χωρών. Η επιστημονική δομή του παρόντος τεύχους είναι και πάλι θεματική (MRI) και βασίζεται σε Ευρωπαίους και Έλληνες συνάδελφους εξειδικευμένους στον Μαγνητικό Συντονισμό, με πολυετή εργασιακή εμπειρία στο αντικείμενο. Με το συγκεκριμένο τεύχος σηματοδοτείται το γεγονός ότι η «Ακτινοτεχνολογία» ανοίγει τα φτερά της σε όλη την Ευρώπη. Έτσι έχουν γίνει οι απαραίτητες ενέργειες διανομής της σε όλες τις χώρες - μέλη της ΕΕ. Ιδιαίτερη αναφορά θα πρέπει να γίνει στην προσπάθεια της συναδέλφου κας Μαλαματένιου Χ. (αναπληρώτρια Διευθύντρια σύνταξης), αποτέλεσμα της οποίας είναι το επιστέγασμα της συνεργασίας των Ευρωπαίων συναδέλφων, με προοπτική μια Ευρωπαϊκή «Ακτινοτεχνολογία».

Όπως σε όλες τις πρωτοπόρες προσπάθειες έτσι και στην δική μας, θα παρατηρηθούν ατέλειες στην ομοιομορφία της έκδοσης. Φυσικά η διόρθωση τους είναι θέμα χρόνου και ροής της συνεργασίας, με τους συναδέλφους του εξωτερικού. Σας εύχομαι καλή ανάγνωση.

Γεωργιάδης Κων/νος
Τεχνολόγος Ακτινολόγος
Διευθυντής Σύνταξης

“Aktinotechnologia” spreads its wings

As already announced in the 23rd issue, “Aktinotechnologia”, the only scientific journal of Radiology approved by the Ministry for Health and Social Solidarity, will undergo modifications in structure and quality. Despite the journal's success over the years, the editorial staff has not rest on its laurels. On the contrary, it keeps working towards new goals. Achieving each of our objectives requires a lot of work and time and can be very stressful, but nothing could be more important to us than the satisfaction we derive from a new successful publication. That is our reward.

One of the pursued objectives is finally accomplished; “Aktinotechnologia” is published, for the first time, in another language apart from Greek. In English, that is. This is the result of a European (hopefully international) collaboration among Radiologists Technologists. The content of the current issue is once again about the MRI and is based on data provided by Greek and European colleagues who have expertise in Magnetic Resonance Imaging. Thus, given the fact that distribution is ready to begin, “Aktinotechnologia” spreads its wings all over Europe. Our success is due in large part to Ms. Malamateniou Ch. work –managing editor- who is responsible for this collaboration.

Needless to say, the issue will present some defects which will soon be corrected through co-operative effort. We hope for your understanding until then and wish our journal makes interesting reading.

Georgiadis Konstantinos
Radiologist Technologist
Editor-in-chief

An Overview of Safety Recommendations for Radiographers in the MRI Department

Julie A. Fitzpatrick D.C.R.(R)

Since entering into clinical practice in the 1980's magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) has proliferated worldwide with many millions of examinations carried out each year without incident. There is however, the potential for accidents and injuries for staff, patients and research subjects within the MRI environment, ranging from superficial to catastrophic. Although there are no specific rules to managing and working within an MRI unit there are guidelines issued by several authoritative bodies which form the basis of this article. With strict and careful management, MRI is a powerful imaging tool where diagnosis, response to treatment and research can be performed in a safe environment for both staff and participants. The American College of Radiology (ACR) states in its Guidance Document for Safe MR Practices:2007(2) that 'Trained MR personnel are arguably the single greatest safety resource of MR facilities.' With this in mind, here we shall examine the main hazards associated with the MR environment.



THE STATIC MAGNETIC FIELD (B0)

Biological Effects

Human exposure to static magnetic fields comes from many sources. All humans and other organisms are exposed to the earth's magnetic field which ranges between 0.25-0.65 Gauss (G) across the globe. As technology develops we are exposed to increasing amounts of magnetism, for example, the area under power lines can produce magnetic flux densities in the region of 0.2G.

Three mechanisms have been established whereby static magnetic fields interact with living tissue, magnetic induction, magneto-mechanical and electronic interactions. Although it is beyond the realms of this article to explain these interactions studies have been conducted in an effort to establish the impact on living/biological tissue.

A review of the available literature finds The World Health Organisation (WHO) included in its study Static Fields Environmental Health Criteria Monograph No.232 2006(5) that there are acute cardiovascular responses in some subjects and animal studies. However, the study goes on to state that these responses were "within the range of normal physiology for exposure to static magnetic fields up to 8Tesla (T)". This is corroborated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, who have concluded that clinical MR systems using static magnetic fields up to 8.0T are considered a "non-significant risk" for adult patients.(9) The International Commission on Non-Ionising Radiation Protection(ICNIRP) in its 2009 Guidelines on Limits of Exposure to Static Magnetic Fields(4) conclusions regarding the static field are: 'The literature does not indicate any serious adverse health effects from the whole-body exposure of healthy human subjects up to 8 T.'

However, it is reported that physical movement within a static field gradient has the potential to induce sensations of vertigo and nausea, and sometimes phosphenes and a metallic taste in the mouth.(1) These effects are transient but have the potential to adversely affect people and could affect the performance of staff. WHO states that 'Effects on other physiological responses have been reported, but it is difficult to reach any firm conclusion without independent replication.'(5). The ICNIRP Protection Statement on Medical Magnetic Resonance(MR) Procedures: Protection of Patients 2004 conclusions regarding the static field are: 'The literature does not indicate any serious adverse health effects from the whole body exposure of healthy human subjects up to 8 T. However, it should be noted that, to date, there have been no epidemiological studies performed to assess possible long-term health effects in patients, workers, or volunteers. It is important that such research be carried out, particularly on individuals such as workers and volunteers with high levels of exposure.'(3)

Projectile and Attractive Force

An attractive force will be exerted on any ferrous magnetic objects within the static magnetic field and its associated fringe fields. This can and will produce a projectile effect and is a serious concern in all MRI Units. Unsecured metallic objects can reach considerable velocities and it is extremely unfortunate that our industry has suffered death and serious injury because of this phenomena. A robust method of screening of personnel and appropriate control of the MR environment should be established and adhered to. No equipment needed to enter the MRI controlled area should contain significant amounts of ferromagnetic material and a robust method of testing and labeling of all equipment should be established.

TIME VARYING (GRADIENT) MAGNETIC FIELDS(dB/dt)

In order to select an area of interest and spatially encode the MR signal three orthogonal magnetic field gradients are rapidly switched on and off during image acquisition. As a general rule the faster the sequence being run, the greater the rate of change of the gradient fields and this rate of change is indicated by the slew rate which is measured in mT/m/ms.

Biological Effects

When subjected to time varying electromagnetic fields conductive human tissue may have electrical fields and circulating currents induced with it. This phenomena may lead to interference with normal function of nerve cells and muscle fibers, manifesting as peripheral nerve stimulation (PNS) and more worryingly, possible ventricular fibrillation (VF). Reassuringly though all scanners operating within International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) limits will prevent the threshold for inducing VF being reached.(6)

PNS can be uncomfortable and cause limb movement/twitching. Patients and volunteers undergoing MRI scanning vary in their sensitivity to induced currents and therefore it is difficult to pinpoint those who are susceptible.

Acoustic Noise

The switching gradients during the acquisition of an MR image

results in acoustic noise being produced due to forces being exerted on the gradient coils and the production of sound waves. Noise levels can reach uncomfortable and even dangerous levels where hearing will be affected either temporarily or permanently depending on the level and frequency of exposure. The ICNIRP recommends hearing protection should be offered if noise levels exceed 80dB and mandatory if noise levels exceed 85dB (3). The IEC however, state that hearing protection is required above 99dB (6).

RADIO-FREQUENCY MAGNETIC FIELDS(B1)

Biological Effects

The use of radio-frequency (RF) fields during MR image acquisition results in power being deposited in the tissues. At all frequencies, power is deposited in the tissues however; heating effects predominate above 0.1MHz. MRI does in fact operate above this level as demonstrated in the following table, taken from the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Authority: Safety Guidelines for Magnetic Resonance Imaging Equipment in Clinical Use - DB 2007(03) (1)

Typical field strengths and RF transmit frequencies for MR systems

Field Strength (T)	Transmit Frequency (MHz)
0.2	8.5
0.5	21
1.0	42
1.5	63
3.0	126

This absorption of energy leads to the increased oscillation of molecules and manifests as tissue heating. To compensate the blood vessels will dilate allowing increased blood flow and excess heat is dissipated mainly through the skin. A rise of 1°C is tolerated well by a healthy person (3) but some groups are more sensitive and heat stress is a concern. Included in this group are pregnant women and those using diuretics and vasodilators.

The ICNIRP advises 'With regard to localised heating, it seems reasonable to assume that adverse effects will be avoided with a reasonable certainty if temperatures in localised regions of the head are less than 38°C, of the trunk less than 39°C, and in the limbs less than 40°C.'(3)

The rate at which heat will be dissipated is dependent on the ambient temperature, air flow, clothing and room humidity. Therefore, it is an option to monitor the scanning room temperature and humidity with suitable devices and keep these within set limits.

Burns

Divided into contact and current burns, these occur when RF induces currents in conductive substances and raises the temperature significantly. Examples are coils and their leads, monitoring



equipment, metal contained in clothing etc. Additionally, burns can occur where there is skin-to-skin contact and a conductive loop is formed. Burns are entirely avoidable if correct placement of all equipment is maintained and the patient/participant is positioned correctly. Maintain visual and verbal contact and ensure that the patient has the alarm bell and they understand how to use it. Here we have an example of very poor positioning of both patient and equipment. Note the conductive loop created by the hands being joined. The coil is unsecured; its wires are twisted and run across bare skin. Close inspection reveals that the subject is still wearing a bracelet, which could act as a projectile and heat up during scanning- or both!

CRYOGENS

Modern MRI scanners use superconducting magnets, which are created by immersing the magnet windings into a bath of liquid helium thus cooling the material where it changes from its normal resistive state into a superconductor. A jacket of liquid nitrogen may surround this to prevent helium boil off. In normal use, these liquid gases pose no threat providing adequate care has been taken to correctly position and maintain the quench pipe. Often the responsibility of the institutes' maintenance department the quench pipe should be arranged so that it cannot become blocked with debris or ice.

The MHRA reminds us that the quench pipe should open into a suitable area where the gases can be easily expelled without harm to persons or equipment. (1) Here we see an example of signage at the sight where the quench pipe vents.

In the event of a system quench, all personnel should immediately evacuate the area and the sight should be secured. Should helium or nitrogen be vented into the MR environment, which would take the form of visible white clouds or fog, the atmosphere may become deficient in oxygen and the MHRA(1) warns that atmospheres containing less than 18% oxygen are potentially dangerous and should not be entered. It would therefore seem sensible to use oxygen monitors situated in the scanning room which is recommended by the MHRA (1). The ACR rejects the use of oxygen monitors as it states that they cannot be relied upon to be accurate during power outages.(2)



MANAGEMENT OF HAZARDS

Research and technology are continually evolving so it is essential for Radiographers continue to keep abreast of current best practice and embrace an attitude of ongoing education. The ACR Guidance Document for Safe MR Practice: 2007, states 'Establish, implement and maintain current MR safety policies and procedures' (2) and in the UK the MHRA DB2007(03) includes the importance of 'joint understanding of the responsibilities of management and the responsibilities of individuals.' (1) Ultimately, the chief executive or general manager of the institution where the MR facility is situated must assume overall responsibility for the safe use of the facility. However, the day-to-day running is delegated to an appropriately trained and experienced staff member who assumes the role of MR Responsible Person. It is the MR responsible person who must ensure that policies and procedures are implemented by all staff at all times. In the UK all policies and procedures, including emergency procedure, working and operating instructions etc are written into a document referred to as the local rules and issued to all personnel who have access to the MR facility. These local rules are reviewed and updated on an annual basis. Bearing in mind that there will often be a wide range of staff of varying abilities within the MR facility, staff training is essential. Levels of training should be defined, documented, reviewed and updated regularly



and it is useful to categorize personnel based on their training and experience. Both the ACR and MHRA(1,2) recommend the use of named categories to differentiate staff and therefore define their duties and access to equipment, the former favouring the use of the terms level 1 and 2 while the latter uses three categories, A, B and C.(1,2)

Both bodies also include in their guidelines the importance of defining zones/areas within the MR facility and controlling who has access to each defined zone/area. The zone/area is defined by the magnet field strength in that area and proximity to the MR scanner. Typically, it is the 5G line which defines where only

persons who have been adequately screened are safe to cross.

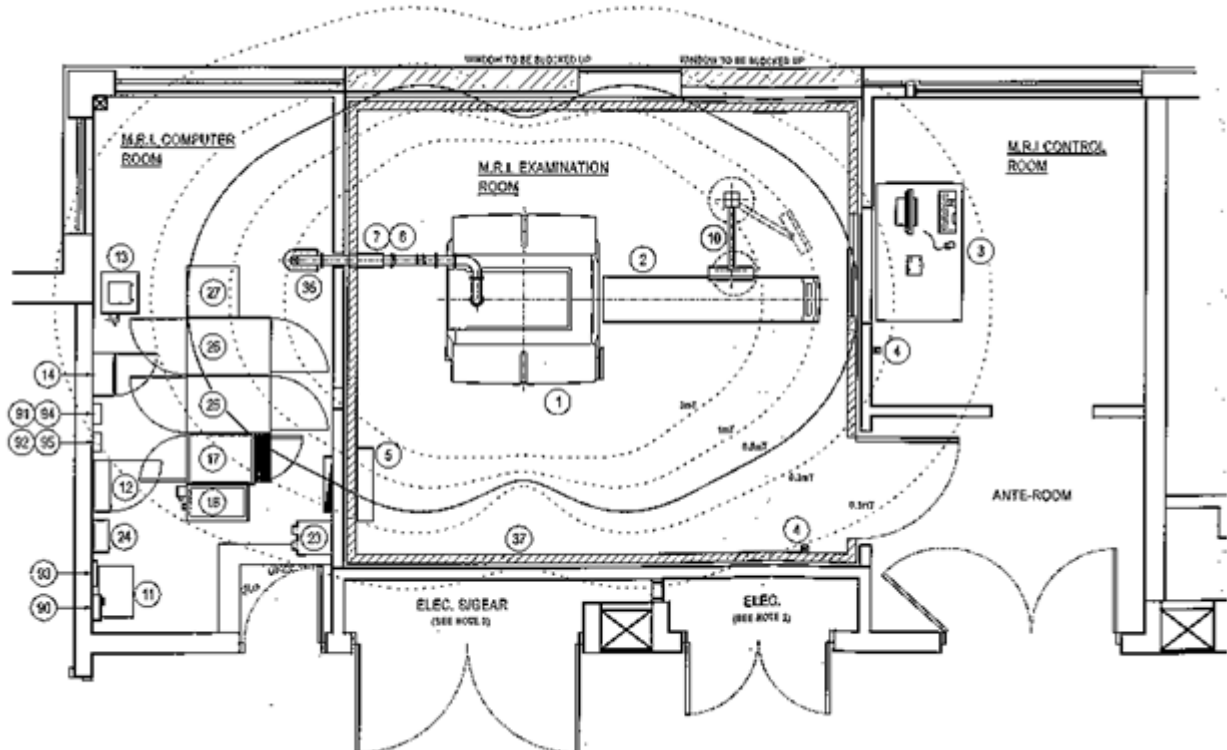
MR personnel as defined by the local rules should always supervise the controlled area and maintain visual contact.

Floor markings are useful to define the designated areas within the MR facility; however, it is important to be mindful of the fact that magnetic fields are three dimensional. The 5G line may project beyond the confines of the walls, ceiling and floor of the scanner room and regardless of whether these areas are regularly occupied or not i.e. cupboard or roof space, access should be restricted.

Here, we see an example of a typical floor plan and gauss line map for a clinical scanner with an example of how the 5G line extends beyond the scan room into the equipment room.

Non-MR Personnel should always undergo rigorous screening before being allowed to enter the controlled area beyond the 5G line. A questionnaire, which is filled in by everyone, should be signed and checked by MR personnel before permission to enter the controlled area is granted. Suitable questionnaires can be downloaded from websites including MRIsafety.com and British Association of Magnetic Resonance Radiographers (BAMRR). MRIsafety.com is also a valuable resource with regards to assessing the safety of implanted metallic devices and Radiographers worldwide rely on 'the list' to determine the safety of implants for their patients.

Equipment that is needed in the controlled area should be subjected to similar scrutiny and the MHRA(1) recommends that the MR responsible person ensures that a policy is in place for the purchase and testing of such equipment. Ambiguous labeling of equipment



in the past lead ASTM International to publish an international standard F2503-05. The standard provides simple, visual icons and terms and a uniform system for marking to indicate the MR conditions that have been determined to be acceptable for a medical device or other item in the MR environment.(8)



MR SAFE

An object which poses no known hazard in all MR environments



MR CONDITIONAL

'an item which has been demonstrated to pose no known hazards in a specified MR environment with specified conditions of use. Field conditions that define the specified MR environment include field strength, spatial gradient, dB/dt (time rate of change of the magnetic field), radio frequency (RF) fields, and specific absorption rate (SAR). Additional conditions, including specific configurations of the item, may be required.'



«Reprinted, with permission, from ASTM F2503-08 Standard Practice for Marking Medical Devices and Other Items for Safety in the Magnetic Resonance Environment, copyright ASTM International, 100 Barr Harbor Drive, West Conshohocken, PA 19428. A copy of the complete standard may be obtained from ASTM International, www.astm.org.»



MR UNSAFE

'an item which is known to pose hazards in all MR environments.'



It is possible the ASTM markings are used in black and white, but colour is recommended to aid visibility. (8)



Although 1.5T is a common field strength utilised in MRI increasingly higher strength magnets are being installed i.e. 3T and above. All personnel must be mindful when moving between magnet strengths. The 5G line and fringe fields will differ between scanners and never assume equipment is safe unless it is documented in writing and clearly labelled with the field strength compatibility.

Pregnancy

During pregnancy, the decision to scan should be taken on a case-by-case basis. The clinical benefit of undergoing MRI must outweigh any risks and the diagnostic information captured, not obtainable by other means i.e. ultrasound. When deciding to scan, the information obtained during the MRI scan should alter patient management during the current pregnancy and that it would not be prudent to wait. The ACR state that 'present data have not conclusively documented any deleterious effects of MR imaging

on the developing foetus.' Nevertheless, it goes on to recommend that 'it is prudent to screen women of reproductive age...prior to permitting them access to the MR environment.'(2) Excess heating is a plausible teratogen (3) and so RF exposure should be kept to a minimum, the scanner only operating in normal mode. The acoustic noise created by the switching gradients has raised concerns with regards to its effects on the development of fetal hearing and possible hearing loss.(1) Although there is a lack of firm evidence the US Environmental Protection Agency, recommends a noise level exceeding 45 dB is best avoided. (10)

It is not yet established how exposure to gadolinium based contrast agents affect the foetus and thus should not be administered without a careful risk assessment and full informed consent from the patient.(2)

In conclusion the MHRA recommendations are that 'Whenever the decision to proceed with the examination is taken, the scan should be carried out using a sequence that finds an optimal solution of minimising the RF and noise exposure.'(1)

Neonates and Children

Neonates and young children should be considered to be a vulnerable group in the MR environment and need special consideration. As discussed earlier heat stress is possible when undergoing MR scanning babies and children are particularly susceptible, however the air temperature in the MRI environment is often kept cool to aid heat dissipation in adults. Therefore thought should be given to the fact that this may be unsuitable for neonates and children. As children form the largest group undergoing sedation and anesthesia in the MRI Unit and cannot always effectively communicate the ACR recommends monitoring should be used to ensure the infant remains stable during the examination.(2)

Children's toys, blankets, pillows and comforting items should be discouraged and each MRI Unit should have suitable bedding and gowns/babygowns available for the purpose of paediatric scanning.

(2) But, if necessary to ensure a successful examination a robust method of testing with a hand held magnet should be employed.

(1) Any accompanying persons need to undergo the same rigorous screening allied to all before being allowed to enter the controlled area. In order to maintain safety when exposed to noise suitable hearing protection for babies and children will need to be employed. MRI Units with experience of scanning paediatrics use dental putty, mini muffs and children's smaller size headphones. Covered foam pads used in line with infection control policy, can act as an immobilization device as well as offering extra noise attenuation when placed around the head of a baby or child.

Older children and teenagers are notoriously poor historians and thus should always undergo questioning with a parent or guardian and again separately, to ensure all information is correct. Bearing this in mind it is worth considering changing all children and teenagers into gowns in order to undergo scanning.

Cardiac Pacemakers

Until recently, it has been considered an absolute contraindication to scan a person who has been fitted with a cardiac pacemaker as patient deaths have been reported during exposure to static

magnetic fields and time varying magnetic fields.(1) This has meant that a proportion of the population has been excluded from the diagnostic power of MR Imaging, leading manufacturers to pursue the production of a MR pacing system that could enter the MR controlled area and undergo imaging. In 2010, Medtronic introduced the Surescan pacing system that under specific conditions can allow the patient to undergo MR imaging safely. It must be noted that the Surescan is MR conditional and the Radiographer must be satisfied that all conditions are adhered to in order to perform an examination without incident. Centre's with experience who have published their experiences agree that a robust protocol needs to be devised and followed.(11,12) The Medtronic website states the criteria that must be met and specifies the flow of the referral and procedure.

Contrast media

Despite MRI demonstrating superior soft tissue contrast when compared to other imaging modalities the administration of contrast media is sometimes necessary. A variety of contrast media exist and modes of administration include either oral or intravascular. By far the most common is gadolinium, a rare earth metal. Since gadolinium is highly toxic it is administered in a form where it is held in a chelate in an aqueous solution. In the UK Radiographers with appropriate training are permitted to administer contrast media and should do so in line with the local rules and departmental protocols. Documentation of the administration of contrast media should always be kept and in a form which can be retrieved easily if required.

Nephrogenic systemic fibrosis (NSF), or sometimes known as Nephrogenic fibrosing dermopathy (NFD) is a rare and serious condition first described in 1987 and only occurring in patients with advanced kidney dysfunction. NSF is also thought to be a risk in patients who are waiting for or who have had a liver transplant and in neonates whose kidneys have not fully developed. In 2006 an association was made with the administration of gadolinium in an influential study (16) and was soon followed by further studies and case reports supporting the association.(17) Although a causal link has not been fully established several theories have been proposed. Since there have been no cases of NSF in anyone with normal kidney function, kidney impairment is thought to be a factor as contrast agent is cleared via the kidneys and the rate of excretion is much slower in patients with impaired kidney function.

The European Medicines Agency (EMA) Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use (CHMP) has classified gadolinium containing contrast media into three groups depending on their risk classification. Consideration has been given in the

recommendations to patients at risk of NSF, in patients with renal impairment, perioperative liver transplant period, use in neonates and infants, and the elderly along with use during pregnancy and lactation. (15) Full details can be found on both the MHRA and EMA websites.

European Union Physical Agents Directive (EU PAD)

In 2004 the European Commission approved the EU Physical Agents (Electromagnetic Fields) Directive 2004/40/EC, with the intended implementation date of 30th April 2008. The directive was designed to protect staff that are exposed to electromagnetic fields and limit that exposure to recommendations published by the International Committee on Non-Ionising Radiation Protection (ICNIRP). The impact of implementing the Directive would be to restrict interventional procedures, delivery of patient care during general anaesthetic or for vulnerable patients and staff adjusting or monitoring equipment, any procedure that involved staff being close to the scanner during image acquisition.

Following reaction from interested and affected parties who felt that it was important not to introduce over-precautionary safety regulations, an amended Directive was adopted in 2008 that delayed its implementation for a further four years until 2012. This was to allow time for further research and consultation into exposure to EMF and its impact on MRI in both clinical practice and research.(13,14)

A new draft to the Directive, with substantial amendments to the original has been proposed. New ICNIRP figures based on additional research have been adopted and MRI has been excluded from the numerical exposure limits though not entirely from the full scope of the Directive. Some member states oppose the exemption of MRI, and at the time of writing it appears unlikely that agreement will be reached before the 30th April 2012 deadline. So, the EU is now proposing to delay the directive implementation further still.

Conclusion

In this article, I have attempted to give an overview of the hazards of working in an MRI unit. It is by no means exhaustive and I would encourage all readers to make use of the resources available and continue to be aware of updates and changes to recommendations. Arm yourself with relevant and robust information, stand firm and never become complacent about safety.

Useful Websites

<http://www.mrisafety.com/>

<http://bamrr.org>

<http://www.medtronic>



Julie Anne Fitzpatrick

British born Julie Anne Fitzpatrick qualified as a Diagnostic Radiographer in 1993, having studied at Southampton School of Radiography. She immediately started her first post as a Basic Grade Radiographer at what was then Queen Mary's University Hospital, south west London. A busy District General Hospital, Julie quickly gained a wealth of experience in the busy X-Ray Department. With the introduction of an on-call C.T. Service, Julie began her involvement in cross sectional imaging.

In 1998, Julie moved to the Cromwell Hospital in Central London to take up a post as a Senior Radiographer in the Cross-Sectional Imaging Department. Here she continued her work in C.T. Scanning and also start gaining experience in MRI, undertaking a Certificate in MRI from South Bank University. Julie worked her way up to the position of Department Superintendent, taking on the responsibility of running the C.T. Scanner and two MRI's, an open and conventional system. In 2003, Julie took up a post at the Medical Research Council based on her wide ranging experience in MRI. Continuing with a broad range of scanning, she was asked to set up a neonatal cardiac protocol and performed the first successful scans on the dedicated neonatal scanner at Queen Charlottes Hospital.

In 2007 Julie moved to Imperial College, continuing in research, and employed specifically to perform MRI scanning in liver disease and body composition. In this role she has gained experience of spectroscopy, both proton and phosphorous and has translated previous work using multiecho techniques into measuring fat in the pancreas. As part of her role Julie now travels between collaborating centres to set up and teach the MR techniques used in body composition and fat imaging.

Julie lives in central London with her Husband.

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Απεικόνιση σε υψηλά στατικά μαγνητικά πεδία, τεχνολογικά και κλινικά πλεονεκτήματα

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Η απεικόνιση με μαγνητική τομογραφία (MT) στα υψηλά μαγνητικά πεδία παρέχει υψηλότερο λόγο σήματος προς θόρυβο (Signal to Noise Ratio – SNR) σε σύγκριση με την MT στα χαμηλά μαγνητικά πεδία. Στην πράξη το αυξημένο SNR μπορεί να χρησιμοποιηθεί για πιο ευδιάκριτες εικόνες, καλύτερη χωρική διακριτική ικανότητας και να μειώσουμε τον χρόνο εξέτασης. Τα οφέλη της MT στα 3T στην απεικόνιση του Κεντρικού Νευρικού Συστήματος -ΚΝΣ είναι πολύ σημαντικά και από τα πρώτα που έχουν εφαρμοστεί στην κλινική πράξη. Επιπλέον, έχει παρατηρηθεί ότι η απεικόνιση της κοιλίας και της καρδιάς σε υψηλό μαγνητικό πεδίο σε συνδυασμό με την τεχνική παράλληλης απεικόνισης (ΠΑ) μειώνουν τον χρόνο σάρωσης και τα τεχνικά σφάλματα κίνησης (motion artifact) με αποτέλεσμα την καλύτερη ποιότητα εικόνας σε σύγκριση με την απεικόνιση χαμηλότερου μαγνητικού πεδίου. Στα υψηλά μαγνητικά πεδία τα φαινόμενα μαγνητικής επιδεκτικότητας είναι αυξημένα όπως και ο T1 χρόνος χαλάρωσης. Το πρώτο βελτιώνει την ευαισθησία στην ανάδειξη των αιμορραγιών, καλύτερες εικόνες perfusion και λειτουργικές εικόνες (faccional images) ενώ το δεύτερο έχει αξιοποιηθεί για να επιτευχθούν υψηλής ποιότητας αγγειογραφιών με τεχνικές time-of-flight και βελτιωμένη απεικόνιση σε εικόνες T1 με ενδοφλέβια έγχυση ουσιών αντίθεσης.

High field magnetic resonance (MR) imaging provides better SNR compared to low field. In practice the increased SNR is used for clearer images, better resolution and faster scans. The benefits of 3T MR imaging in the depiction of CNS are very important. Moreover it has been noticed that the body and cardiac high field imaging combined with parallel imaging techniques reduces scan time exam and resultant motion artifacts resulting in higher image quality compared to low field. The high field MRI has increased susceptibility effect and prolonged T1 relaxation time. The first improves the sensitivity to the presence of haemorrhages, and produces better perfusion and factional images while the second has been exploited to succeed time-of-flight MRA angiographies and T1 contrast-enhanced imaging.

Λέξεις κλειδιά:
MT, 3T.

Key words:
MRI, 3T.

ΕΙΣΑΓΩΓΗ

Ο αριθμός των συστημάτων μαγνητικής τομογραφίας υψηλών πεδίων 3T αυξάνεται συνεχώς. Το ίδιο ισχύει και για τον αριθμό των κλινικών εφαρμογών της μαγνητικής τομογραφίας σε υψηλά μαγνητικά πεδία. Η μαγνητική τομογραφία σε υψηλά μαγνητικά πεδία, σε συνδυασμό με τα πηνία επιφανείας, τις σύγχρονες ακολουθίες και τεχνικές είναι ελπιδοφόρα για το μέλλον. Συνεπώς, κάθε Τεχνολόγος Ακτινολόγος θα πρέπει να είναι εξοικειωμένος με το υψηλότερο επίπεδο τεχνολογίας και την ορθή εφαρμογή του. Η πρώτη διδιάστατη εικόνα πυκνότητας πρωτονίων για ιατρική χρήση πραγματοποιήθηκε μόλις το 1973. Αρχικά, τα πρώτα συστήματα MT λειτουργούσαν σε δυνάμεις μαγνητικού πεδίου ισχύος 0,6 Tesla και υπήρχε αμφιβολία κατά πόσο θα ήταν εφικτή η απεικόνιση με πιο ισχυρούς μαγνήτες και ειδικά για ολόσωμες απεικονιστικές ανάγκες, εκτός του εγκεφάλου. Κατά τη διάρκεια της επόμενης δεκαετίας, όμως, εισήχθησαν ισχυρότερα συστήματα MT και μέσα από την τεχνολογική εξέλιξη, οι μαγνητικοί τομογράφοι που λειτουργούν στα 1,5T να αποτελούν τη τρέχουσα μέθοδο εκλογής (gold standard) στην κλινική πρακτική. Ωστόσο, η ταχεία ανάπτυξη στον σχεδιασμό μαγνητών και βαθμιδωτών πεδίων οδήγησε τα τελευταία χρόνια σε συστήματα μαγνητικών πεδίων μεγαλύτερης ισχύος, 3T. Παράλληλα, εκτιμάται πως το πεδίο των 3T θα αποτελέσει στο μέλλον το νέο κλινικό gold standard για τις μεθόδους του μαγνητικού συντονισμού.

ΠΛΕΟΝΕΚΤΗΜΑΤΑ

Το κύριο πλεονέκτημα είναι το αυξημένο SNR. Η μαγνητική τομογραφία (MT)

στα υψηλά μαγνητικά πεδία παρέχει καλύτερο λόγο σήματος προς θόρυβο (Signal to Noise Ratio – SNR) σε σχέση με τα χαμηλά μαγνητικά πεδία. Το αυξημένο SNR μπορεί να επενδυθεί σε μείωση του χρόνου απόκτησης, αυξημένη χωρική ανάλυση (βοηθά στην αναγνώριση και διάγνωση μικρών μορφολογικών αλλαγών και μικρών βλαβών) ή ένα συνδυασμό αυτών. Υψηλά μαγνητικά πεδία σε συνδυασμό με τεχνικές ΠΑ μειώνουν τον χρόνο σάρωσης και τα τεχνικά σφάλματα κίνησης με αποτέλεσμα καλύτερη ποιότητα εικόνας.1-4

Ακόμη, η μεταπτωτική συχνότητα διαφέρει μεταξύ των πρωτονίων λίπους και των πρωτονίων του νερού, διότι διπλασιάζεται στα 3T σε σχέση με το 1.5T. 1,2 Επομένως, μπορούμε να έχουμε καλύτερη χημική καταστολή του λίπους, φασματοσκοπία, μαγνητική φλεβογραφία (Phase Contrast-PC) και ακολουθίες σε αντίθεση φάσης (opposed-phase) και σε φάση (in-phase). Τέλος, η κινητικότητα δύναμη για την απεικόνιση υψηλού τομέα είναι η αυξημένη ευαισθησία στην δεοξυαιμοσφαιρίνη η οποία προκαλεί σφάλματα επιδεκτικότητας, που βελτιώνει την λειτουργική απεικόνιση (functional images-MRI).

ΜΕΙΟΝΕΚΤΗΜΑΤΑ

Από την άλλη πλευρά, υπάρχουν και μερικά σοβαρά μειονεκτήματα στην απεικόνιση στα 3T:

-ανομοιογένειες πεδίου, -περιορισμούς στα επίπεδα του ειδικού ρυθμό απορρόφησης (Specific Absorption Rate-SAR), παρατεταμένος T1 χρόνος χαλάρωσης, περισσότερα τεχνικά σφάλματα χημικής μετατόπισης (Chemical Shift artifacts) και τεχνικά σφάλματα μαγνητικής επιδεκτικότητας (susceptibility artifacts). 1,4,5 Στην κλινική πράξη όμως μπορούμε να μετατρέψουμε: τον παρατεταμένο χρόνο χαλάρωσης T1, την αυξημένη χημική μετατόπιση και αυξημένη μαγνητική επιδεκτικότητα σε πλεονεκτήματα σε συγκεκριμένες εφαρμογές.

ΒΑΘΜΙΩΤΑ ΠΗΝΙΑ

Για να διαχειριστούμε το μαγνητικό πεδίο τοπικά με σκοπό να προετοιμάσουμε μία επιλεκτική τομή διέγερσης ή την χωρική κατανομή του MR σήματος, ένας ελικοειδής σχηματισμός εισάγεται μέσα τον μαγνήτη. Το ρεύμα που στέλνεται μέσω αυτών των σχηματισμών μειώνει το πεδίο στο ένα άκρο και ενισχύει το πεδίο στο άλλο άκρο για τον καθορισμό της κατεύθυνσης από τον χρήστη. Υπάρχουν τρεις φυσικές κατευθύνσεις των βαθμιδωτών πηνίων (χ , ψ και ζ) αλλά μπορούν και να συνδυαστούν για να παράγουν ένα γραμμικό μαγνητικό πεδίο σε κάθε κατεύθυνση. Υπάρχουν επιπρόσθετες μηχανικές (Lorentz) δυνάμεις στο βαθμιδωτό σύστημα για την επίτευξη ενός ισχυρότερου μαγνητικού πεδίου. Επειδή τα 3T παρουσιάζουν ένα ισχυρότερο μαγνητικό πεδίο σε σχέση με το 1.5T, αναμένουμε ότι το σύστημα 3T θα παράγει περισσότερο ηχητικό θόρυβο.

Είναι μεγάλο πλεονέκτημα να έχουμε το πηνίο δέκτη όσο πιο κοντά είναι δυνατόν στην πηγή του σήματος μας αυξάνει το SNR. Αυτό επιτυγχάνεται με τα πηνία επιφανείας, (πηνία λήψης), που τοποθετούνται στην επιφάνεια του σώματος του ασθενούς. Ο όρος μήτρα απεικόνισης έχει δημιουργηθεί για να περιγράψει

έναν μεγάλο αριθμό των στοιχείων του πηνίου, καλύπτοντας μια συγκεκριμένη ανατομική περιοχή, με την εισαγωγή πολλαπλών ξεχωριστών καναλιών ραδοσυχνότητας RF λήψης. Έχει αποδειχθεί ότι κατασκευάζοντας πηνία μικρών διαστάσεων έχουμε ένα μεγάλο κέρδος στο SNR. Τα πολλαπλά μικρά πηνία, εξασφαλίζουν μια αποτελεσματική κάλυψη ακόμη και μεγάλων ανατομικών περιοχών και η χωρική κατανομή των στοιχείων από τα πηνία, μπορεί να χρησιμοποιηθεί για να ανακτηθεί η χωρική πληροφορία, επιτρέποντας έτσι μείωση του αριθμού των γραμμών του K-χώρου χωρίς να μειώνεται η χωρική διακριτική ικανότητα. Τελικά μειώνεται ο χρόνος απόκτησης δεδομένων ενώ διατηρείται η χωρική διακριτική ικανότητα και μειώνεται ο λόγος σήματος προς θόρυβο. Στα υψηλά μαγνητικά πεδία επειδή υπάρχει αυξημένος λόγος σήματος προς θόρυβο μας παρέχεται το πλεονέκτημα του μειωμένου χρόνου σάρωσης όταν εφαρμόζεται παράλληλη απεικόνιση. Καθ' ότι τα στοιχεία των πηνίων ή της μήτρας υπολογίζουν το σήμα παράλληλα το ένα με το άλλο, ο όρος παράλληλη απεικόνιση έχει καθιερωθεί. Επίσης με την παράλληλη απεικόνιση έχουμε καλύτερη διακριτική ικανότητα καθώς όλα αυτά τα πηνία μετρούν το σήμα την ίδια στιγμή. 6

SNR ΚΑΙ Κ-ΧΩΡΟΣ

Με την αύξηση του μαγνητικού πεδίου, δεν είναι μόνο η ενεργειακή διαφορά ανάμεσα στα παράλληλα και τα αντιπαράλληλα ευθυγραμμισμένα πρωτόνια (Spin) που αυξάνεται αλλά και η διαφορά στον αριθμό των πρωτονίων που πρόκειται να μετακινηθούν σε ένα υψηλότερο επίπεδο και μετά θα πέσουν - επιστρέψουν στην παλιά τους θέση ενώ θα εκπέμπουν ένα δυνατό σήμα. Το κέρδος στο σήμα είναι ανάλογο με την αύξηση της έντασης του πεδίου. Αυτό το κέρδος μπορεί να χρησιμοποιηθεί είτε για να μειώσουμε τον χρόνο σάρωσης είτε για να αυξήσουμε την χωρική διακριτική ικανότητα με την προσέγγιση της τεχνικής της παράλληλης απεικόνισης.

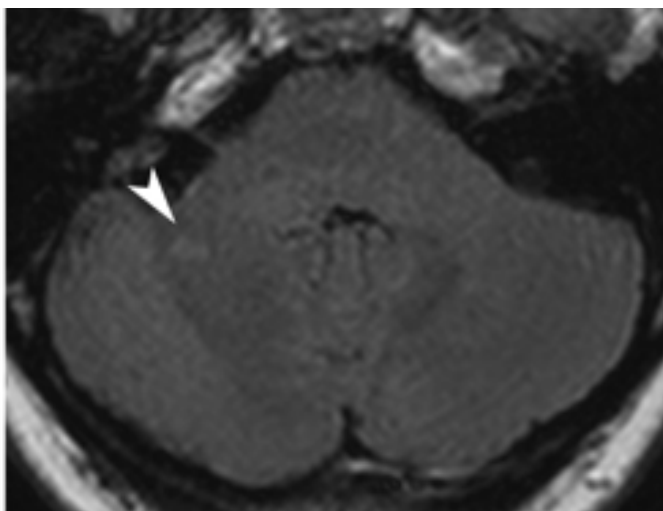
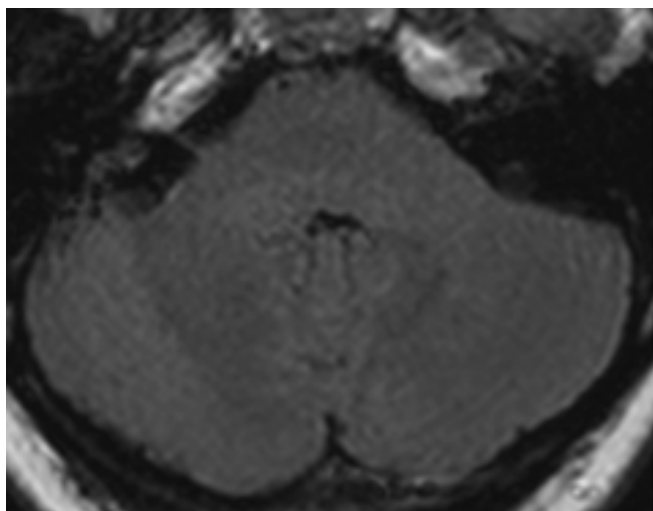
Ο χρόνος σάρωσης εξαρτάται από τις γραμμές του κ-χώρου και μπορεί να μειωθεί, μειώνοντας τον αριθμό των γραμμών αυτών. Επομένως, μειώνοντας τον χρόνο σάρωσης, αυξάνεται το SNR, όπου παρόλα αυτά μειώνεται και η χωρική διακριτική ικανότητα στο άξονα κωδικοποίησης φάσης. Επομένως, προκαλούνται περισσότερα τεχνικά σφάλματα αναδίπλωσης. Καθώς αυξάνεται ο αριθμός των γραμμών, ενώ διατηρείται η αντίθεση και η χωρική διακριτική ικανότητα, έχουμε το φαινόμενο της υπερδειγματοληψίας της φάσεως (αύξηση συλλογής δεδομένων στον άξονα της φάσης), το οποίο εξαλείφει τα σφάλματα αναδιπλάσιμου και οδηγεί σε καλύτερο SNR, παρά τον μειωμένο χρόνο σάρωσης. Άρα αυξάνεται το μετρούμενο πεδίο απεικόνισης (FOV) χωρίς να επηρεάσει το πραγματικό πεδίο απεικόνισης. Όπως κάθε γραμμή Fourier συμβάλλει στο συνολικό SNR, η υπερδειγματοληψία φάσης όχι μόνο θα περιορίσει τα σφάλματα αναδιπλάσιμου αλλά θα οδηγήσει σε αύξηση του SNR.

Το πλεονέκτημα της συμμετρίας του κ-χώρου, οδηγεί στη μείωση του χρόνου σάρωσης, με κόστος στο SNR. Επειδή κάθε μετρούμενη γραμμή κωδικοποίησης φάσης συμβάλλει στο SNR, και αυτές οι γραμμές τώρα μειώνονται στο μισό, θα υπάρξει μείωση του SNR και το κόστος του SNR θα είναι $1/\sqrt{2} = 0.71$. Για παράδειγμα, σε εικόνα που αποκτήθηκε χρησιμοποιώντας μήτρα 512 και χωρική Fourier απεικόνιση, πετυχαίνουμε ένα χρόνο σάρωσης 1:44



Σύγκριση μεταξύ εικόνων MR (A) σε 1.5T και (B) σε 3T. Σημειώνεται υψηλότερη χωρική ανάλυση στα 3T (B) κατά 1/3 λιγότερο χρόνο σάρωσης.⁷

λεπτά. Ενώ, για εικόνα που αποκτήθηκε σε χρόνο 1:07 λεπτά, χρησιμοποιήθηκε μία μικρότερη ασύμμετρου μεγέθους μήτρα 211x512. Στη δεύτερη περίπτωση το SNR βελτιώνεται, εξαιτίας της προσφοράς της χωρικής διακριτικής ικανότητας, σε μικρότερο χρόνο σάρωσης.



Σύγκριση T2 FLAIR εικόνας σε γυναίκα ασθενή 31 ετών, που παρουσιάζει οπτική νευρίτιδα. Μεγαλύτερη ευαισθησία στην ανίχνευση μίας φλεγμονώδους βλάβης του εγκεφάλου στα 3T (εικόνα στα δεξιά) σε σχέση με 1.5T (εικόνα στα αριστερά), με την βλάβη να εντοπίζεται μόνο στην εικόνα στα 3T, αλλά όχι στην εικόνα με 1.5T (κεφαλή βλάβης).⁸

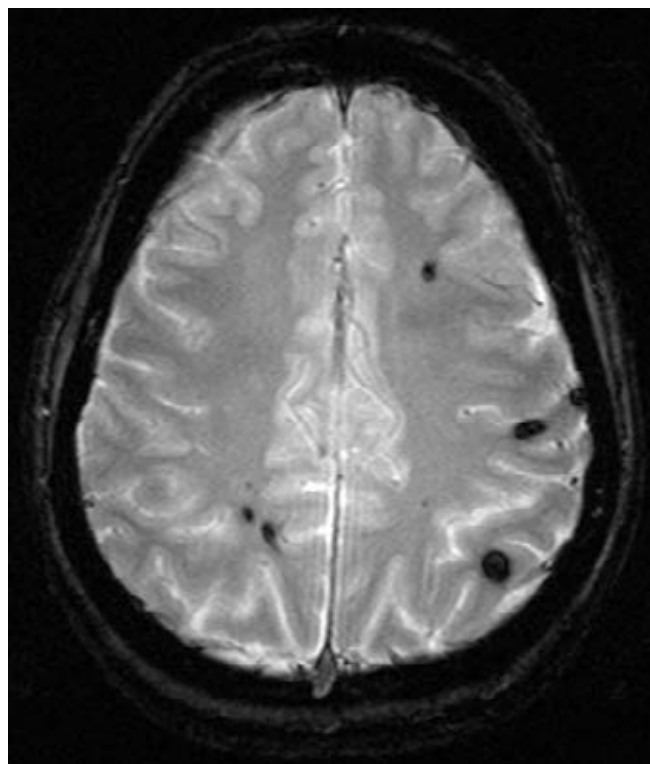
Για την αναγνώριση της περιοχής του σήματος, βαθμιδωτά πεδία χρησιμοποιούνται για να προκαλέσουν έναν τοπικό περιορισμό στις συχνότητες Larmor. Είναι υποχρεωτικό για τον χρήστη να διαλέξει την διαφορά στην συχνότητα μεταξύ παρακείμενων ογκοστοιχείων. Αυτή η διαφορά ονομάζεται εύρος συχνοτήτων (Bandwidth). Διαφορετικές συχνότητες διακόπτονται με ένα φίλτρο και μόνο ο θόρυβος της συχνότητας εντός του εύρους συχνοτήτων θα συμβάλει στο συνολικό επίπεδο θορύβου. Ο θόρυβος της εικόνας μειώνεται χρησιμοποιώντας ένα χαμηλό bandwidth πρωτόκολλο. Ο θόρυβος είναι ανάλογος του \sqrt{N} όπου N το επιλεγμένο εύρος συχνοτήτων. Το μήκος των δεδομένων της ακολουθίας δίνεται από τον χρόνο που χρειάζεται για να επιτραπεί μία στροφή 360- μοιρών του εγκάρσιου μαγνητισμού για το παρακείμενο voxel. Αυτό θα πάρει περισσότερο για μία ακολουθία χαμηλού εύρους συχνοτήτων οδηγώντας σε μία παρατεταμένη απόκτηση δεδομένων με αποτέλεσμα να έχουμε μεγάλους χρόνους ηχούς κάνοντας το πρωτόκολλο πιο ευαίσθητο στην κίνηση ροής και στα τεχνικά σφάλματα μαγνητικής επιδεκτικότητας. Επειδή τα σφάλματα χημικής μετατόπισης αυξάνονται με την ένταση του πεδίου, μίας υψηλότερης απεικόνισης bandwidth απαιτείται στα 3T για να μειώσουμε αυτά τα τεχνικά σφάλματα. Η χρήση ενός υψηλού bandwidth οδηγεί στη μείωση του SNR, μειώνοντας το κέρδος του SNR σχετικά με την υψηλή δύναμη του πεδίου. 6

ΚΛΙΝΙΚΕΣ ΕΦΑΡΜΟΓΕΣ

Κεντρικό νευρικό σύστημα – ΚΝΣ

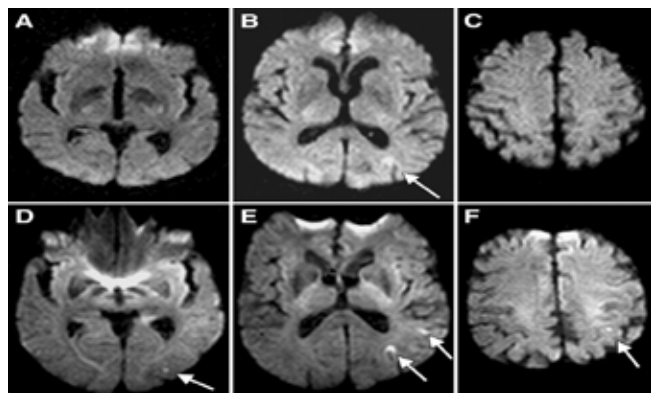
Τα οφέλη της μαγνητικής τομογραφίας 3T στην απεικόνιση του ΚΝΣ έχουν καθοριστεί αρχικά. Το αυξημένο SNR μπορεί να επενδυθεί σε μείωση του χρόνου απόκτησης, αυξημένη χωρική ανάλυση ή ένα συνδυασμό αυτών.

Γνωρίζουμε ότι τα φαινόμενα μαγνητικής επιδεκτικότητας αυξάνονται στα υψηλά μαγνητικά πεδία. Μπορεί να εκδηλωθεί με διάφορους τρόπους όπως η μείωση των T2 και T2* χρόνων προσανατολισμού, η απώλεια σήματος και η γεωμετρική παραμόρφωση. Αν και αυτό μπορεί να προκαλέσει τεχνικά σφάλματα μαγνητικής επιδεκτικότητας, είναι σαφές πλεονέκτημα για την



Ασθενής με πολλαπλό σκληρωτικό αγγείομα προκαλώντας πολλαπλά τεχνικά σφάλματα μαγνητικής επιδεκτικότητας σε T2* στα 3T, τα οποία είναι ενδεικτικά της υψηλής ευαισθησίας για φαινόμενα επιδεκτικότητας στα 3T.

απεικόνιση που σχετίζεται με την επιδεκτικότητα, όπως η T2* ακολουθίες, για την ανίχνευση της μικροαιμορραγίας στην αγγειακή εγκεφαλοπάθεια. Η Εγκεφαλική αιμορραγία ανιχνεύεται με αυξημένη αξιοπιστία στα 3T. Στο κεντρικό νευρικό σύστημα – ΚΝΣ υπάρχει χαμηλό SNR σε εικόνες διάχυσης (DWI) και σε εικόνες διάχυσης τανυστή (DTI). Αυτός είναι ένας περιορισμός για τη χωρική διακριτική ικανότητα και την αντίθεση, που μπορεί να επιτευχθεί για καθορισμένο χρόνο απόκτησης δεδομένων. Καθώς τα συστήματα MR στα 3T έχουν υψηλότερο SNR, μπορούμε να χρησιμοποιήσουμε υψηλότερες τιμές b και λεπτότερο πάχος τομής. Ακόμη, τεχνικές παράλληλης απεικόνισης μπορούν να μειώ-



Εγκάρσιες εικόνες SS-SE-EPI σε 1.5T (A-C) και σε 3T (D-F) DW MR εικόνες. Σημειώνονται, μεγάλο SNR, και CNR, στις εικόνες 3T. Επίσης, σημειώνεται η καλύτερη απεικόνιση των παθολογιών (ισχαιμικές βλάβες) στις εικόνες 3T (βέλη). 9

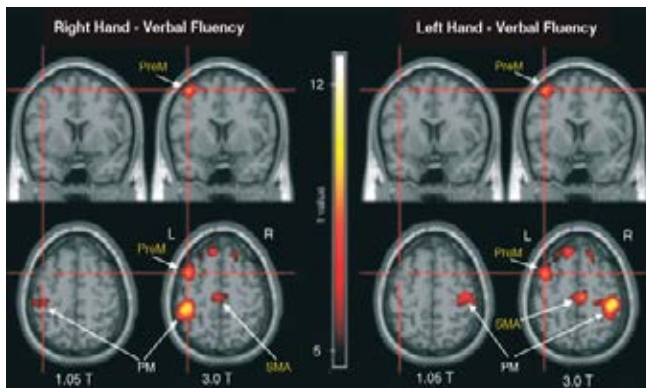
ώσουν, τον χρόνο σάρωσης, και τεχνικά σφάλματα χημικής μετατόπισης και μαγνητικής επιδεκτικότητας. Εκτός από το ΚΝΣ, η εφαρμογή της διάχυσης χρησιμοποιείται και για τον χαρακτηρισμό ή των εντοπισμό βλαβών στο ήπαρ, το προστάτη, το μαστό, των οστών και άλλων όγκων.

PERFUSION

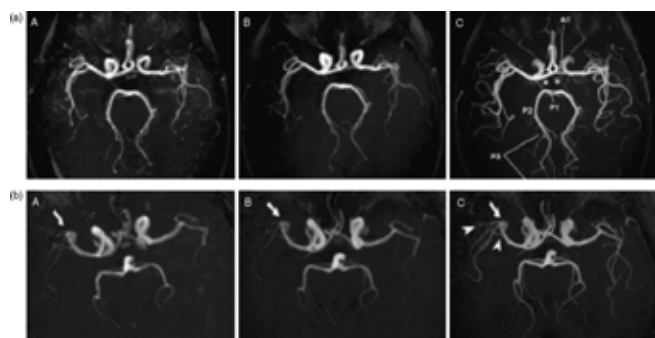
Σε κάποιες περιπτώσεις, όπως σε χειρουργημένο ή ακτινοβολημένο όγκο εγκεφάλου δημιουργείται ουλώδης – κοκκιοματώδης ιστός. Όταν χρησιμοποιούνται ακολουθίες T1 προσανατολισμού με ενδοφλέβια έγχυση υλικών αντίθεσης η περιοχή της κακοήθειας αλλά και του ουλώδη κοκκιοματώδη ιστού, θα φανεί με ενισχυμένο σήμα. Όταν αναφερόμαστε στις perfusion imaging στην ουσία εφαρμόζουμε δυναμική μελέτη, δηλ. αποκτούνται πολλές σειρές εικόνων T2* μετά από γρήγορη έγχυση υλικών αντίθεσης. Στα 3T συνήθως μέσα σε 5' αποκτούνται 30 φορές την ίδια ακολουθία. Η πρώτη χωρίς και η άλλες με έγχυση υλικών αντίθεσης. Μετά μετράμε με γραφικές παραστάσεις την αγγειοβρίθεια των ιστών. Στην γραφική παράσταση στον άξονα x μετράται η ένταση του σήματος και στον άξονα ψ είναι ο χρόνος. Έτσι μετράμε την αγγειοβρίθεια των περιοχών ενδιαφέροντος με συγκεκριμένους δείκτες. Με τους παραπάνω δείκτες μπορούμε να διαφοροδιαγνώσουμε έναν καλοήγη όγκο από έναν κακοήγη ή έναν κοκκιοματώδη - ουλώδη ιστό από υποτροπή όγκου. Λόγω της αυξημένης μαγνητικής επιδεκτικότητας η perfusion απεικόνιση εγκεφάλου στα 3T, μπορεί να μειώσει τη συνολική δόση του σκιαγραφικού μειώνεται στο 1/4 της κανονικής δόσης συγκριτικά με τα 1.5T και εξακολουθεί να διατηρεί την διαγνωστική ποιότητα. 10

ΛΕΙΤΟΥΡΓΙΚΗ ΜΑΓΝΗΤΙΚΗ ΤΟΜΟΓΡΑΦΙΑ (fMRI)

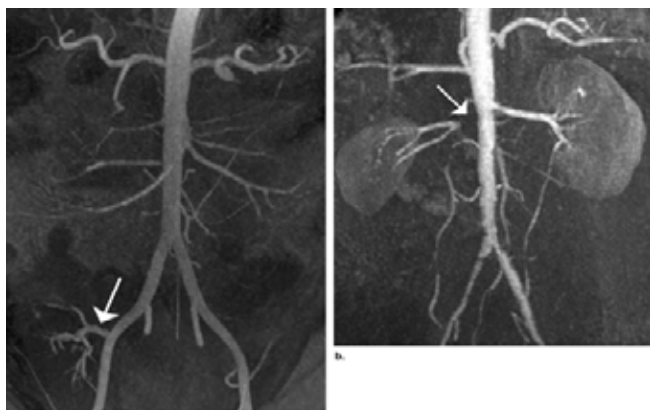
Η λειτουργική μαγνητική τομογραφία (fMRI) έχει σαφώς οφέλη από τις υψηλότερες εντάσεις μαγνητικού πεδίου. Λόγω των αυξημένων φαινομένων μαγνητικής επιδεκτικότητας στα 3T BOLD (blood oxygen level-dependent) εικόνες, έχουν αυξημένο σήμα στα υψηλά πεδία. Οι Τεχνολόγοι Ακτινολόγοι πρέπει να χρησιμοποιούν μικρότερο χρόνο ηχούς (TE) στα 3T από ότι σε χαμηλότερα μαγνητικά πεδία. Αυτό θα επιτρέψει την μείωση του χρόνου σάρωσης και την δυνατότητα να αυξηθεί ο αριθμός επαναλήψεων.



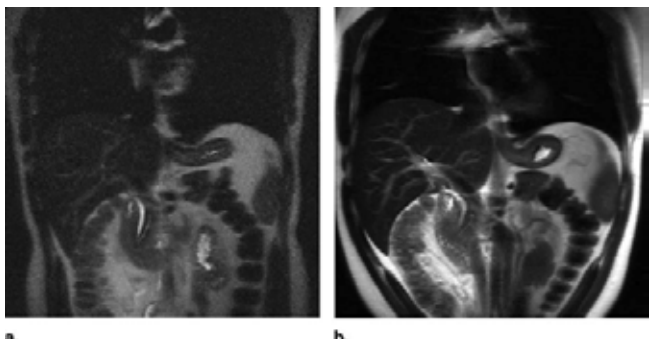
Λειτουργική δραστηριότητα εμφανίζεται σε κίνηση του δεξιού και αριστερού άκρου σε 1.5T και 3T. Οι εικόνες δείχνουν επιπλέον ενεργοποίηση στο μέσο και πλάγιο προκινητικό χώρο στα 3T που δεν ήταν ανιχνεύσιμη σε 1.5T.



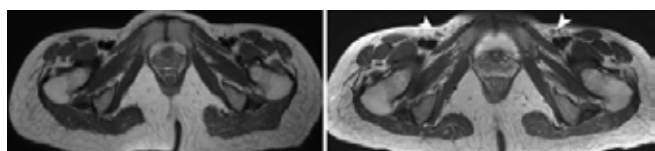
Σύγκριση της TOF MRA στον κύκλο του Willis σε 1.5T (A, κανονική ανάλυση), σε 3T (B, κανονική ανάλυση) και σε HR 3T (C, υψηλής χωρικής διακριτικής ικανότητας). Υψηλότερη αντίθεση μεταξύ αγγείων-έναντι-ιστών, σημειώθηκε σε 3T σε σύγκριση με 1.5T καθώς και στις εικόνες υψηλής χωρικής διακριτικής ικανότητας.



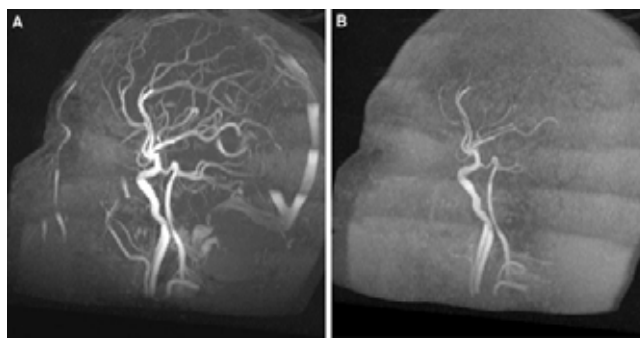
(a) Σε 1.5T ο λόγος σήματος προς θόρυβο (SNR) στην επινεφρική κοιλιακή αορτή είναι 21.0
(b) Σε 3T ο λόγος σήματος προς θόρυβο (SNR) στην επινεφρική κοιλιακή αορτή είναι 39.2.13



Σύγκριση μεταξύ 1.5T (A) και 3.0T (B) σε εικόνες του ήπατος. Υψηλότερο σήμα SNR παρατηρείται στα 3.0T εικόνα (B).15



Εγκάρσια υψηλής χωρικής ανάλυσης T2-weighted TSE στα 3.0T όπου επιτρέπει την σαφή απεικόνιση μικρών λεμφαδένων (δεξιά εικόνα βέλος) κάτι που δεν απεικονίζεται καθαρά στην εικόνα που αποκτήθηκε στα 1.5T (εικόνα στα αριστερά).8



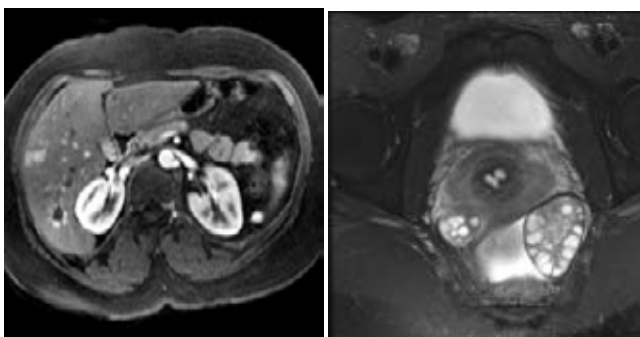
Απεικόνιση μέγιστη ένταση σήματος (MIP) σε εικόνες MRA στον ίδιο εξεταζόμενο στα 3T (A) και στο 1.5T (B). Υψηλότερη αντίθεση μεταξύ αγγείων-έναντι-ιστών, και περισσότερα μικρά αγγεία σημειώθηκε σε 3T σε σύγκριση με 1.5T.

MR ΑΓΓΕΙΟΓΡΑΦΙΑ

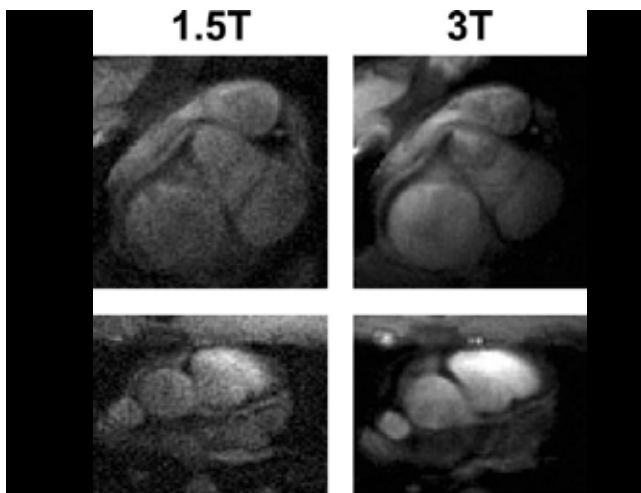
Η MR Αγγειογραφία (MRA) είναι μια από τις πιο βελτιωμένες τεχνικές MR στα 3T. Όσον αφορά την απεικόνιση TOF (time of flight), μεγαλύτερος χρόνος T1 στα 3T έχει ως αποτέλεσμα η ένταση του σήματος μέσα στα αγγεία, να διατηρείται ακόμη και σε παχύτερο πάχος τομής και σε μικρότερα αγγεία. 7 Λόγω του παρατεταμένου T1 χρόνος χαλάρωσης πετυχαίνεται καλλίτερη καταστολή των στατικών ιστών με αποτέλεσμα μικρά αμυδρά αγγεία των οποίων η ένταση είναι κοντά στην πυκνότητα στατικών ιστών (background) δεν απεικονίζονται στο 1.5T. 12

ΚΟΙΛΙΑ

Έχει παρατηρηθεί ότι η απεικόνιση σε υψηλά μαγνητικά πεδία σε συνδυασμό με τις παράλληλες τεχνικές απεικόνισης μειώνει τον χρόνο σάρωσης και τα τεχνικά σφάλματα κίνησης με αποτέλεσμα την υψηλότερη ποιότητα εικόνας σε σύγκριση με τα χαμηλά μαγνητικά πεδία. Η χημική καταστολή του λίπους μπορεί να βελτιστοποιηθεί λόγω της διαφοράς της μεταπτωτικής συχνότητας μεταξύ των πρωτονίων του λίπους και του νερού η οποία είναι διπλάσια στα 3.0T από ότι στα 1.5T. Σε συνδυασμό με την ικανότητα για αύξηση της ανάλυσης ή μείωση του χρόνου σάρωσης, η MT στα υψηλά μαγνητικά πεδία είναι ανώτερη στην απεικόνιση του ήπατος, του παγκρέατος, των νεφρών, της μήτρας, του προστάτη, των επινεφριδίων και της MRCP. Επίσης πολλαπλές δυναμικές φάσεις (αρτηριακή, πυλαία, φλεβική, καθυστερημένη) και καταστολή του λίπους μπορούν να επιτευχθούν στο ήπαρ, το πάγκρεας, τα νεφρά, τον προστάτη κλπ. με καλύτερη χρονική και χωρική ανάλυση.



Καλύτερη καταστολή λίπους για περιοχές χωρίς μεγάλες ανομοιογένειες



Στεφανιαίες εικόνες πραγματικού χρόνου (real time) που αποκτήθηκαν στα 1.5T και 3.0T. Παρατηρήθηκε υψηλότερο SNR και βελτίωση της ποιότητας της εικόνας στα 3.0T.

Η ΦΑΣΜΑΤΟΣΚΟΠΙΑ ΣΤΗΝ ΑΠΕΙΚΟΝΙΣΗ ΜΑΓΝΗΤΙΚΟΥ ΣΥΝΤΟΝΙΣΜΟΥ (MRSI)

Η χημική μετατόπιση διπλασιάζεται κατά την μετακίνηση από τα 1.5T στα 3T και συμβάλει στη βελτίωση της φασματικής ανάλυσης. Αυτό μπορεί να επιτρέψει την καθημερινή αξιολόγηση των μεταβολιτών κάτι που δεν είναι εφικτό στα 1.5T.¹⁶ Μαζί με την αύξηση του SNR στα 3.0T αυξάνεται το εύρος κλινικών εφαρμογών φασματοσκοπίας (ήπαρ, προστάτη, μαστό, οστά κ.α.).

ΧΗΜΙΚΗ ΜΕΤΑΤΟΠΙΣΗ

Στα 3.0T η συχνότητα μετάπτωσης ανάμεσα στο λίπος και στο νερό διπλασιάζεται περίπου κατά 450Hz με αποτέλεσμα την απόκτηση ακριβέστερων μετρήσεων σε ακολουθίες αντίθεση φάσης (opposed-phase) και ίδιας φάσης (in-phase). Οι ακολουθίες αντίθετης φάσης και ίδιας φάσης, επίσης εφαρμόζονται στην σπονδυλική στήλη (σπονδυλίτιδες και μεταστάσεις) και στο λιπώδες ήπαρ.

ΚΑΡΔΙΑ

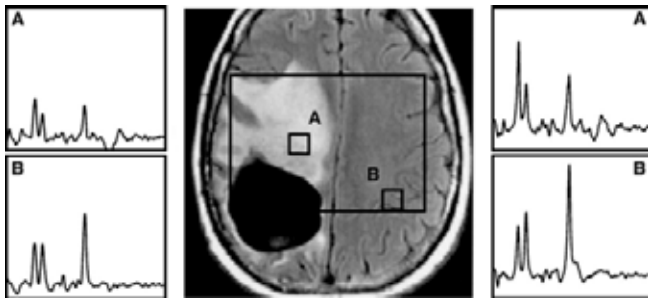
Η δραστική βελτίωση του CNR μπορεί να αποδοθεί στο γεγονός ότι ένα μικρότερο χρόνο επανάληψης (TR) χρησιμοποιήθηκε στα 3.0T και οι χρόνοι χαλάρωσης είναι μεγαλύτεροι, με αποτέλεσμα τον μεγαλύτερο κορεσμό του μυοκαρδίου κατά την διάρκεια της συνεχόμενης απεικόνισης. Το μειωμένο μυοκαρδιακό σήμα σε συνδυασμό με το υψηλό σήμα του αίματος δημιουργεί εξαιρετική αντίθεση μεταξύ αίματος και μυοκαρδίου.¹⁸

ΜΥΟΣΚΕΛΕΤΙΚΟ ΣΥΣΤΗΜΑ

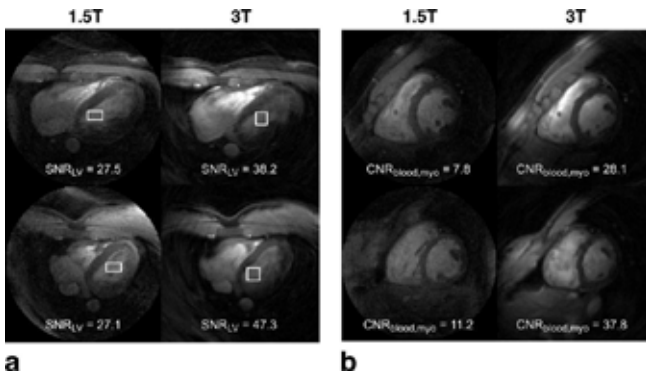
Το αυξημένο SNR μπορεί να επενδυθεί σε αυξημένη χωρική διακριτική ικανότητα. Ακόμη ο κορεσμός λίπους είναι καλύτερος για περιοχές χωρίς μεγάλες ανομοιογένειες διότι υπάρχει διπλή μεταπτωτική συχνότητα μεταξύ των πρωτονίων του λίπους και των πρωτονίων του νερού. Το μέλλον στην μαγνητική τομογραφία ανήκει στα υψηλά μαγνητικά πεδία. Για τις κλινικές εφαρμογές που προαναφέραμε, σίγουρα προηγείται της απεικόνισης στα χαμηλά μαγνητικά πεδία αλλά και η μαγνητική τομογραφία στα 1.5T υστερεί ελάχιστα στις βασικές(ρουτίνας) κλινικές εφαρμογές.



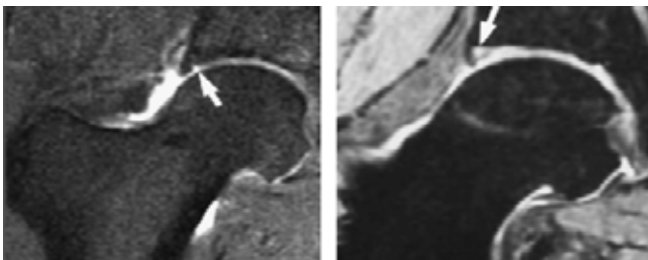
Το αυξημένο SNR στα 3T μπορεί να επενδυθεί σε μείωση του χρόνου εξέτασης, με αυξημένη χωρική ανάλυση. Χρησιμοποιούνται πολλαπλά σύστοιχα πηνία επιφανείας (multiple surface array coil) και τεχνικές ΠΑ για καλύτερο σήμα προς θόρυβο (SNR) και υψηλή χωρική διακριτική ικανότητα. Με μία δόση σκιαγραφικού μέσου, μπορούμε να σαρώσουμε την κοιλιακή αορτή, τις νεφρικές αρτηρίες, τις λαγόνιες αρτηρίες, τις μηριαίες αρτηρίες, μέχρι τις περιφερικές αρτηρίες κάτω άκρων και με μία καθυστερημένη σάρωση μπορούμε να έχουμε και φλεβογραφία.¹⁴



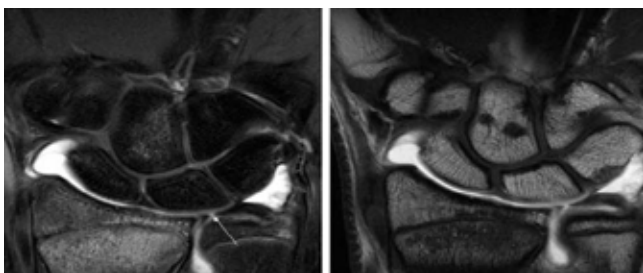
φασματοσκοπία σε ασθενή με πολύμορφο γλοιοβλάστωμα βαθμού IV στα 1.5T (αριστερή πλευρά) και στα 3T (δεξιά πλευρά). Το voxel A προέρχεται από περιοχή του εγκεφάλου η οποία εμφανίζει υψηλότερη χολίνη (Cho) και χαμηλότερο NAA (naphthalene acetic acid), ενώ το voxel B είναι από φυσιολογική περιοχή. Τα φάσματα στα 3.0T εμφανίζουν υψηλό SNR στα voxel όγκων και στα φυσιολογικά voxel.



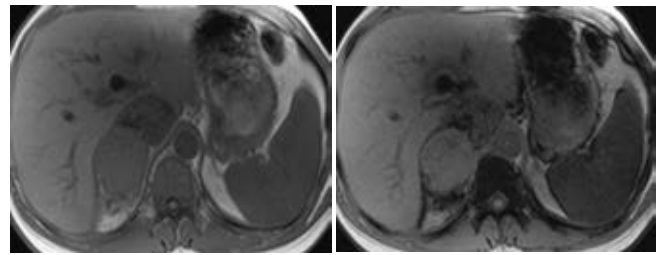
Σύγκριση του SNR σε εικόνες real time 1.5T και 3T. A: παρατηρήθηκε βελτίωση στο SNR κατά 57%. B: το CNR μεταξύ του αίματος και του μυοκαρδίου βελτιώθηκε 249%.



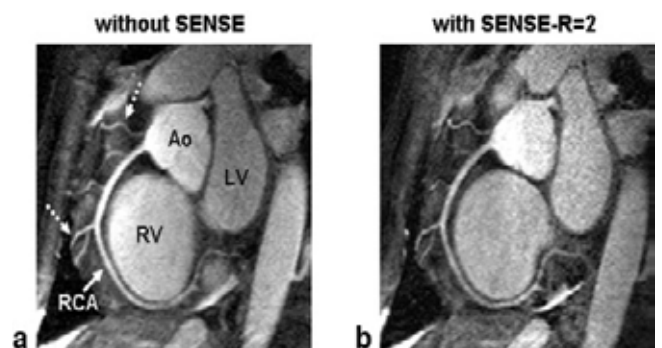
Στεφανιαία T1 εικόνα SE μετά την χορήγηση γαδολινίου στα 1.5T (αριστερά) σε σύγκριση με εικόνα χωρίς έγχυση γαδολινίου διπλής ηχώ εικόνας στα 3.0T (δεξιά). Η ρήξη του επικείλιου χόνδρου εμφανίζεται και στις δύο εικόνες αλλά στα 3.0T χωρίς την χρήση γαδολινίου. 15



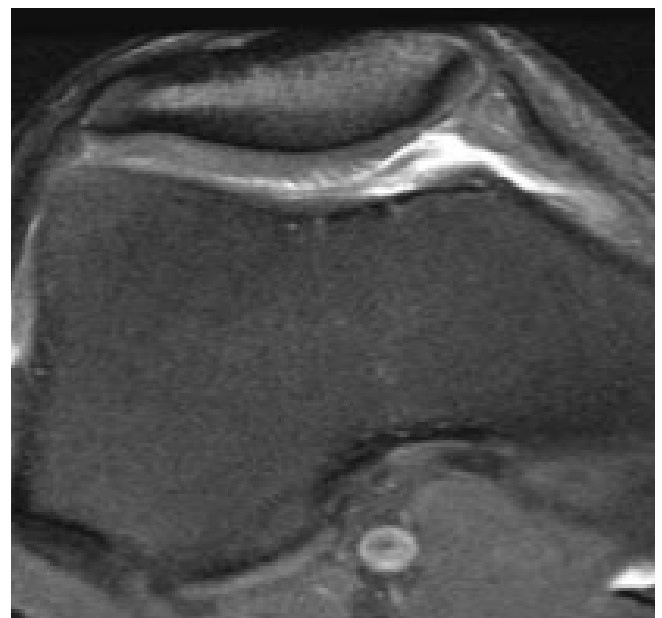
(A). Εικόνα T2 προσανατολισμού με καταστολή λίπους και (B) εικόνα T1 προσανατολισμού SE. Απεικονίζεται ρήξη του τριγώνου χόνδρου και στις δύο εικόνες. 14



Εγκάρσιες (A) IP και (B) OP MR εικόνες που απεικονίζουν μία επιπνεφρίδια μάζα στα δεξιά. Η μάζα στην εικόνα B παρουσιάζει χαμηλότερη τιμή έντασης σήματος (256) από ότι η μάζα στην εικόνα A (315). Η τιμή έντασης σήματος ήταν 18.9%. Η θετική τιμή του δείκτη της έντασης σήματος υποδεικνύει μία απώλεια για την έντασης σήματος στην εικόνα B η οποία θα μπορούσε να έχει προκληθεί από ενδοκυτταρικά λιπίδια μέσα στα επιπνεφρίδια (παθολογία), ή από απόσβεση T2*. 17



(a) Στεφανιαία MRI εικόνα χωρίς SENSE, και (b) με SENSE. Εκτός από το δεξιά στεφανιαία αρτηρία (RCA), απεικονίζεται ένας αριθμός μικρών κλάδων των αγγείων (βέλη). RV δεξιά κοιλία (right ventricle), LV αριστερή κοιλία (left ventricle), Ao ανιούσα αορτή. Με τις τεχνικές asset έχουμε ακόμη καλύτερη απεικόνιση.



Εγκάρσια εικόνα με καταστολή λίπους δείχνει πρόβλημα στο χόνδρο της επιγονατίδας, με FOV 12 και μήτρα 512. 14

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Artefacts at high-field-MRI in neuroimaging studies: how to identify and resolve them.

Sofia Brandao Radiographer

My name is Sofia Brandao, and I am a Portuguese radiographer working for fourteen years on the MR Unit at Hospital de Sao Joao/Faculty of Medicine, in Oporto. I finished my Bachelor Degree on 1998, and on 2008 I started my Masters degree on Medical Informatics, with a work focusing different segmentation techniques applied to the deep grey matter nuclei. I'm now a PhD student on Biomedical Engineering starting my work on pelvic floor DTI and its impact on increased morphological and biomechanical knowledge of the pelvic floor muscles and fascia. I have participated on several research projects developed with the partnership of the Radiology Unit of my hospital, including fMRI, breast Diffusion-weighted Imaging, and pelvic imaging studies. I am the radiographer involved on the Doctoral Research Projects and Clinical trials on the MR Unit. I am an invited teacher at CESPU for seven years, teaching the MRI curricular unit to the Radiology Graduation Programme. Also, I teach subjects related to imaging to several other Health Science Courses. I was recently invited to participate in the Radiographers Postgraduate Educational Programme at the ECR 2012.



In 2002, US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved some 3 Tesla (T) scanners for whole body MRI in clinical practice. While as early as the last decade 3T scanners were considered ultra-high-field, today this field strength is considered as high field for clinical applications, and medium field for research. FDA guidelines now consider magnetic field strength exposure limits of 4T for neonates after 1-month-old and 8T for all the above-aged people /1,2/.

As high-field-MRI continues to gain wider acceptance in the general clinical community, education about artefacts becomes increasingly important. Why certain image artefacts are more prominent at 3T or higher can be best understood in the context of the scaling relationships that describe how signal-to-noise ratio (SNR), chemical shift, susceptibility variation, static magnetic field (B_0) and RF (B_1)-induced inhomogeneities, specific absorption rate (SAR) and RF wavelength vary as field strength increases /3/. Being aware of such events is important, as sometimes with appropriate changes the artefact level can be minimized or eliminated, contributing to a great improvement on image diagnostic accuracy. Also, tissue specificities can influence image contrast and interpretation. One must consider intrinsic differences in relaxation times that require optimization of imaging parameters or the use of different pulse sequences. Finally, hardware issues like parallel imaging or multi RF transmission coils are available to increase scanning efficiency and to compensate for

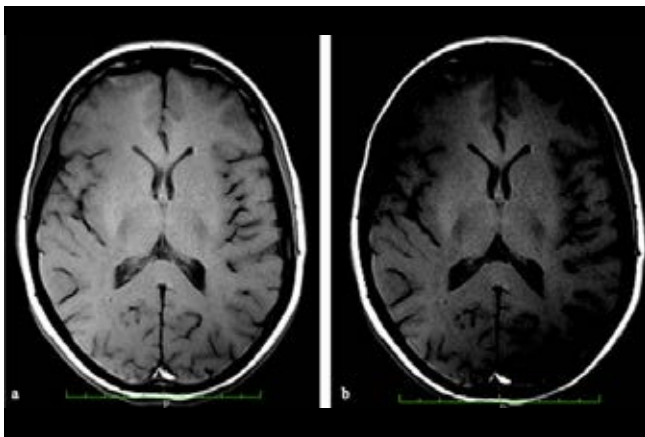


Fig. 1a

magnetic susceptibility or patient-induced B1 inhomogeneities with good results /4/.

This article will review the artefacts that are especially problematic at high-field-strength neuroimaging studies, as well as methods that can reduce or eliminate them.

Several difficulties may be encountered on brain and spine imaging. Changes in T1 and T2 relaxation times and their relation to tissue contrast, inhomogeneous RF distribution, SAR, susceptibility effects, Cerebrospinal Fluid (CSF) flow artefacts, chemical shift and Gibbs are problems that should be addressed not only when optimizing the protocols, but also on the daily practice.

The change in T2 but especially T1 relaxation times has profound implications on image contrast. T1 of CSF is essentially the same as 1.5T value (approximately 4.2 sec), which makes it more intense on 3T compared to brain parenchyma if we simply translate echo and repetition times (TE and TR) from lower field strength protocols. Also, at high-field-strength, the T1 relaxation time of white matter (WM) increases more than that of grey matter (GM), which causes the relaxation rates of GM and WM to converge, lowering GM-WM tissue contrast (Fig.1a) /1,5,6/. Additionally, there is evidence of increased inhomogeneous RF

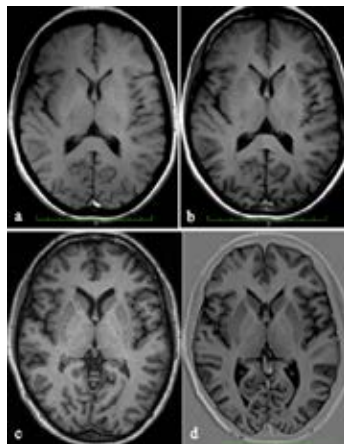


Fig. 3(a-b)

distribution induced by a variety of conductive and dielectric effects in the tissue, which are related to magnetic field distortions secondary to the subject's body within the gantry /7,8/, especially when volume coils are used. These effects are exacerbated at high-field-strength /9/, and typically appear as non-uniformity or as an artefactual brightness in the centre of brain images and as peripheral areas of shading or signal dropout /10/, as can be seen on Fig.1b, where the same image is shown with a narrow window. Also, shielding effects induced by eddy currents may also prevent central parts of the image from being properly excited /5/. Constructive RF interference and wavelength effects are likely to contribute more to central brightening in MR images of weakly conductive biological samples than is true dielectric resonance /11/. In the spinal evaluation, these RF issues are not that evident.

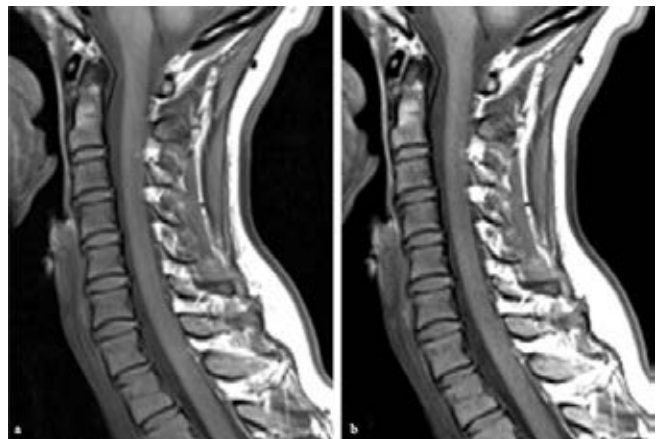


Fig. 2

The use of water dielectric pads around the head is a way to ameliorate image signal intensity distribution /12/. But when these devices are not available, optimising sequence parameters for T1-w spin-echo / fast spin-echo (SE/FSE)-based imaging such as decreasing the excitation flip angle (f.a.) or increasing TR to 700-900 msec can be easily performed to improve tissue contrast (Fig.2).

Another existing option is the use of different pulse sequences like T1-w GRE or inversion pulse-based sequences such as T1-w FSE FLAIR, T1-w FSE IR or T1-w 3D Magnetization Prepared Rapid Gradient Echo (MPRAGE) for brain imaging, which allow better GM-WM contrast, and improve visualisation of the deep grey matter nuclei, as can be seen on Fig.3(a-d). For spinal imaging, T1-w FSE FLAIR is a very suitable alternative for T1-w imaging, as it decreases the signal from the CSF when compared to T1-w SE/FSE Fig.3(e-f).

These optional FLAIR and 3D MPRAGE T1-w pulse sequences have shown good brain lesion conspicuity after gadolinium administration, and can thereby be used beyond GM-WM tissue characterisation /13-15/. T1-w FSE IR pulse sequences may not achieve the same accuracy for post-gadolinium imaging, because the tissue with the shortest T1 relaxation time does not necessarily exhibit the brightest signal intensity, depending on the overall lesion tissue T1 relaxation time /5,15/.

At higher magnetic field intensity, the inherent robustness of T2-w SE/FSE sequences against field inhomogeneities and susceptibility artefacts when compared to T2-w GRE is very desirable. However, FSE technique implies higher RF pulses energy and increased SAR, soon exceeded by the use of multiple refocusing pulses with a 180° f.a.. An overall reduction of this (constant) refocusing f.a. reduces SAR but also slightly reduces SNR. The generic hyperecho scheme (hyperFSE) is a possible solution to this problem because it allows a considerable reduction of SAR. The use of variable refocusing f.a. allows the use of high amplitude f.a. to produce a high signal for the encoding of the central k-space, while lower f.a. are applied for the acquisition of outer parts of the k-space. Asymmetric hyperechoes (smooth transitions between pseudo-steady states) are the most

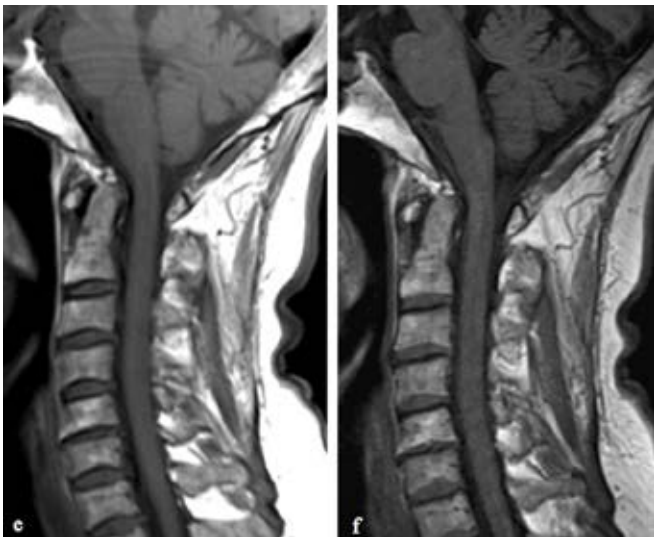


Fig. 3(e-f)

flexible hyperecho approach, which enables f.a. to be varied freely during the acquisition for an optimized signal-intensity behavior /16/. The use of lower refocusing f.a. implies to some extent reduced contrast on T1-w and T2-w images when compared to standard FSE pulse sequences with constant 180° refocusing f.a. at a given TE (Fig.4), and this is the reason why this technique is less applied to T1-w FSE pulse sequences. But for T2-w sequences, it has been shown that a prolongation of TE can compensate for this reduced T2 contrast in hyperFSE, making them highly suitable for low SAR imaging /17-19/.

In what relates T2-w spine imaging, this has always been a very sensitive issue, since cervical and thoracic spine CSF and motion flow artefacts often hampers the images. The use of shorter TR's is a very common solution for motion artefacts, but it decreases CSF signal intensity. Three-dimensional FSE T2-w acquisitions can serve as an alternative approach, but their short TR may present the same drawback of loss of myelographic effect. TR can be increased but acquisition time would be too long. Also, the use of increased Echo Train Length (ETL) for 3D imaging amplifies the inherent blurring of FSE related to T2-decay-induced modulation of amplitude of echoes within the k-space. Driven to equilibrium technique uses a 90° RF restoration pulse (DRIVE pulse) at the instant of the final SE to flip the residual transverse magnetization

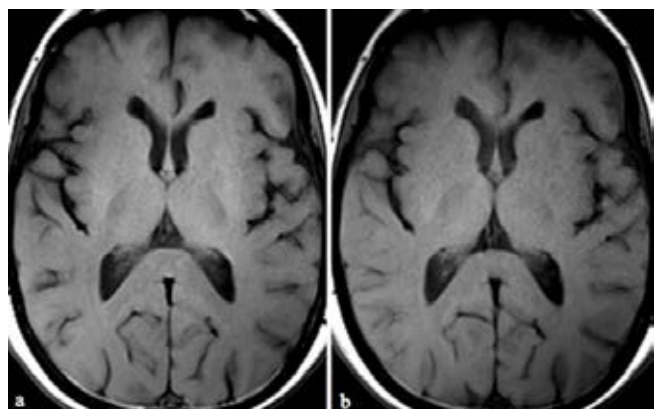


Fig. 4

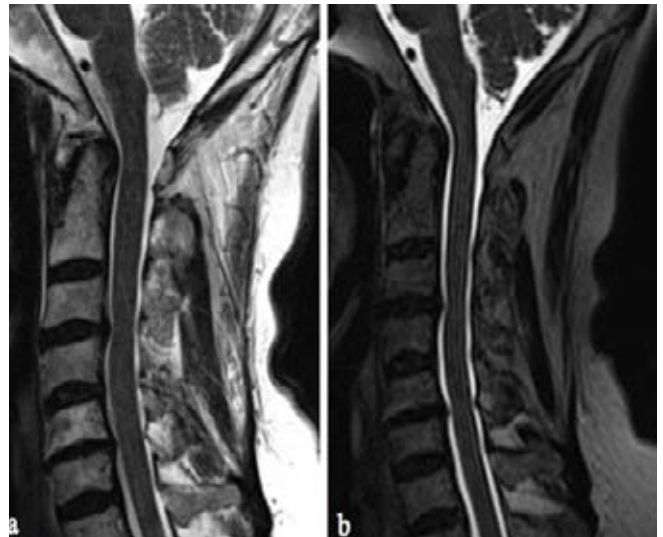


Fig. 5

into the longitudinal direction. This primarily enhances the signal intensity of tissues with long relaxation times like CSF when compared to conventional T2-w FSE, as this results in a significant increase of longitudinal magnetization /20,21/. Also, Sampling Perfection with Application optimized Contrasts using different flip angle Evolution (3D-SPACE) sequence enables one to maintain high CSF/GM/WM/fat contrast. This modification of FSE involves applying variable f.a. refocusing pulses; the nonselective RF pulse permits ultra-short echo spacing and the variable f.a. results in a pseudo steady-state with maintained tissue contrast as well as a reduction of blurring associated with high ETL. Additionally, it decreases SAR as a consequence of the application of lower f.a. refocusing pulses. This technique allows very good morphological analysis, but lesion depiction may be affected by lower intra-spinal cord tissue contrast (Fig.5) /21,22/.

Diffusion-weighted imaging (DWI) is a usual technique in neuroimaging studies, whether for stroke evaluation, or neoplastic and infectious lesions characterization. DWI uses Echo-Planar Imaging (EPI) technique, which is very prone to susceptibility effects that lead to geometric distortions related to bone/air interfaces or blood products /23/, which are exacerbated at high-field-strength MRI. These can be easily reduced by decreasing the echo spacing of the readout train (e.g. increasing the receiver bandwidth) or

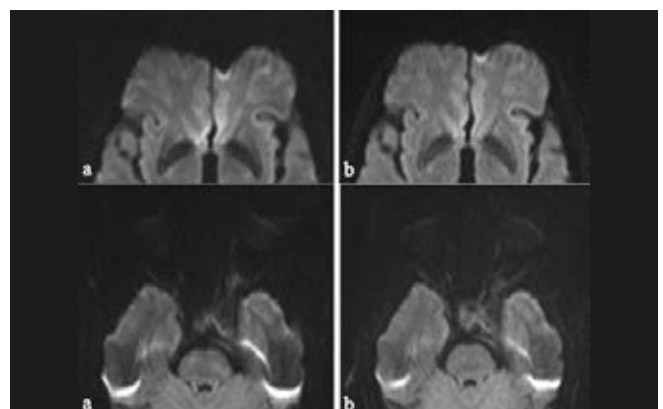


Fig. 6

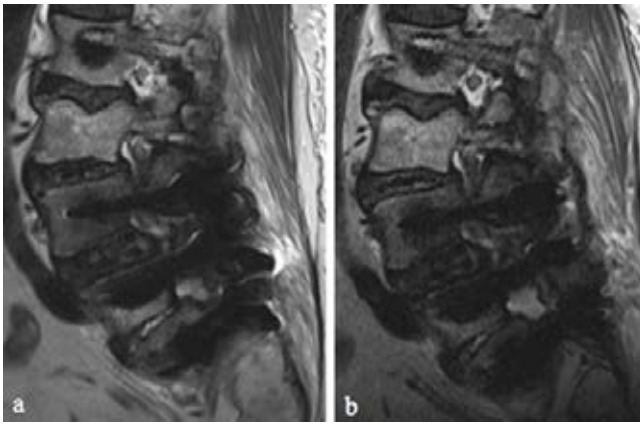


Fig. 7

by applying parallel imaging to reduce the echo-train length [3]. Parallel imaging methods, such as SENSitivity Encoding (SENSE) and Generalized Autocalibrating Parallel Acquisitions (GRAPPA), can improve image quality in EPI by shortening the echo train length, and has proved to reduce such inhomogeneity artefacts [24], despite a slight SNR decrease due to less phase encoding steps (Fig. 6). Moreover, SE/FSE-based EPI sequences are less prone to susceptibility-induced artefacts than GRE-EPI. Multi-shot-EPI may be preferred to reduce both geometric distortion and blurring effects [25,26]. Geometric distortions and poor image resolution are well known shortcomings of single-shot EPI imaging (SS-EPI). Yet, due to its resistance to motion artefacts, SS-EPI remains the most common sequence for DWI. The use of non-Cartesian k-space filling trajectories like BLADE / PROPELLER has also proved to be advantageous in artefact reduction [27].

Susceptibility artefacts are common when imaging post-operative spine (Fig. 7), and the resultant image distortion usually hampers image interpretation. Increasing receiver bandwidth diminishes these artefacts, but it also decreases SNR, which can be compensated by increasing the number of averages.

But susceptibility effects are not always related to metallic implants. They are also a source of concern in transition zones of tissues with strongly varying susceptibilities. This susceptibility-induced shift of resonance frequencies can compromise the success of frequency-selective fat saturation, particularly in tissues close to fat-water or air-tissue interfaces (Fig. 8a). Spectral Adiabatic Inversion Recovery (SPAIR) technique is an alternative to achieve homogeneous fat suppression at high-field- strength (Fig. 8b). It uses a spectrally

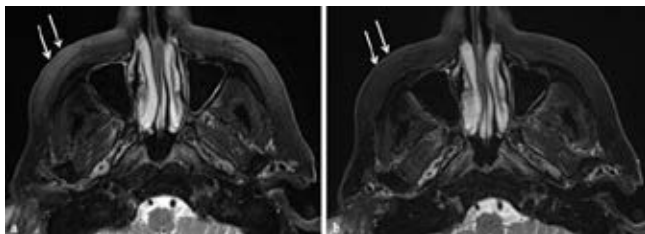


Fig. 8

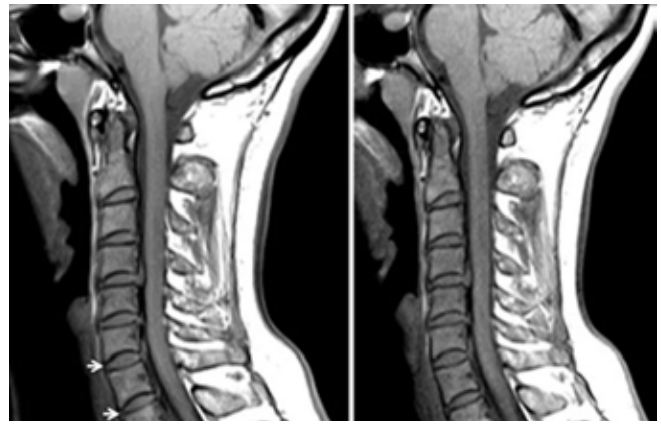


Fig. 9(a-b)

selective adiabatic inversion pulse to invert the fat spins in the imaging volume and a large spoiler in order to destroy any residual transverse magnetization. The Dixon technique is another effective method for improved T1- or T2-w fat suppression when imaging large areas or to perform 3D T1-w dynamic sequences, as it is very resistant to both B0- and B1-related inhomogeneities [28,29].

Chemical shift artefacts also get more prominent at higher field strengths and lesser at higher gradient strengths. The chemical shift artefact is commonly noticed in the spine at the vertebral body endplates, in the orbits, or in the sinuses. In the frequency direction, the MRI scanner uses the frequency of the signal to indicate spatial position. Since water in tissues resonate at a different frequency than in fat, the scanner mistakes the frequency difference as a spatial (positional) difference. As a result, in the spine, this causes one end plate to appear thicker than the opposite one. Repeating the pulse sequence switching readout and phase encoding directions may be an alternative, but the best way to eliminate this artefact is to use a fat suppression technique, which is not appropriate in every case. Figure 9(a,b) shows two T1-w FSE sagittal images of the cervical spine, where chemical shift

artefact between vertebral body and disk was reduced by doubling the receiver bandwidth. Fat-water shift decreased from 1.7Px in (a) to 0.5Px in (b) [30,31]. Figure 9(c,d) shows two T2-w FSE coronal brain and sinuses images, and chemical shift artefact can be seen on the interface between the orbits and the fat and on the maxillary sinus. The same option of doubling the receiver bandwidth was used, with good results. Using fat suppression techniques can also ameliorate image quality.

Another artefact that is enhanced at high-field MRI is the Gibbs ringing or truncation, which appears as bright or dark lines that are seen parallel and adjacent to borders of abrupt intensity change, as when going from bright CSF to dark spinal cord on T2-w images (Fig. 10a), simulating small syrinx to the unaware. It is also seen in other locations as at the brain/calvarium interface, as seen on Fig. 10b, where a thin hyperintense rim on axial T1-w image can mimic can hemorrhage. It can also be seen on T2-w FLAIR and T2-w FSE (Fig. 10d and Fig. 10f). This artefact is related to the

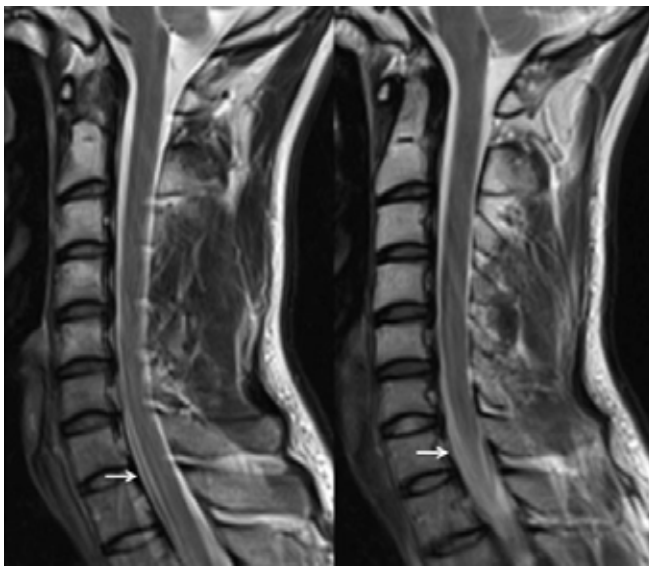


Fig. 10a

finite number of encoding steps used by the Fourier transform to reconstruct an image; the more encoding steps, the less intense and narrower the artefacts. Gibbs ringing can be reduced either by increasing the receiver bandwidth (Fig.10c), including saturation suppression techniques as performed on Fig.10e, by increasing the spatial resolution Fig.10g, or by applying reconstruction filters such as the Hanning filter to smoothly reduce the signal at the edges of k-space [3,25]. Pulsatile flow artefacts are also more problematic at high-field-strengths for two main reasons. First, the increased SNR translates into increased artefact-to-noise ratio. That is, a ghost artefact that might be buried in the noise could be more easily visible [32,33]. A second reason is that increased susceptibility variation aggravates pulsatile flow artefacts. CSF flow is a frequent image finding, mostly in hyperdynamic CSF flow conditions like normal pressure hydrocephalus or in young subjects, and should be distinguished from CSF flow artefacts, which appear frequently on T2-w FSE and FLAIR images, in the ventricles or in the cisterns (Fig.11), due to increased signal and spatial misregistration.

Cardiac gating, flow compensation techniques or radial k-space sampling (BLADE/PROPELLER) can be used to diminish patient motion or CSF flow hyperintensities [33]. Simple actions like decreasing echo spacing, as shown on Fig.12b, can eliminate this frequent artefact. Changing from 2D to 3D FLAIR acquisitions may also

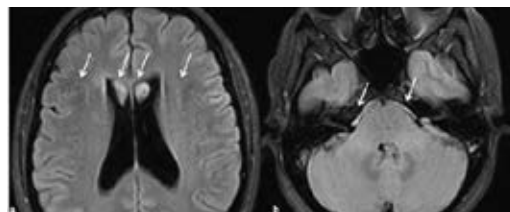


Fig. 11

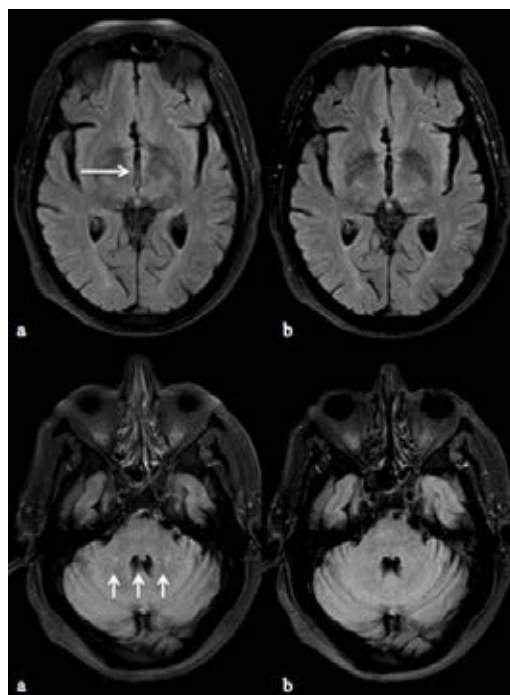


Fig. 12

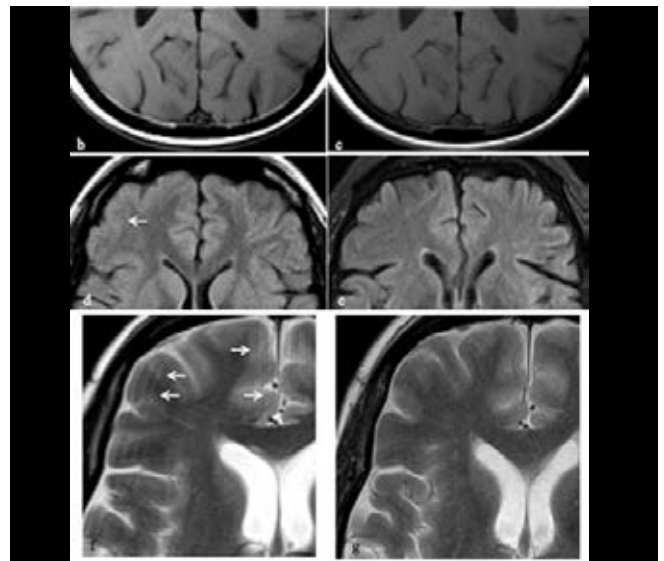


Fig. 10(b-g)

solve these issues, although with longer acquisition time [34].

In conclusion, with the growing interest in high-field MRI, the radiographer may have to deal with more artefacts and pitfalls. Operating at high-field-strength implies an increase in T1 relaxation times and RF absorption, larger chemical shift and stronger susceptibility-induced distortion, which lead to signal changes that need to be considered. Also, limits for RF Specific Absorption Rate may require the choice of the most appropriate pulse sequence, and the corresponding RF flip angle. Sometimes implementing simple changes to counteract an increase in image artefacts like shortening the TE, increasing the receiver bandwidth and spatial resolution, or performing parallel imaging results in much better image quality. Radiographers have the knowledge and skills to correct artefacts arising in the MRI setting. Managing all these parameters and options allows the radiographer to actively participate in pulse sequence optimization and to suggest useful alternatives in order to increase diagnostic accuracy.

Currently, 7T MRI scanners are used only for research purposes. Issues like static and RF field exposure, as well as pulse sequence optimization, improved coil design for faster scanning times and increased artefacts are being addressed in order to bring ultra-high-field MRI scanners into the clinical environment. Soon radiographers will have to learn more about specificities of ultra-high-field MRI, and the ways to overcome its demands.

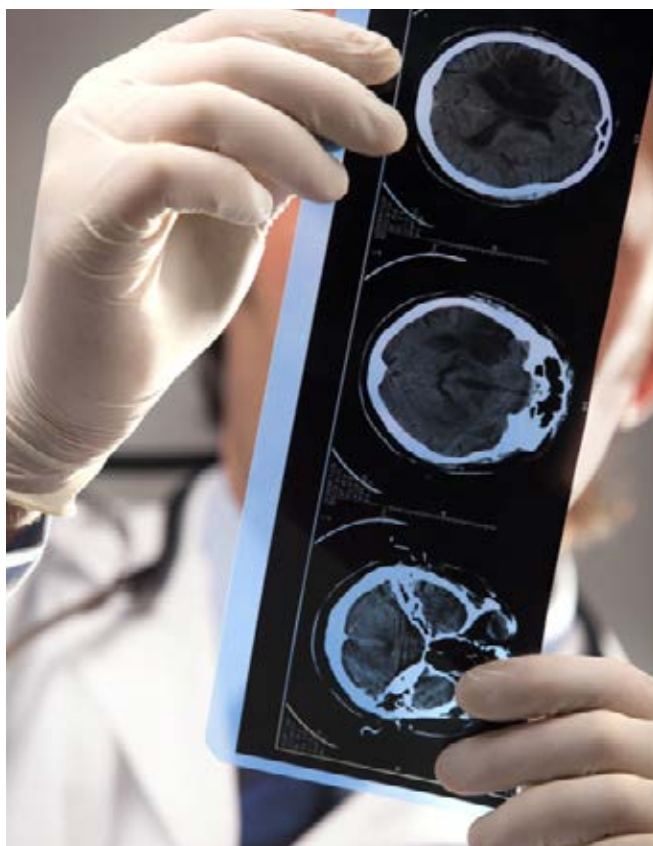
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MRS: Ingredients and recipes.

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Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy (MRS) on modern MR scanners has become a fully automated technique. Experience has shown that MRS can provide solid answers that impact patient management and are sufficiently reliable to prompt continued requests for MRS. It is not a difficult technique, but MRS becomes easier with knowledge of a few practical tricks and standardized procedures. The manuscript reflects the current availability of automatic MRS procedures by being less focused on manual adjustments of: magnetic field homogeneity, frequency, water suppression or receiver gain. The focus of the manuscript is on practical topics illustrated with clinical cases: Issues to address before patients even come near the MR scanner; information collection and issues to deal with before starting the patient scan; MRS procedures and potential problems during the scan; and finally storage, post-processing, and reading MRS. The topic is limited to automatic proton MRS of the human brain acquired at 1.5 or 3 Tesla. The focus is clinical relevance and practical recommendations. The text reflects experience from the implementation of MRS in a tertiary hospital setting, and it addresses questions, new MRS users often have asked. Basic knowledge about magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) is assumed.



INTRODUCTION AND QUICK MRS BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A rainbow is seen when the sun shines on water droplets causing a spectrum of light frequencies to appear. Similarly Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy (MRS) displays different radio wave frequencies and their intensities. Most of the MR signal from the human body originates from water and fat, but when brain water signals are suppressed, it becomes possible to see signals from other molecules. Typically, the concentrations of such other molecules or metabolites are less than 10 mM in the human brain, and the detection limit in vivo is around $\frac{1}{2}$ mM. A MR spectrum as the standard white matter (WM) spectrum shown (Fig 1) basically is a curve of signal intensity as a function of frequency. The position of a peak along the frequency axis provides information of which metabolite the peak arises from, and the amplitude of the peak relate to metabolite concentration.

Aspectrum reveals information about the chemistry because different molecular proton groups experience different magnetic fields and by proportionality, frequencies depending on their position in the molecule. Each molecule has its own recognizable pattern of peaks. In MRS terms the peaks are referred to as resonances. Resonance is a more general term than peak, as resonance can describe a complex of more peaks originating from one group of protons.

It is impractical to use frequency to describe spectral resonances, because frequency is proportional to the static magnetic field. Instead the term chemical shift is used. It expresses the frequency

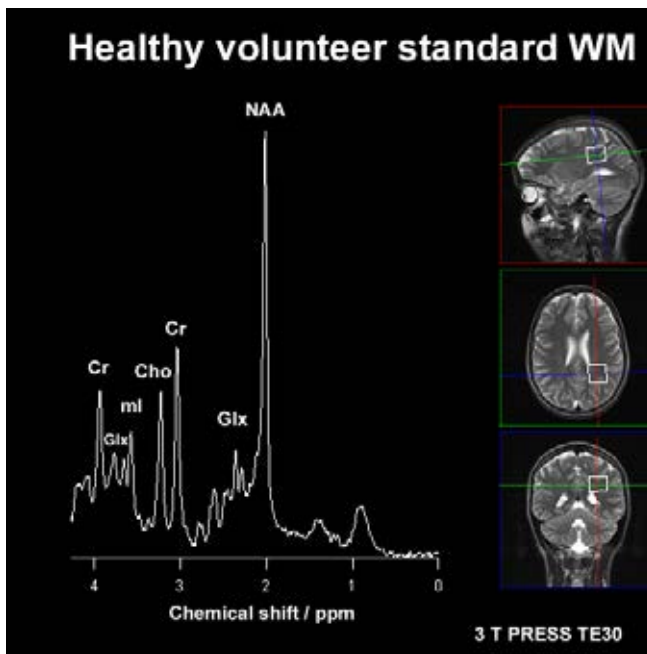


Fig 1 Brain MRS from a healthy volunteer.

shift between the resonance frequency and a chosen reference frequency measured in parts per million (ppm). The advantage of chemical shift over frequency is validity of metabolites table of chemical shifts independent of the static magnetic field. Chemists have defined 0 ppm to be the chemical shift of tetramethylsilane. The chemical shift of water is 4.7 ppm, although the exact value is slightly temperature dependent, which sometimes becomes an issue when comparing room temperature phantom spectra with body temperature in vivo spectra. Most of the interesting brain metabolites are found in between these two values, 0 and 4.7 ppm. Further detail about basics of in vivo nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy may be found in 1-5

Clinically relevant brain metabolites measured by proton MRS are briefly described (Table 1). Further details about singlet resonances, weakly and strongly coupled resonances, significance of metabolites in vivo and spectral details of further metabolites may be found in 1-8 The five most important metabolites detected in a healthy brain are N-acetylaspartate (NAA), total creatine (Cr) consisting of phosphocreatine and creatine, total choline (Cho) consisting mainly of phosphocholine and glycerophosphocholine,

myo-Inositol (ml) and glutamate+glutamine (Glx). The two components of Glx partially overlap leading to the merging of the two in daily MRS language. At 3 T or in certain diseases with increased Glx separation of the two becomes possible.

MR spectra are sampled from a single volume of interest (VOI) or from multiple VOIs sampled simultaneously. The basic idea of MRS localization 1-5 is illustrated (Fig. 2). The most popular single VOI methods are stimulated echo acquisition mode (STEAM) and Point RESolved spectroscopy (PRESS). The most popular multiple VOI method is PRESS selected Chemical shift imaging (CSI) also sometimes referred to as magnetic resonance spectroscopic imaging (MRSI).

The main advantages of single VOI MRS are: Shorter time to reach a result, better definition of the VOI, and focused optimization of measurement conditions for the small selected VOI. The main advantages of CSI are: Simultaneous acquisition supplementing the chemical information with regional information, better use of time when multiple spectra are needed, and the possibility to shift the spectral grid after the examination. The post examination grid shifting makes localization less demanding on the person operating the scanner. Current gradient systems meet the larger demands of PRESS selection, producing artifact free spectra even at short echo time. Most current 1.5 T and 3 T users prefer PRESS methods, because they give better signal to noise (S/N) compared to STEAM. Shimming, making the magnetic field as homogeneous as possible in the VOI, is of monumental importance in MRS. When the shim is poor the peaks are small and broad, but when the shim is improved the peaks become tall and narrow. A good shim is a prerequisite to good resolution, S/N, and water suppression leading to improved metabolite detection.

In Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) echo time (TE) affects the signal intensities of water and fat signals, long TEs give T2 weighted images. In MRS the effects are the same, but concern metabolite resonances rather than water and fat signals. Short TE spectra show most metabolites because their resonances have not decayed at the time of acquisition. Long TE spectra are more T2 weighted displaying only metabolites as Cho, Cr and NAA with long T2 values. Their decays are simple exponential decays. In MRS simple exponential T2 relaxation is not the only explanation, why signals decay, when TE is increased, coupled resonances like lactate have other behaviours (Fig. 3).

The effect of the repetition time (TR) in MRS is very much like in

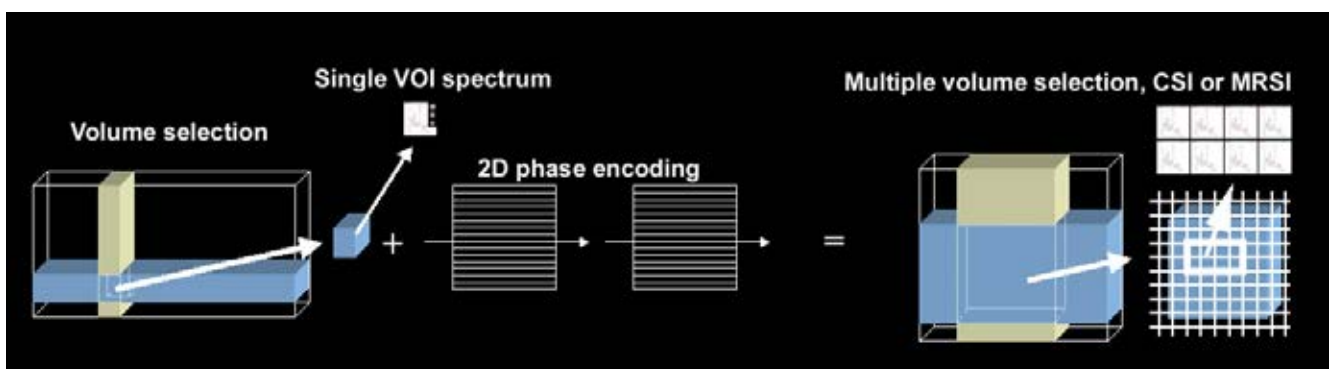


Fig 2 MRS localization

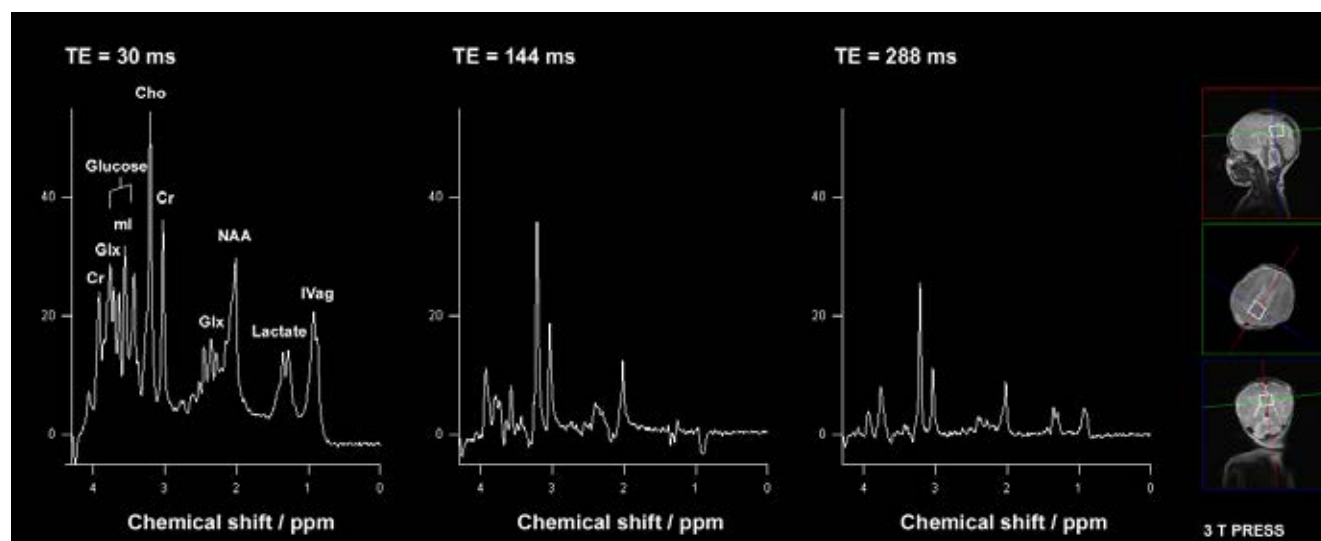


Fig 3 Echo time effect on MRS

MR imaging. Shorter TR in MRS terms means saturation and T1 weighting of the metabolite signals, but the effect on the spectral appearance is not spectacular, because the metabolite T1 values are fairly similar.

ISSUES TO ADDRESS BEFORE PATIENTS EVEN COME NEAR THE MR SCANNER:

It is imperative to test MRS methods on phantoms and on healthy volunteers before initiating any real patient scans. Verify that the magnetic field homogeneity and S/N is acceptable, that acquired spectra are artifact free, and that human control data yield acceptable variance (Table 2).

Inspect a short echo time spectrum from a phantom containing metabolites that have resonances close to water, close to each other and has a doublet resonance like lactate has. A simple phantom could contain a buffered solution of acetate and lactate. A more complex phantom could contain a buffered solution of Cr, NAA, Cho, Glutamate and lactate. Some manufacturers provide quality control phantoms with their MRS packages. Perform phantom control scans and verify that the spectra have nice baselines between 0 and at least 4.1 ppm. Verify that the doublet of lactate at 1.33 ppm is split all the way down to the baseline. Verify that the quartet of lactate at 4.11 ppm has the correct shape, minor artifact this close to water may be allowed, but major artifacts indicate, that scanner performance can be improved. Check that the two resonances of Cr at 3.03 ppm and at 3.9 ppm have amplitudes that approximately reflect the number of protons by relating to each other as three to two. Check the full width at half maximum (FWHM) of a singlet resonance as Cr or acetate, 1-3 Hz in phantoms should be obtainable. Likewise a human spectrum can be inspected to check the spectral quality, (Fig. 4), FWHM of singlet resonances in human brain as small as 3-5 Hz are feasible. Kreis9 provides more details about MRS quality and artifacts.

When MRS has been tested on phantoms and a few volunteers, the next steps are to choose a set of methods and acquire normal data. Human control data are needed to get a feel for how variable results may be. Quantitative MRS protocols require control data

for each pulse sequence parameter combination and for each VOI shape, size and location. Clinical spectra can only be thoroughly interpreted, when the normal range (mean-2SD and mean+2SD) is known for each combination.

The pulse sequence choices as TE influence the spectral appearance especially of coupled resonances and consequently affect quantitation.

The standard VOIs mid-occipital grey matter (GM) and occipitoparietal white matter (WM) suggested (Fig. 5) are used in the author's hospital, alternative VOIs are just as valid, but consistent VOI choices are required. Spectra from grey and white matter tissues and from different locations in the brain differ. A 8-15 ml VOI never contains pure white matter or pure grey matter. But if a VOI of a fixed size, shape and location is chosen used, there is a good chance of good reproducibility of the fractions of different tissue types within the VOI, leading to good reproducibility of spectral appearance and quantitative measures.

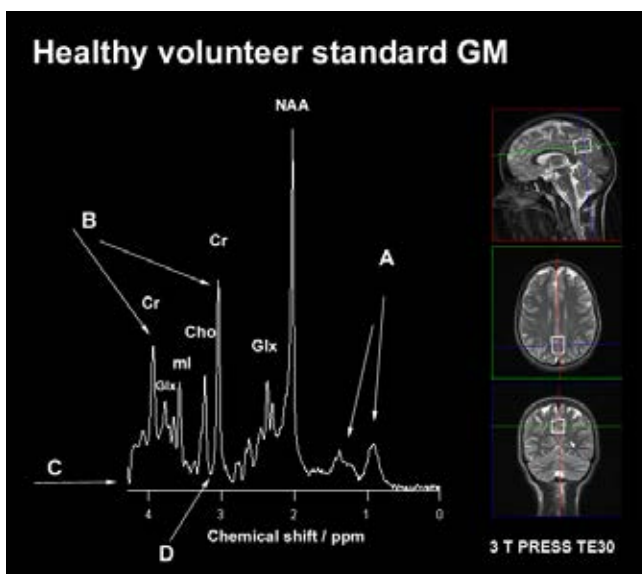


Fig 4. Basic MRS quality checkpoints

Metabolite (common abbreviation)	Chemical shift/ppm Resonance type	
Visible in normal brain		
N-acetylaspartate (NAA) Putative neuronal marker	2.02 2.3-2.8	singlet complex
Glutamine+Glutamate (Glx; Glu and Gln) Amino acid and neurotransmitter (3.75 ppm: Gln triplet, Glu doublet of doublets)	2.05-2.5 3.75	complex multiplet
Total Creatine (Cr) Marker of intact brain energy metabolism	3.03 3.9	singlet singlet
Total Choline (Cho) Marker of altered membrane turnover: tumor, demylination or axonal injury (additional small resonances at 4.05 ppm)	3.22	singlet
Myo-Inositol (ml) Astrocyte marker, gliosis, and organic osmolytes (1.5 T: Apparent singlet at 3.56 ppm; 3T: Multiple peaks 3.2-3.7 ppm, tallest at 3.55 ppm; 4.05 ppm in vivo at best looks like a single peak)	3.56 4.05	complex triplet
Scyllo-Inositol (sl) Isomer of myo-inositol	3.36	singlet
Gamma-Aminobutyric acid (GABA) Neurotransmitter. Elevated after vigabatrin treatment. Barely visible in normal brain by visual inspection of spectrum. The triplets are hidden under other resonances.	1.89 2.28 3.01	complex triplet triplet
Disease related		
Glucose (Glc) Visible after glucose infusion or in patients with elevated blood sugar	3.43 3.8	complex complex
Glycine (Gly) Increased in hyperglycinemia, overlaps with ml, use long TE to differentiate	3.55	singlet
Lactate (Lac) Anaerobe metabolism, mitochondrial damage, acceleration of glycolysis as in tumours	1.33 4.11	doublet quartet
Succinate Seen in abscesses or inborn errors of metabolism	2.4	singlet
Acetate Seen in abscesses or dying tissue	1.9	singlet
Alanine Seen in abscesses, meningiomas or dying tissue	1.48	doublet
Lipid and macromolecules Extra cerebral: artifacts. Intra cerebral: Necrosis, demyelination, falx lipoma	0.8-1.4	complex
Produced due to diet		
b-hydroxybutyrate Ketogenic diet or ketoacidosis	1.21	doublet
acetone Ketogenic diet or ketoacidosis	2.22	singlet
aceto-acetate Ketogenic diet or ketoacidosis	2.29 3.43	singlet singlet
Xenobiotics (ingested or given by injection)		
Propylene glycol (PG) Part of the vehicle for drugs like barbiturates	1.14 3.4-4.0	doublet complex
Ethanol Alcohol consumption	1.16 3.68	singlet quartet
Mannitol Drug that acts as a vasodilator, it is used mainly to reduce pressure in the cranium	3.78	complex
Methylsulfonylmethane (MSM) Dietary supplement, thus it may be seen in healthy subjects	3.15	singlet

Table 1 Human brain metabolites detected by proton MRS

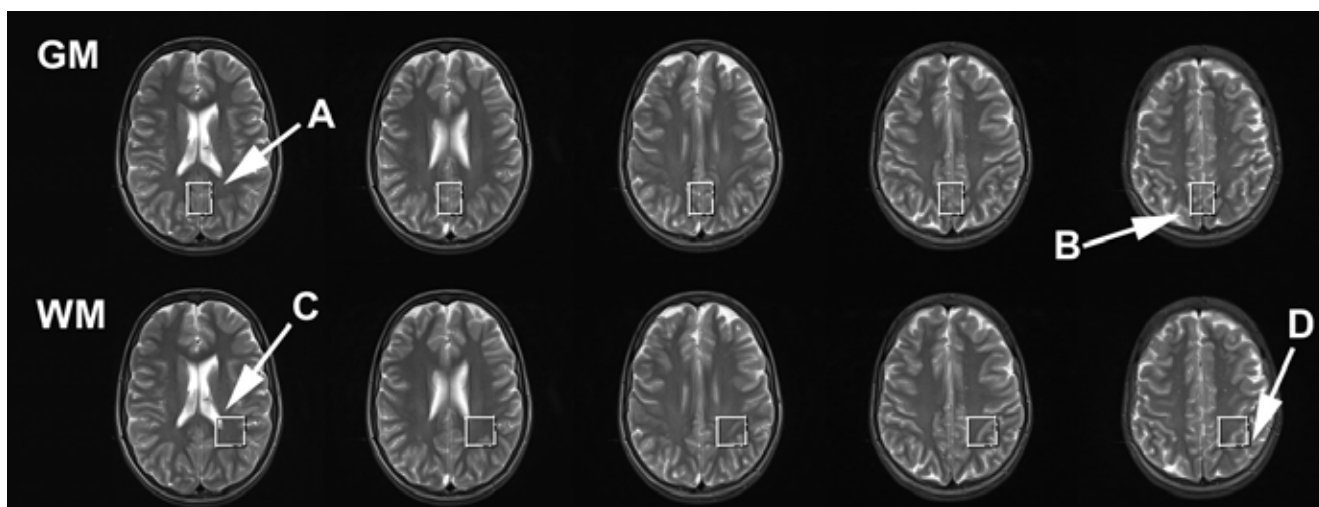


Fig. 5 How to select the location of the GM and WM VOIs

Apart from VOI and TE various parameter may be chosen. The manufacturer often suggests a default value for these, it may be a good choice for the specific scanner and most likely it has been carefully tested. These include:

- Whether or not to sample non-water suppressed spectra for eddy current correction.¹⁰ Some manufacturers built this into their automated sampling protocols.
- The number of averages (NAV) of the time domain signals. It should be sufficiently large to get good signal to noise (S/N). But S/N is proportional to the square root of NAV, so increasing NAV is not always a practical way to get good S/N, it is important to have enough signal. Good field homogeneity and sufficiently large VOIs are clues to sufficient signal. The following thought experiment illustrates how important VOI size is: Let say NAV=64 is considered adequate to get good S/N from a 20x20x20 mm³ VOI, and one chooses to shrink the VOI to 10x10x10 mm³, 8 times smaller, then one would need NAV= 4096 (8x8x64) to get the same S/N from the smaller VOI. With TR=1500ms choosing such a smaller VOI would require an increase of the total acquisition time from 1½ minute to 1 ¾ hours. - Patients unless sedated will never stay motionless for such a long time leading to invalidation of the assumptions for the thought experiment.
- Repetition time (TR). The optimal TR to get the best S/N given a fixed total measurement time depends the T1 of the metabolites.² In adults 1500ms is a good choice in neonates 3000 ms is. When LCModel¹¹ is used for post-processing of the data, it is however

recommended to use at least TR=3000ms, because T1 behaviour of the first and second Cr resonance differ between human and model spectra. The full model spectrum of Cr can only be used reliably with a sufficiently long TR.

- The number of pre-scans also called dummy-scans, because their signals are not stored. Pre-scans serve to achieve an equilibrium state before averaging starts. A typical choice is four dummy-scans.
- Water suppression schemes. A typical choice is to excite water with chemical shift selective radio frequency pulses and remove the signal with crusher gradients.¹ Details about various modified version are reviewed by Drost et al.³

INFORMATION COLLECTION AND ISSUES TO DEAL WITH BEFORE STARTING THE PATIENT SCAN:

Thorough preparation of patient and involved professionals is important to any MR examination, but a few extra steps are needed for MRS. Headlines for these are: Prior MRS; indication for MRS; clinical history; patient instructions; and if applicable requests to the anaesthesiology team. If the patient has been scanned earlier, old location images are of major importance. Exact repositioning of the VOI, can improve reproducibility of the examinations tremendously, enabling good long term monitoring of disease progression in both focal and non-focal disease. The most exact repositioning is achieved by keeping a strict protocol, also for how the pre-MRS localizer images are sampled, including the slice

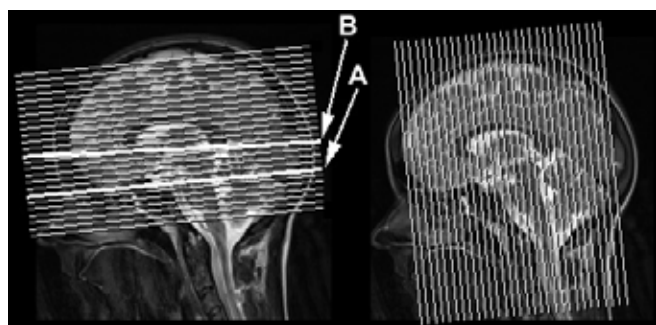


Fig. 6 MRS localizers.

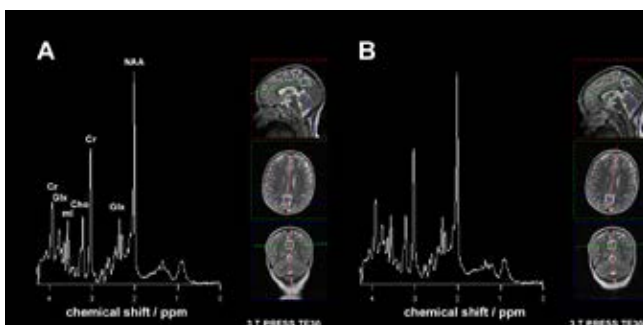


Fig. 7 Reproducibility of MRS relies on careful VOI positioning

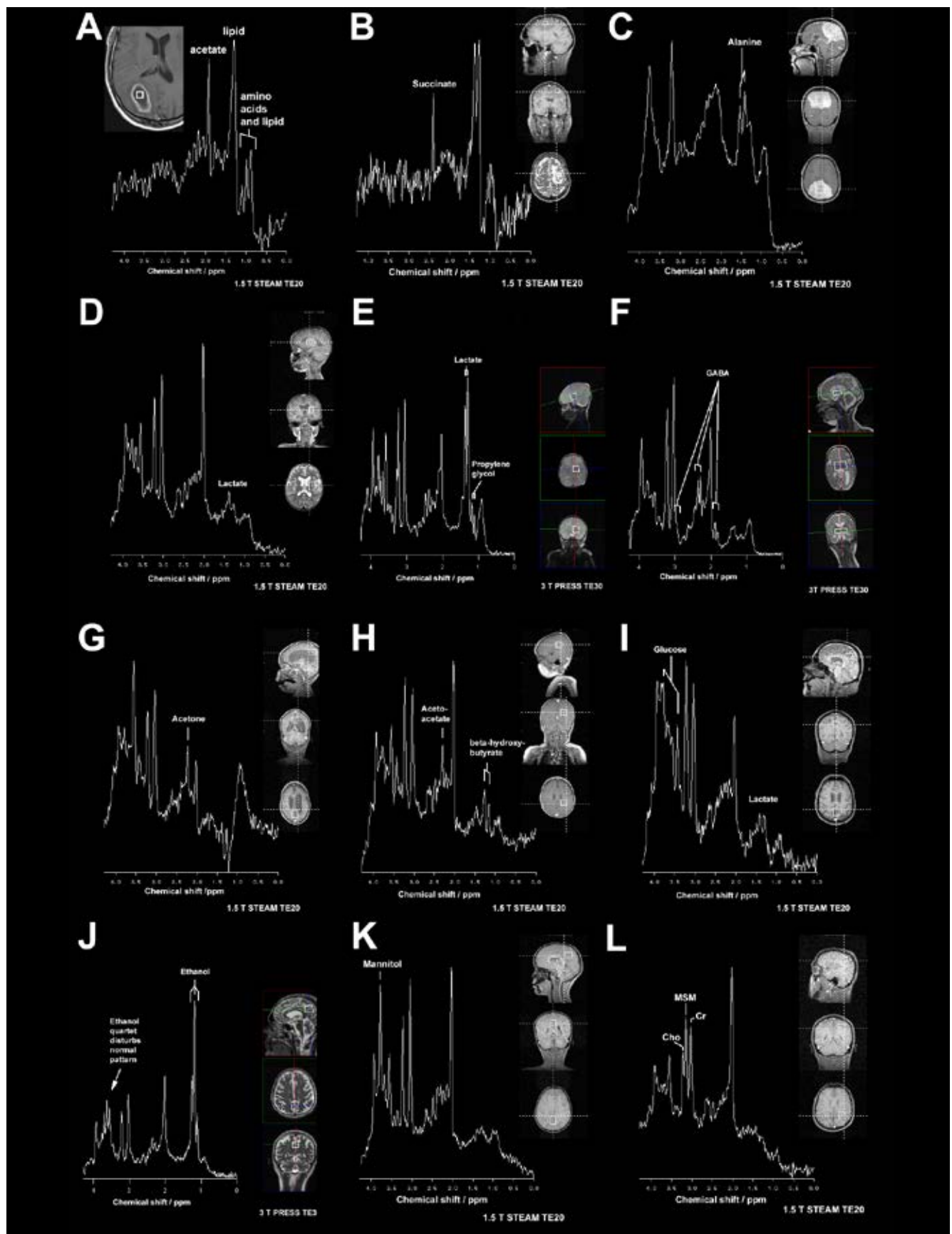


Fig. 8 Collection of abnormal metabolites

thickness, gaps between slices, and angles of the slices with respect to brain markers (Fig. 6). Exact repositioning of VOIs can produce almost identical spectra even after several months (Fig. 7) provided the MRS is prescribed with care.

One factor that aided in obtaining the good reproducibility (Fig. 7) was general anaesthesia. But general anaesthesia has one small caveat. It is generally accepted that MRS cannot detect any of the common general anaesthesia drugs used in humans, but hyperventilation can lead to increased cerebral lactate.¹² Hyperventilation must be avoided if possible especially in patient cases where the presence or absence of small amounts of lactate impacts the diagnosis, e.g. inborn errors of metabolism. Prepare the anaesthesiology team (if it is medically acceptable) to avoid hyperventilation from at least 10 minutes before MRS is initiated. It is in particular an issue at 3 Tesla, because the better S/N easily allows detection of lactate concentrations as small as ½-1 mM.

Patients, who are awake, give other issues some different from in MR imaging. Typically, the patient is allowed to cough or scratch the nose in between MR imaging series, as long as they do not move during “knocking sounds”, the images will be acceptable, MRS requires more of the patient. The patient needs to know, that movement of the head but also of other body parts is not allowed at all, not even in between “knocking sounds”. Movement is unacceptable from the first MRS localizers until all MRS acquisitions are done. Also sleeping must be avoided to prevent patients from sudden awakening causing movement. Dental braces may cause useless spectra, but locations far from the mouth sometime turn out acceptable. Mascara and other make-up containing ferro-magnetic particles present a less severe problem, but the advice is to remove it prior to MRS, if locations near the eyes are of interest.

Collection of patient information relevant to the performance and interpretation of MRS is another pre-MRS task. The purpose of a clinical MRS scan is to answer the question(s), the referring physician asked or could have asked.

Advice of when not to do MRS also is the responsibility of the spectroscopist. MRS can be a waste of time if MRS cannot answer the asked questions. One example of when not to do MRS is, if a patient has been on antibiotics for several days, and the posed question is cystic necrotic tumour versus bacterial abscess. MRS is very well suited to answer this question in the untreated patient, but after antibiotic treatment, the special markers of abscess (alanine, acetate, succinate, or other small amino acids) disappear and both abscess and necrotic tumour show patterns of necrosis: lipids and lactate.¹³⁻¹⁴

Information about circumstances that may affect metabolites are best collected before the scan starts, because some of the factors may give hints about what to expect and how to proceed during the scanning process. Some clinical conditions lead to reversible or partially reversible spectral abnormalities including: Diet, medication, serum sodium, liver function, thyroid parameters, kidney function, seizure activity and diabetes. Ketogenic diet may cause metabolites as aceto-acetate, acetone and beta-hydroxybutyrate,^{1,15-16} (Fig. 8G,H). The solvent propylene glycol can be detected by MRS after administration of drugs as barbiturate,^{1,17} (Fig. 8E). Steroid treatments may affect

NAA.¹⁸ Electrolytes including serum sodium affects the cerebral osmolytes as mI and Cho.^{1,19} Abnormal liver function impacts mI, Cho, Glutamine and sometimes NAA,^{1,20-21} and it is the author's experience that reduced NAA in severe hepatic coma may be reversible upon recovery. Hyper thyroid disease can affect mI and Cho²² and kidney disease affects several cerebral metabolites.²³ Status epilepticus may lead to elevated lactate and decreased NAA.²⁴ Diabetes can cause elevated glucose^{1,25} or with ketoacidosis or lactic acidosis, diabetes can lead to accumulation of ketons or lactate.

Other conditions of interest are: Time since insult because MRS abnormalities change with time after injury, sinus thrombosis because it may lead to lactate accumulation causing misinterpretation in cases of suspected hypoxic injury, and severe focal lesions visible on MRI, because they rather than MRS may be decisive for the prognosis, as for example in locked syndrome.

Another parameter of importance is patient gestational age at birth and postnatal age. It plays a major role for children less than two years.^{1,26-27} In the elderly population one must be aware that age matched controls improve MRS interpretation. Old age mainly affects NAA and Cho.^{1,28}

MRS PROCEDURES AND POTENTIAL PROBLEMS DURING THE SCAN:

Clinical indications for planned MRS^{1,29-30} include: suspected global diffuse injury after neonatal or adult hypoxic or traumatic injuries, toxic encephalopathy, unexplained coma, suspected inborn errors of metabolism, unexplained status epilepticus, loss of cognitive function, monitoring treatment, monitoring disease load prior to a potential treatment, monitoring difficult accessible low grade tumours, differentiating abscess from necrotic tumour, and assisting in the work-up of focal lesions of any kind. MRS should be added to MRI during a scan, when lesions are not understood or when patient symptoms are unexplained by the images, for example when MRI is normal in an unconscious or cognitively disabled patient. But often MRS will be requested by the clinician and planned, because a primary clinical indication exists.

The MRS localizer sequences precede MRS. Moderately good T2 weighted localizer images (Fig.6) have the advantage that most focal pathology is recognized, but sometimes it may be necessary also to consult the diffusion weighted images to exclude overlap with acute lesions invisible on T2.

In most diffuse brain pathologies MRS from single VOI standard GM and WM suffices, but in certain inborn error of metabolism additional disease specific locations can improve MRS, as for example in adrenoleukodystrophy or Leigh's disease (Fig. 7 and 8D). In a patients with suspected severe diffuse global traumatic or hypoxic injury, standard locations GM and WM are advised, but overlap with focal lesions like strokes or shearing lesions should be avoided if possible, because the result will only reflect the focal pathology, and not allow a prognostic evaluation of the patient. In a neonate with suspected birth hypoxic injury, it has been shown that VOIs in the thalamus or basal ganglia better differentiate between good and poor outcome.³⁰⁻³⁴

CSI is the method of choice for the study of focal pathology, but it could be supplemented with single VOIs to get the better

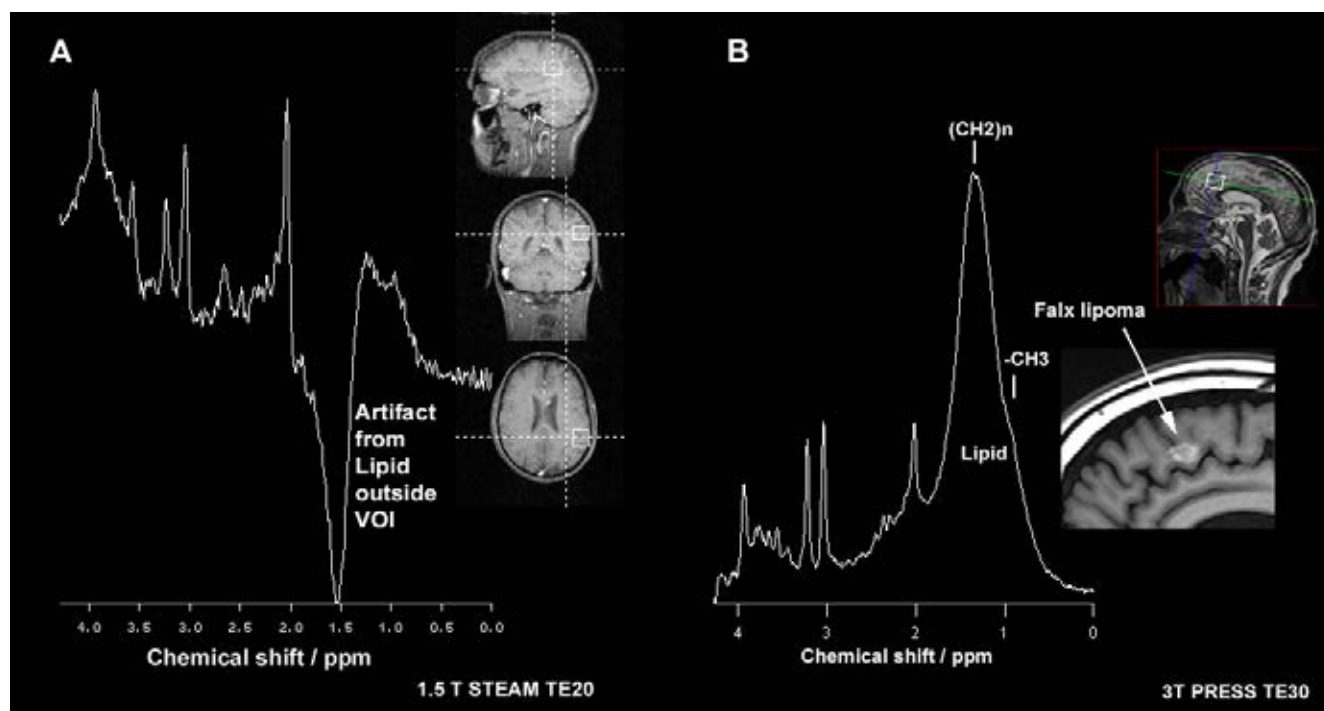


Fig. 9 Lipid artifacts

spectral resolution. In patients with a tumour or other focal lesions partial volumes of unaffected tissue may confuse the interpretation of a spectrum. Inspection of the localizer images may assist the interpretation. In such cases post contrast localizer images may be necessary. Whether or not to perform MRS after contrast injection is a frequent question. Post contrast MRS is acceptable, but be aware that broader resonances result. Lower resolution may affect post-processing, so direct comparison to non-contrast data are best avoided.

The general advice is to follow fixed protocols as described above. Global or diffuse diseases are best investigated with single VOI MRS, whereas focal diseases can benefit from CSI as well as single VOI MRS. Standard VOIs facilitate easy reference to normal control data, but certain circumstances or diseases may prompt extra locations or extra TEs. Consistency mixed with flexibility is the key. Display and read the spectra during the scan. Poor spectral quality can be addressed immediately by repeating the scan forcing a new shim, repeating it with a slightly smaller VOI, shifting away from problems like haemorrhage, scalp or lipomas (Fig.9), or by addressing movement problems. Borderline results with respect to the clinical interpretation could be tackled by supplementing with additional VOIs from similar tissue locations.

The discussion of which TE to use may never find an answer all spectroscopist can agree on. The author's opinion is that a short TE (20-35 ms) protocol almost always is enough. Short TE gives the most information and using experience or post-processing software as LCModel is the clue to dealing with the overlapping resonances and underlying broad components. Moving to long TE will give a flat baseline, but it also causes much lower S/N and the loss of clinically important information about mI, Glx, GABA, glucose, lipids and macromolecules, (Fig. 3). It may be argued that lactate

can only be confirmed by its inversion with PRESS TE=144 ms, this is partially correct. In spectra with very broad resonances as in some spectra from heterogeneous tumours, the FWHM will be so increased that the splitting of the lactate doublet is invisible. But be aware that PRESS TE=144ms also inverts propylene glycol, alanine, γ -hydroxybutyrate, and other metabolites with weak coupling. High quality short TE spectra will allow a full splitting of the lactate resonance. Confirmations of the 7 Hz splitting between the two peaks and of the chemical shift (as read from the centre between the two peaks) 1.33 ppm suffice to identify lactate. Lactate may overlap with lipid at short TE, but identification of lactate in well-resolved spectra only becomes problematic, if lactate is very small compared to lipid.

A short TE spectrum may be supplemented with a long TE spectrum in order to clarify the origin of certain metabolites. Beside inverting resonances, long TE can be used to demonstrate singlet signal versus complex multiplet signals as in hyperglycaemic academia where glycine persists at long TE differentiating it from mI. When a genuinely new or unusual resonance shows up, short and long TE as well as increased NAV and VOI size may assist the assignment of the resonance.

Patient movement is a problem to be aware of during MRS. Minor continuous patient movement like heavy breathing may be accepted as long as the VOI does not shift significantly. Minor movement leads to lower S/N and broader resonances. Storage of individual transients followed by phasing and frequency shifting before averaging may alleviate the problem of motion.³⁶ When the patient is even more restless, the VOI may be shifted away from the intended location. Any suspicion of such movement should cause an immediate re-scan of at least one series of localizer images to confirm the location.

Saturation bands may be used to deal with signals from the scalp fat. It is very helpful in CSI, but for single VOI it is only necessary in the near proximity to the scalp.

STORAGE, POST PROCESSING, AND READING MRS

Currently depending on manufacturer, separate storage of MRS raw data may be needed for later re-analysis or to be able to post-process the data offline. A very simple first attempt to analyse spectra is the visual inspection, reading of the spectrum identifying each metabolite (Table 1). Spectral processing and reading or visual inspection is a matter of practice. The spectroscopist will soon learn to recognise the usual metabolites as NAA, Cr, Cho, mI, Glx and lactate, and the more unusual like ethanol, acetate and many more (Fig. 8). A number of post-processing methods are useful, examples of available software packages are LCModel¹¹ and MRUI.³⁷ The manufacturers usually provide their own post-processing packages, some of these are very useful for interactive analysis and data display. The packages may output a standard displayed spectrum with a set of automatically calculated numbers. Post processing packages of any kind typically output metabolite ratios often expressed as ratios to Cr, and some output “absolute” numbers of a kind. Metabolite concentrations can be calculated either by referring to an assumed water concentration or by various other kinds of scaling methods.³⁸⁻⁴⁰ CSI data can be post-processed offline or using scanner software. The regional information of CSI enables

calculation of metabolite images, these can be maps of ratios for example of NAA/Cr, Cho/Cr, or lactate/Cr. Individual display of all spectra in the grid is however strongly recommended, before metabolite maps are created, because artifacts may be hidden in the colourful metabolite map. The lactate map may for example show “hot spots” caused by unwanted lipid signals.

It is invalid to compare numbers acquired with one software package to numbers acquired with another, but also just using the same package, parameters and settings within the same post-processing package must be kept unaltered. A major cause of data variation is due to post-processing choices. Most of the used post-processing packages use a priori knowledge, for example of which metabolites to expect in the spectrum. Change of the a priori knowledge, for example adding or omitting some of the expected metabolites, will cause the software package to give different numerical output, and healthy controls data must be recalculated.

CONCLUSION

MRS provides added value to imaging of visible lesions, but more importantly MRS is a tool to see invisible abnormalities in normal appearing brain tissue. At first glance MRS may seem to have much too many ingredients and have too complicated recipes, but sticking with stringent protocols and after a little practice MRS becomes a useful daily tool, and referring physicians soon forget, they could ever have lived without it.

Fig. 1 Brain MRS from a healthy volunteer.

MRS demonstrates presence and absence of molecules in brain tissue giving a biochemical fingerprint of the brain. The spectrum is a short echo time (TE=30ms) PRESS spectrum acquired from occipito-parietal white matter (WM) in a healthy volunteer at 3 Tesla.

Fig. 2 MRS localization

Volume selection is achieved by using three slice selective radio frequency pulses in such a way that their slices intersect, and only the protons in the selected single volume of interest (VOI) will create a three pulse echo. Pulse sequences are designed to suppress signals except those from the three-pulse echo enabling single VOI MRS. Simultaneous acquisition of MRS from multiple VOIs can be accomplished by selecting a large flat single VOI, and by adding phase encoding gradients to the pulse sequence, similarly to how it works in MRI. The result is spectra from a grid of smaller VOIs. Chemical shift imaging (CSI) and magnetic resonance spectroscopic imaging (MRSI) are some of the popular names of the method.

Fig. 3 Echo time effect on MRS

Spectra sampled at echo times TE=30ms, 144ms and 288ms using PRESS. Data from a 17 day old term baby with isovaleric academia illustrate the effect of TE on a number of cerebral metabolites. The spectra are displayed using fixed signal scaling to illustrate how the metabolites decay. The numbers on the vertical axis signify signal amplitude measured on an arbitrary scale. Most scanner systems automatically display spectra scaled to the tallest peak, giving a different impression with tall peaks and seemingly increased noise. Visible metabolites include lactate, NAA, Glx, Cr, Cho, mI (mI severely reduced compared to normal for an infant due to abnormal liver function), glucose and a composite likely of isovaleric acid and isovalerylglycine (IVag), as these are increased in isovaleric academia. The effect of TE on singlets as NAA, Cr and Cho is exponential T2 decay of the signal amplitudes. The signals decay but not exactly at the same rate due to differing metabolite T2 values. In vivo Cho typically has a longer T2 than the others, so at long TE, T2 weighting of MRS results in relatively larger Cho/Cr ratios. The effect of TE on complex multiplets of Glx, glucose and mI is exponential T2 decay combined with loss of signal due to strong coupling, the combination is sometimes referred to as apparent T2 decay. The signals have almost vanished at TE=144ms. The effect of TE on weakly coupled spin systems as lactate and the IVag is exponential T2 decay combined with an oscillation. The signals vanish, become negative, vanish and reappear again, with minima at TE=1/J, 3/J, etc., and maxima at TE=0/J, 2/J, etc., where J is the spin-spin coupling constant, with a value around 7 Hz. This holds true for PRESS, but is different for STEAM. Some manufacturers and manuscripts refer to TE=144 ms others to 135 ms or 136 ms as TE to invert lactate. TE=144ms is the optimum choice according to precise measures of J for lactate, but it is not of major importance, the oscillation is so slow that all the values in practice are acceptable.

Fig 4. Basic MRS quality checkpoints

MRS from occipital grey matter (GM) in a healthy volunteer measured with PRESS short echo time (TE=30ms) at 3 Tesla. Spectral quality checks include: A: The broad resonances between 0.8 ppm and 1.4 ppm from lipids and macromolecules of the magnitude seen here are acceptable. The magnitudes of these

resonances in a healthy volunteer depend of how well outer volume signals are suppressed.

- B: "The creatine check" is a smart way to verify that the spectrum is artifact free in the spectral region between 3 and 4 ppm, a region where water suppression artifacts often occur. If the second creatine peak at 3.9 ppm has a peak height approximately 2/3 of the first, then it is fair to assume that the spectral quality is acceptable, and that the other signals in this region also are displayed correct. If the spectrum fails the creatine check, mI, Cho and other metabolites may also be distorted.
- C: The spectrum displayed has not been baseline corrected. The baseline is relatively flat, apart from humps primarily in the Glx regions representing real but broader resonances. Mathematical baseline correction is offered by most post-processing packages, but when it is used in post-processing of short echo time spectra, it often introduces artifacts. The spectrum shown here was post-processed using minor zero filling, minor Gaussian filtering, residual water filtering, Fourier transformation and phase-correction only. The spectrum is displayed from 0 ppm to 4.3 ppm. A full display and minimal data processing enables the best inspection of spectral quality, and provides presentation without concealment. A small wiggle in the baseline is seen between 4 and 4-3 ppm is probably an artifact from the combined water suppression and residual water filtering.
- D: The homogeneity of the magnetic field (in daily terms: the shim-quality) may be analysed by measuring the full width at half maximum (FWHM) of a singlet resonance. A more practical approach for in vivo human brain spectra is to look at the splitting between Cr and Cho. If the Cr at 3.03 ppm and the Cho at 3.22 ppm is split to the baseline, then the shim is good. Further splitting so that noise becomes visible between the two resonances is possible for example in spectra from anaesthetized infants. The resolution is slightly better at 3 T compared to 1.5 T, but it is not twice as good, some is lost to due to shorter T2* and following T2* line broadening.
- In this spectrum one further notices that the Cho at 3.22 ppm has a minor shoulder on the left side. This is real, at 3 Tesla further structure becomes visible, reflecting that Cho represents signals from all choline containing compounds and from all other underlying resonances, including multiple peaks from mI, that are not seen at 1.5 T. Cho appears as a single peak at 1.5 Tesla.

Fig. 5 How to select the location of the GM and WM VOIs

The standard VOIs mid-occipital grey matter (GM) and occipito-parietal white matter (WM) used in the author's hospital. VOI size and how to select the locations is illustrated. MRS is prescribed on transverse images with slice distance 5 mm to make it clearer, how the slices step up and down through the VOI, when the VOI position is inspected.

GM: The 21x27x20 mm3 VOI is placed in the occipital midline. Step up and down through the transverse slices and check (A) whether the two upper corners overlap too much with the corpus callosum, which would give too much white matter in the VOI. Then move to the top and check (B) that the outer corners are not too close to the scalp. Move up and down, check again, and choose the VOI to overlap with the five slices corresponding to 20 mm so the conditions best are met.

WM: The 25x25x20 mm3 is placed in left or right occipito-parietal white matter. As described for GM, check the corners, check (C) for overlap with cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) of the ventricle and check (D) for overlap with the scalp. A small corner of the VOI may stray into the CSF without affecting the spectral quality, but it complicates some quantitation procedures to have a CSF compartment in the VOI. It is sometimes difficult to get good resolution of WM spectra from patients with very enlarged ventricles, possibly due to CSF pulsation, susceptibility artifacts or problematic water suppression, in these cases shrinking of the VOI helps.

Typically, MRS locations are displayed only showing the centre slice, but it is import to have inspected the VOI at all corners to avoid overlap with unwanted tissue, scalp, or unwanted focal lesions. In small heads it may be difficult to make it fit, then the VOI may be shrunk.

Fig. 6 MRS localizers.

Some spectroscopists use existing MR images for MRS prescription. Other prefer to run a full set of transverse images or even a full set of orthogonal localizer image series just for MRS to cover the whole brain and be able to show orthogonal projections of the VOI at all positions. This way the VOI can be inspected and tissue type or focal lesions can be include or avoided as desired. The author uses fast T2 images, with slice distance 5 mm covering the brain as illustrated. First aligned sagittal images, then orthogonal transverse images aligned to the upper pons and lower fossa anterior (A), and finally orthogonal coronal images are acquired. Another common alignment of the transverse images is according to the corpus callosal angle (B):

Fig. 7 Reproducibility of MRS relies on careful VOI positioning

The figure illustrates how good long term reproducibility can be achieved. The original MRS and localizer images were printed prior to MRS. MRS localizer images were sample as in the first examination, and the repeat MRS was prescribed with extreme care comparing the VOI positions relative brain landmarks. This way repositioning within 1-2 mm was achieved. The example shown is from an asymptomatic adrenoleukodystrophy patient, who due to young age was scanned in general anaesthesia. MRS is performed in asymptomatic adrenoleukodystrophy patients to monitor disease development, and to assist in making decisions about bone marrow transplantation. White matter in typical locations of disease development are measured and the GM and WM are added to have extra information. The frequency of examinations is chosen based on the child's age and risk of developing active disease.

The MRS (3 T, PRESS TE=30ms, TR=3000ms, NAV=80) shown here was from GM (A), and it was repeated after 11 months (B). Notice how every little detail of the spectrum was reproduced, for example all small "wiggles" between 2 and 3 ppm. The analysis of the spectra in this patient revealed that the spectra were normal. Normal was defined by metabolite ratios NAA/Cr, Cho/Cr, mI/Cr, and Glc/Cr being in the range Mean±2SD, where Mean and SD were measured in a group of healthy volunteers. MRI and spectra (not shown) from white matter in typical disease regions showed absence of active disease and the patient was referred to continued monitoring rather than bone marrow transplantation.

Fig. 8 Collection of abnormal metabolites

A: Untreated abscess with acetate at 1.9 ppm, lipids at 1.3 ppm, and lipids combined with a group of narrow peaks in the 0.9 ppm region, they are typically assigned to the amino acids valine, leucine and isoleucine.

B: Untreated abscess with succinate at 2.4 ppm. The S/N is not sufficient to detect the 0.9 ppm group of amino acids with certainty.

C: Meningioma with alanine at 1.48 ppm.

D: Lactate at 1.33 ppm in putamen in a 7 month old with Leigh's disease. Spectra from GM and WM did not have lactate.

E: Propylene glycol (PG) at 1.14 ppm and lactate at 1.33 ppm in basal ganglia of a three days old term infant with severe hypoxic injury after placental abruption. Notice how near each other PG and lactate are. If only PG was present, it could be confused with lactate, potentially leading to a false positive for the diagnosis hypoxic injury.

F: GABA detected in a 3 week old with progressive neurometabolic disease. Vigabatrin treatment and metabolic disorders with increased GABA were considered.

G: Acetone at 2.22 ppm due to ketogenic diet in a 2½ year old with severe seizures and leukoencephalopathy of unknown aetiology.

H: Acetoacetate at 2.29 ppm and 3.43 ppm (probably overlapping with the 3.43 ppm resonance of glucose) and b-hydroxybutyrate at 1.21 ppm due to ketogenic diet in a 9 month old with mental retardation and medically intractable seizures. Children with mental retardation of unknown aetiology often have severe seizures, so ketogenic diet is a possibility to remember, before "new peaks" lead to excitement about "new resonances" and a corresponding diagnosis.

I: Glucose at 3.43 ppm and 3.8 ppm in a comatose intensive care patient 22 days after cardiac arrest during liver transplantation. Lactate, decreased NAA and increased Cho indicate severe hypoxic injury.

J: Ethanol at 1.16 ppm and 3.68 ppm in a patient who had recovered and came for a control scan 24 days carbon monoxide poisoning. The decreased NAA and increased Cho may reflect sequelae to long-term alcohol abuse, to carbon monoxide poisoning or to a combination of the two.

K: Mannitol at 3.78 ppm in a 4 year old with an neurometabolic disease of unknown etiology, who had received mannitol due to an acute brain oedema crisis.

L: Methylsulfonylmethane (MSM) at 3.15 ppm in an adult, who used the dietary supplement to treat arthritis.

Fig. 9 Lipid artifacts

A: MRS from a VOI intentionally placed too close to the scalp. The lipid signals originate from outside the VOI and has a different phase compared to NAA, Cr, Cho, mI and other resonances from within the VOI.

B: MRS from a VOI overlapping with a falx lipoma. The lipid signals originate from inside the VOI and have the same phase as two the other resonances.

Table 1 Human brain metabolites detected by proton MRS

A singlet is a single peak from an entity of magnetically equivalent protons as for example the protons in the CH₃ or the CH₂ of creatine. A doublet is a double peak, the peaks have the same peak height. Examples of doublets are the resonances from the protons in the CH₃ of lactate or alanine, where splitting is caused by weak coupling to the neighbouring CH group.

A triplet is a triple peak. The peak heights relative to each other are 1:2:1. An example is the resonance from the protons in the CH₃ of ethanol, where splitting is caused by a weak coupling to the neighbouring CH₂ group.

A quartet is a quadruple peak. The peak heights relative to each other are 1:3:3:1. Examples are the resonance from the protons in the CH of lactate or CH₂ of ethanol, where splitting is caused by a weak coupling to the neighbouring CH₃ group.

When the coupling constant J (the splitting in Hz between for example the two peaks in the doublet) is a lot smaller than the chemical shift difference in Hz between the two resonances coupled to each other, then the coupling is regarded as a weak coupling. The shape, amplitude and appearance of the resonances as function of pulse sequence parameters follow simple patterns. When the two resonance groups are closer to each other, so that the coupling constant J is of the same order of magnitude as the frequency shift between the two resonance groups, then the coupling is regarded as a strong coupling and resonance patterns are complex. Also amplitude and appearance of the resonance as function of pulse sequence parameters as TE become more complex. Examples of strongly coupled resonances are mI, glucose and the 2.05-2.5 ppm resonances as glutamate and glutamate.

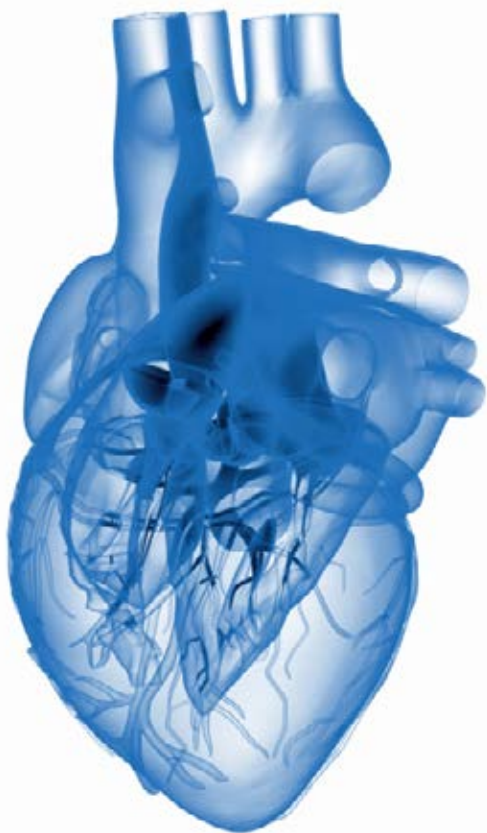
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CMR for Technologists

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Cardiac magnetic resonance imaging (CMR) has been hailed as the single modality capable of defining cardiac anatomy and function, myocardial perfusion, myocardial viability, and coronary artery anatomy (1). CMR, although still evolving rapidly, has matured to the point where it is now a powerful tool with a range of clinical and research applications. Appropriate indications for cardiac MRI are listed in Table 1. In recent years, technical developments have had a dramatic effect on cardiac MR applications, such that the debate no longer focuses on the diagnostic power of MR imaging but on availability and local expertise. The MR Technologist is a fundamental member of the cardiac team and this review should aid those wanting to grasp the main principles of CMR whilst also pointing out what is required to produce high-quality images.



CONTRAINDICATIONS:

Before a patient is placed in a strong magnetic field it should be determined by direct contact with the patient (or informed relative) whether the patient possesses any metal implants, devices and/or metallic foreign bodies which may be a contraindication for a MR examination. Any patient with a range of non-removable, implanted devices should not, under most circumstances, be imaged with MRI. Traditional concerns about MRI of patients with implantable cardiac devices include possible movement of the device and induced lead currents that lead to heating and cardiac stimulation. Strong electromagnetic fields may also cause asynchronous pacing, active tachyarrhythmia therapies, or inhibit a demand pacemaker (2). The presence of ferromagnetic materials can cause variations in the surrounding magnetic field that result in image distortion, signal voids or bright areas, and poor fat suppression. Such artefacts are most pronounced on inversion recovery. This may result in an area of high signal intensity and can mimic areas of delayed enhancement, which could otherwise indicate myocardial fibrosis (3). It is worth noting that intracoronary stents and coronary artery bypass graft surgery are not contraindications (4). Although small forces are generated within metal heart valves by the magnetic fields, they are minimal compared with the forces generated by the beating heart, and all mechanical heart valves are considered safe (5). When in doubt, various resources, such as www.mrisafety.com are available to check a device's safety at a specific magnetic field strength.

CARDIAC GATING:

Cardiac synchronisation limits the artefacts linked to the motion of the heart and blood flow, thus enabling the different phases of the cardiac cycle to be sampled. The methods used to synchronise with cardiac motion essentially rely on the electrocardiogram (ECG). MRI cine acquisition studies rely on robust and consistent ECG gating during the examination. Therefore, before proceeding with the examination, the MRI technologist should check ECG gating by ensuring a high, constant-amplitude R wave and a low T wave.

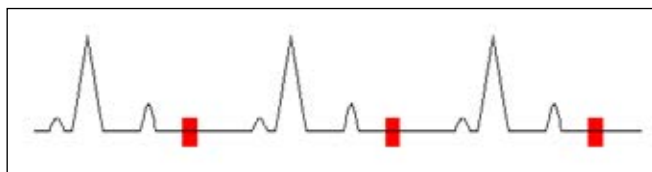


Fig 1. ECG tracing with red boxes representing the acquisition periods. Information is acquired at the same point in each cardiac cycle across multiple cycles to make the final image.

The time between consecutive R waves on the ECG, or the R-R interval, is used to coordinate ECG gating. The R-R interval is the duration of one heartbeat, and is typically expressed in milliseconds (Fig 1). Currently, the two main ways in which the ECG is used to guide acquisition are:

- prospective gating
- retrospective gating

When gating prospectively a preceding R wave acts as a trigger to acquire information during the R-R interval. This will then occur at the same moment in the cardiac cycle with k-space being segmented into individual lines or groups of lines. The key issue to prospective triggering is that the length of the acquisition itself must be shorter than the average R-R interval. If the acquisition length should supersede this period, the total acquisition time or breathe hold will increase (6). With retrospective gating MRI acquisition is continuous with a short TR, whereby a simultaneous ECG recording reorganises the data during image reconstruction i.e. retrospectively. The MR signal data from each R wave is then allocated to the corresponding time points in the cardiac cycle at the end of the entire acquisition. The advantage of retrospective gating is the possibility of imaging the entire cardiac cycle, whereas in prospective gating, there is a lapse of time at the end of the diastole. Movie loop display of these multi cardiac phase or cine images clearly shows the dynamic contraction and relaxation of the ventricles throughout the cardiac cycle without any flashing artefacts as is the case with prospective triggering. In general, if a high, consistent R wave and low T wave cannot be effectively established, then the technologist should reposition the ECG electrodes. Artefacts can occur when there are differences in the length of the R-R interval, such as with cardiac dysrhythmias or from a low ECG signal such as with barrel chested patients. Newer MRI systems that offer advanced triggering modules based on vectorcardiogram (VCG) are available to improve R-wave detection. The VCG technology synchronises the MRI image acquisition with cardiac motion by using temporal and spatial information about the cardiac electrical activity to better differentiate between true signals and signal

artefacts that result from a magnetohydrodynamic effect and other noise stemming from physiologic processes (7).

RESPIRATORY GATING

There are situations when the patient cannot comply with the breath hold instructions and consequently free breathing acquisitions may be employed. During free breathing, diaphragmatic motion is monitored by a special navigator echo, and a decision is made to either accept or reject the data on the basis of the position of the diaphragm. The navigator is positioned on a scout image at the anatomical interface between liver and right lung and a data acquisition window is defined by the radiographer in communication with the clinicians. During each cardiac cycle, the navigator signal updates the superior-to-inferior motion of the right hemidiaphragm (Fig 2). Respiratory gating can be advantageous as prolonged imaging times can be traded for a finer acquisition matrix, extended coverage, and a high SNR. Furthermore, whole heart coverage is feasible with this approach (8).

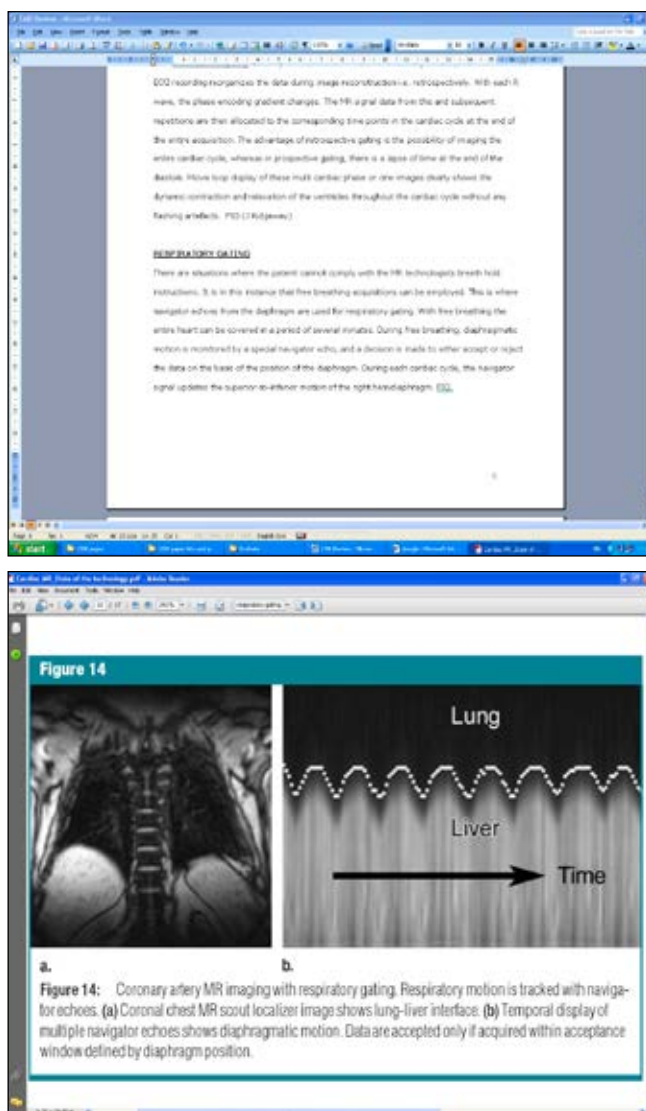


Fig 2. Temporal display of multiple navigator echoes shows diaphragmatic motion. Data only accepted if acquired within acceptance window defined by diaphragm position.

CARDIAC PLANES

Routine cardiac MRI studies are performed in a variety of imaging planes, depending on the desired diagnostic application. A variety of views can be performed to obtain the proper anatomical images according to each patient's body habitus. The optimal planes also depend on the global positioning of the heart in the thorax. Transverse planes show the relationship of the four cardiac chambers and also demonstrate the pericardial structures and coronary vessels. Sagittal images show the connection between the ventricles and the great vessels whilst coronal images are most useful for evaluation of the left ventricle outflow tract, left atrium, and the pulmonary veins.

Other planes that constitute a CMR examination are:

- Vertical long axis (VLA)
- Left ventricle short axis (SA)
- Horizontal long axis or 4 chamber (4CH)
- 3 chamber (3CH)

Specific images can also be planned in order to view the right or left ventricular outflow tracts which detect obstructions or other abnormalities. Depending on the patient's condition, techniques such as black blood imaging, bright blood cine, phase contrast, or viability and perfusion techniques can be used to maximise the image contrast and diagnostic value (9). These methods will be discussed later.

VERTICAL LONG AXIS

The vertical long axis is essential for evaluating the anterior and inferior walls and apex of the left ventricle. An axial image through the left ventricle (LV) and left atrium (LA) is chosen from transverse localiser images and a parasagittal plane that is perpendicular to the chosen image is prescribed that bisects the mitral valve and intersects the LV apex (Fig 3a).

SHORT AXIS

The short axis view is chosen such that a series of slices are perpendicular to the long axis of the LV. The SA plane is most commonly used to evaluate global ventricular function, ventricular mass and volume as well as wall thickening. Most of the ventricle can be easily studied and any perfusion abnormalities can be better seen. The papillary muscles as well as muscular trabeculations are also well defined. The major limitation of the SA plane is the difficulty in assessing the mitral valve, and the interface between left ventricle and left atrium (7). Therefore it is essential to ensure that any CMR protocol has a combination of imaging planes which will overcome at least some of the inaccuracies related to the use of a single imaging plane approach (Fig 3b).

HORIZONTAL LONG AXIS/FOUR CHAMBER

The horizontal long axis is best for evaluating the septal and lateral walls and apex of the left ventricle, the right ventricular free wall, and chamber size. The mitral and tricuspid valves are also well visualised in this plane. A plane perpendicular to the vertical long axis image is chosen which intersects the lower third of the mitral valve and the LV apex (Fig 3c).

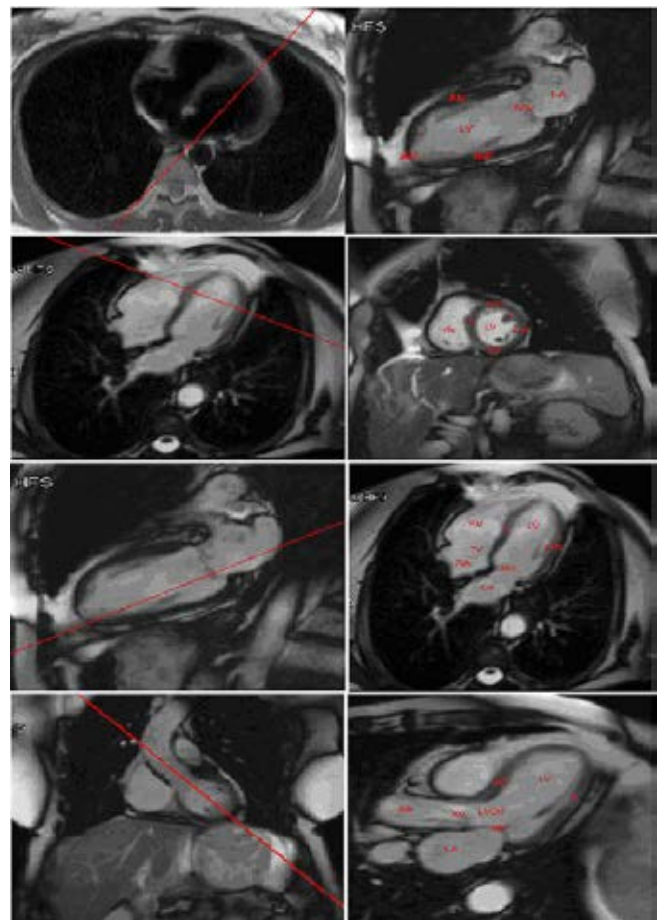


Fig 3. From top (a) VLA (b) SA (c) 4ch (d) 3ch. The red line represents the plane through which the image on the right is obtained.

THREE CHAMBER

The three chamber view shows the aortic root and aortic valve, left ventricular outflow tract, mitral valve, and the anteroseptal and inferolateral walls of the left ventricle. A true coronal image is chosen through the aortic root and a plane is chosen that is perpendicular to the aortic valve plane (Fig 3d).

PULSE SEQUENCES

Pulses sequences are a pattern of radiofrequency pulses and magnetic gradients that are used to produce an image. The different pulse sequences that are used in cardiac imaging can be broadly divided into either black-blood or bright-blood techniques. Spin echo cardiac sequences are typically black-blood techniques whilst gradient echo sequences are typically bright-blood techniques. The following sequences are the most commonly employed for clinical CMR examinations:

- Spin Echo
- Gradient Echo
- Inversion Recovery
- Velocity Encoded Gradient Imaging

Spin echo (SE) pulse sequences rely on the addition of a 180° refocusing pulse that removes the effect of T2* relaxation and determines that the amplitude of the spin echo is influenced by T2 relaxation only. The most commonly used pulse sequence for black blood imaging combines the black blood preparation scheme

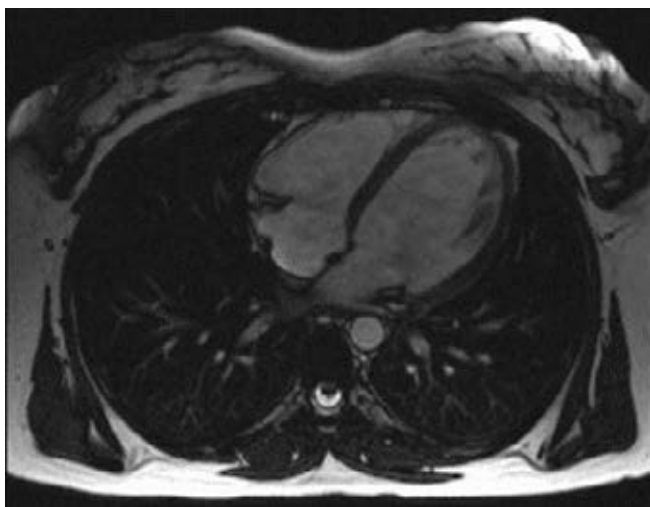


Fig 4 Spoiled Gradient Echo image in HLA/4ch plane.

with the turbo or fast spin echo pulse sequence (10). These are called “black blood” images because of the signal void created by flowing blood. Presaturation with radiofrequency (RF) and reduction of the TE minimises blood signal and increases contrast on gated SE images. High resolution SE images can be used to study the anatomy of the heart as well as the thoracic aorta and great vessels in axial, sagittal oblique and coronal oblique views giving excellent anatomical detail. However, although it is widely available, SE imaging is degraded by respiratory and other motion-related artefacts (11). The two main types of Gradient Echo (GE) pulse sequences used for CMR have the generic names, spoiled gradient echo and balanced steady state free precession. The Spoiled Gradient echo sequence is the workhorse of cardiac imaging because of its speed and versatility. Speed is enhanced by reducing the TR dramatically without saturating or driving the signal to zero therefore permitting data from the same slice location to be acquired at different phases throughout the cardiac cycle. A much larger transverse magnetisation is achieved following subsequent low flip angle pulses. This is known as flip angle imaging and it forms the main basis by which the spoiled GE sequences are used for fast imaging (10). (Fig 4) Global and regional ventricular contractile function can be imaged using cine GE sequences, synchronised to the patient's ECG. GE imaging is also employed in the assessment of blood velocity and flow measurements, assessment of valvular disease, myocardial perfusion and delayed enhanced imaging. Two dimensional (2D) GE sequences are well suited for breath hold studies, dynamic contrast examinations and CMR angiography (12). Balanced Steady State Free Precession (bSSFP) is a family of sequences which are currently the backbone of cine cardiac MR imaging. Balanced SSFP GE sequences are designed to ensure that the transverse magnetisation is not spoiled

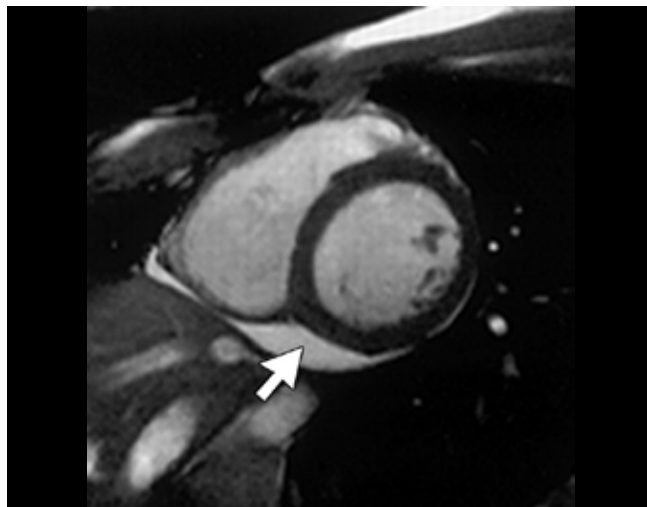


Fig 5 Pericardial fluid (arrows) has higher signal intensity on SSFP image.

but brought back into phase at the end of each TR period when the next RF pulse is applied. After a number of repetitions this gives rise to a steady state condition where the transverse magnetisation from two or three successive repetition periods combine to give a much greater signal (13). SSFP is a modification of GE imaging producing bright blood images with excellent contrast between myocardium and blood within the heart (blood pool). The high temporal resolution and excellent contrast of SSFP make it well adapted for evaluation of wall motion and volumetric

measurement, which require clear delineation between myocardium and blood pool (Fig 5). It is worth noting that this sequence is very dependent on the homogeneity of the magnetic field. By placing a shim box over the region of interest and keeping the TR as short as possible the technologist can prevent some of the dark banding artefacts that these SSFP images are prone to. Inversion Recovery (IR) pulses are used to null the signal from a desired tissue to accentuate surrounding pathology. A common use of this technique is to null the signal from normal myocardium during delayed enhanced imaging which is typically performed about 10 minutes after injection of a contrast agent. IR pulses have a special parameter known as inversion time (TI). When attempting to null normal myocardium, one must find the appropriate TI at which the normal myocardium is dark. To determine the appropriate TI for an individual, a TI scout series is obtained where each image in the

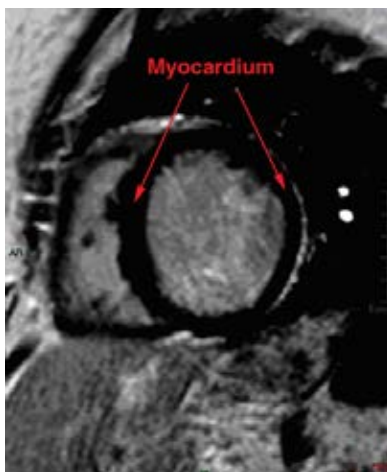


Fig 6 This image shows the appearance of normal nulled myocardium using an IR pulse sequence. This sequence is used when looking for delayed enhancement, but none is present on this image.

series has a progressively larger TI. Several minutes after contrast administration, normal myocardium clears all contrast from its cells and appears black. In contrast, abnormal cellular behaviour in scarred or infiltrated myocardium has extracellular contrast excretion that does not clear at the same rate hence it appears bright against the black healthy heart muscle and intermediate signal of the left ventricular cavity (Fig 6). Delayed enhancement can signify

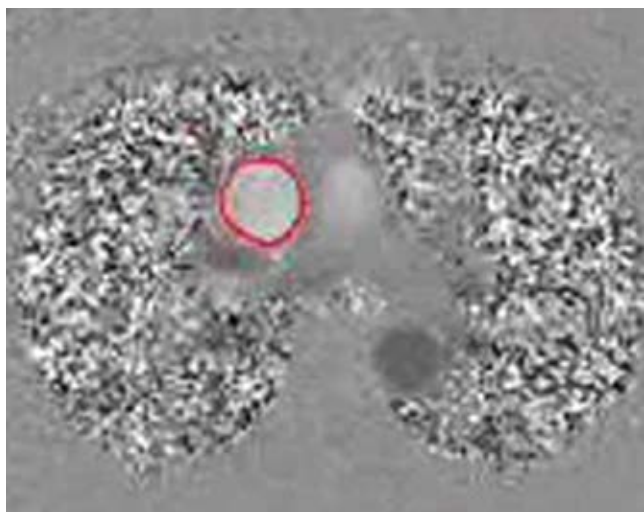


Fig 7 On a velocity phase-contrast MR image, orthogonal measurements of the ascending aorta at the level of the pulmonary bifurcation (outlined in red) can be performed.

ischemic edema, an inflammatory or infectious pathology such as myocarditis or fibrous reorganisation which is often the case in cardiomyopathies. The majority of published studies evaluated myocardial viability using selected long axis images and a set of SA images to encompass the LV. This 2D approach requires multiple breath holds but can be accomplished in less than 10 minutes. 3D approaches have recently been promoted as being comparable in image quality, and have the advantage of a single, albeit longer, breath hold to encompass the entire ventricle (11). Velocity encoded gradient echo imaging (VENC), also known as phase contrast imaging, is an MR technique for quantifying flowing blood. By measuring the phase shift that occurs as protons in the blood move through a magnetic field, the velocity and direction of the blood can be obtained. To obtain accurate measurements from a VENC image, a plane must be selected that is perpendicular to the path of the flowing blood. The technique creates a velocity encoded image for multiple phases of the heart cycle, thus creating a cine. Stationary tissue appears grey with tissue moving through the plane appearing as shades of either white or black, depending

on the direction. The more white or black the tissue is, the faster it is moving. Quantification of blood flow is performed by software that requires the user to outline the vessel of interest for each phase (Fig 7). The software then produces time-velocity and time-flow curves. This technique can aid in calculating the relative flows in the systemic and pulmonary systems when evaluating a cardiac shunt, determining the pressure gradient across a stenotic valve, or the regurgitant flow through a valve.

OTHER VALUABLE CMR TECHNIQUES

Perfusion Imaging

Perfusion imaging involves scanning of the heart in the SA plane during the first pass of contrast through the right and then left heart and subsequent enhancement of the myocardium itself. Performed at rest, the areas of reduced enhancement equate to hypoperfused or unperfused myocardium. This is then repeated in conjunction with myocardial stressing allowing areas of reversible ischemia to be mapped as a focal hypointense segment of myocardium. Adenosine is most often used for assessing perfusion whilst regional wall motion is analysed using dobutamine. Plein found that a multi-component CMR consisting of cine function, adenosine and rest perfusion, delayed enhancement, and coronary artery imaging yielded a high sensitivity and specificity in predicting the presence of significant artery disease (14).

Tagging

Myocardial tagging lays out a saturation grid or series of saturation lines across the heart. Deformations of these lines due to myocardial contraction are then monitored. When combined with cine imaging, myocardial tagging can provide supplementary information about wall motion and is usually performed as a breath hold acquisition with a gradient echo readout (15). In clinical practice, tagged images are usually analysed subjectively to distinguish between normal and hypokinetic myocardial segments, and to evaluate regional circumferential contraction (Fig 8).

THE USE OF CONTRAST AGENTS IN CMR

Paramagnetic contrast agents are frequently used in cardiac MR examinations as extracellular agents as they predominantly affect

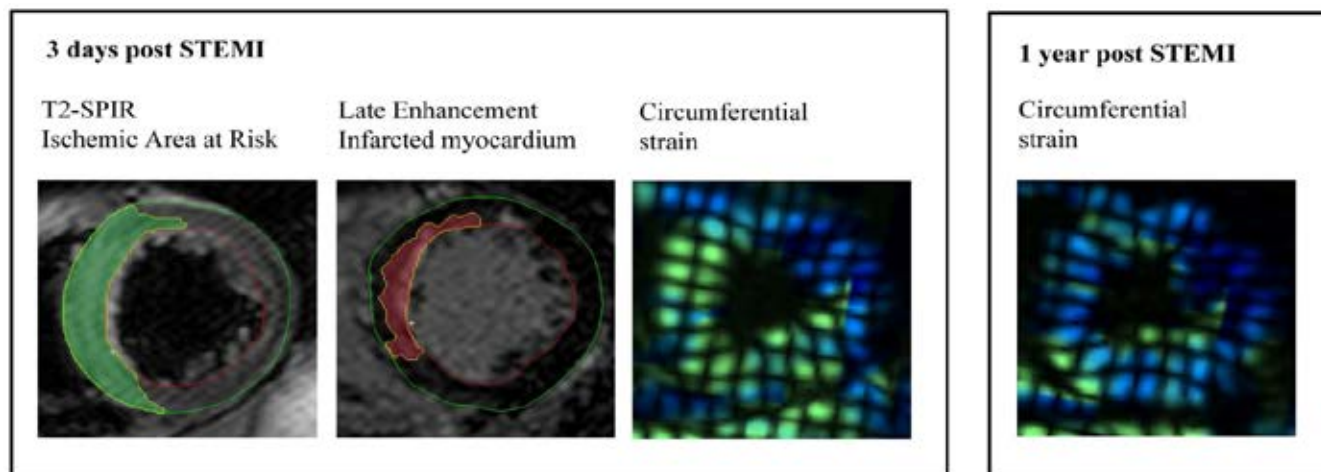


Fig 8 Tagged short axis image showing regional systolic dysfunction (green colours) following primary coronary intervention to a left anterior descending artery occlusion.

T1 shortening in tissues where it accumulates. Thus, organs such as the heart, taking up these agents will become bright on a T1W MRI sequence (16). The most commonly used contrast agents in CMR are based on gadolinium and examples include Gadovist and MultiHance. They are routinely injected intravenously and although it is initially in the arteries it rapidly redistributes into the extracellular fluid spaces and is then excreted via the kidneys. Based on the diagnostic purpose as well as safety considerations, the exact doses and manners of contrast agent administration vary among different cardiac MRI protocols.

Gadolinium-based contrast media (Gd-CM) are safe and lack the nephrotoxicity associated with iodinated contrast media. Minor adverse effects occur infrequently and include nausea, taste perversion, and hives. The issue of nephrogenic systemic fibrosis (NSF) and its relationship to the gadolinium chelates is something that a MR technologist should be aware of. NSF is an uncommon

but severely delayed fibrotic reaction of the body tissues to some Gd-CM. It affects patients with renal insufficiency, and specifically patients on dialysis or approaching dialysis in particular those patients in whom the glomerular filtration rate (GFR) is less than 30 ml/min/1.73m². There is growing recognition in the literature of an epidemiologic association between the administration of Gd-CM and the development of NSF. The European Society of Urogenital Radiology has published guidelines on the use of Gd-CMs and its relationship to NSF (17). To reduce the risk of NSF in at-risk patients they recommend using a Gd-CM not associated with the development of NSF. NSF has occurred following the administration of Omniscan, Magnevist and Optimark hence these should be avoided at all costs in at-risk patients. An alternative imaging or nonimaging modality that may provide the requested clinical diagnostic data at a lower potential risk is actively encouraged by many health care professionals (18).

TABLE 1
INDICATIONS FOR CARDIAC MRI

- 1) Coronary artery disease
 - ___A. Assessment of global ventricular function and mass
 - B. Detection of Coronary Artery Disease
 - i. Regional LV function at rest and during dobutamine stress
 - ii. Assessment of myocardial perfusion (adenosine stress)
 - iii. Coronary MRA (anomalies)
 - C. Acute and chronic myocardial infarction: Detection and assessment, Myocardial viability
- 2) Cardiomyopathies
 - ___A. Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy
 - B. Dilated cardiomyopathy
 - C. Arrhythmogenic Right Ventricular Cardiomyopathy
 - D. Restrictive cardiomyopathies: Sarcoid, Amyloid
 - E. Myocarditis
- 3) Cardiac and pericardiac masses: Thrombus
- 4) Pericardial disease: Pericardial effusion and Pericarditis
- 5) Valvular heart disease: Quantification of regurgitation
- 6) Congenital heart disease (CHD)
 - ___A. Assessment of shunt size
 - B. Anomalous pulmonary venous return
 - C. Ebstein's anomaly
 - D. Pulmonary regurgitation
 - E. Atrial septal defect
- 7) Diseases of the aorta and great vessels: Aortic aneurysm, Aortic dissection

A FEW FINAL BUT IMPORTANT POINTS

Even after the MR technologist has familiarised themselves with all of the above concepts it is still worth covering what may seem basic. MRI technology is now somewhat pervasive in the medical community; nonetheless not every MRI scanner is adequate to obtain cardiac images. Dedicated cardiac coils alongside a high performance 1.5 or 3 Tesla magnet with strong, fast gradients are necessary to obtain high quality images. In order to achieve a good signal to noise ratio the centre of both the anterior and posterior surface coils should be well aligned with the centre of the heart. These specialised coils improve image quality and spatial resolution while allowing for parallel imaging which decreases imaging time. With advances in CMR technology, multiple clinical indications have followed. Although there is overlap with other cardiac imaging modalities, CMR often works in a complimentary fashion to these other techniques or assists differential diagnosis. The strengths of CMR lie in its ability to comprehensively image cardiac anatomy, function, perfusion, viability and pathology, and put this information in the context of the wide field of view of surrounding vascular and non-cardiac anatomy. Finally, with appropriately trained MR technologists and with suitable RF coils the CMR imaging techniques described above can enhance speed, coverage and anatomical detail all of which improve diagnosis which in turn is transforming the world of CMR.

SUMMARY OF ME

I am a Senior Research Radiographer with over 6 years of cardiac MR experience in both adults and neonates. I am currently employed at Imperial College, London in an academic role however I also actively partake in scanning weekly clinical CMR lists. My initial curiosity with the human body and the ability to image and investigate it in detail is what drew me to the profession over 10 years ago and this has subsequently kept me interested ever since!

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Diffusion tensor imaging. Technical considerations and clinical applications.

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Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) techniques have been increasingly applied to the study of molecular displacement (diffusion) in biologic tissue. The magnetic resonance measurement of an effective diffusion tensor of water in tissues can provide unique biologically and clinically relevant information that is not available from other imaging modalities. For this purpose Diffusion Tensor Imaging (DTI) is applied. DTI is an MRI variation that may significantly improve our understanding of brain structure and neural connectivity. DTI measures are thought to be representative of brain tissue microstructure and are particularly useful for examining organized brain regions, such as white matter tract areas. The resultant images display and allow for quantification of how water diffuses along axes or diffusion encoding directions. Applications of DTI to tissue characterization are reviewed. The interpretations of common DTI measures (mean diffusivity, ADC, fractional anisotropy, FA; radial diffusivity, Dr; and axial diffusivity, Da) are discussed. Also the fiber tracking algorithms are presented.

Τεχνικές απεικόνισης μαγνητικού συντονισμού έχουν εφαρμοσθεί για τη μελέτη της μοριακής διάχυσης (diffusion) στους ιστούς. Η απεικόνιση του τανυστή διάχυσης (Diffusion tensor imaging) παρέχει κλινικές πληροφορίες που δεν είναι εφικτές με άλλες απεικονιστικές μεθόδους. Η απεικόνιση του τανυστή μοριακής διάχυσης βελτιώνει σημαντικά την κατανόηση της δομής του εγκεφάλου και της συνδεσιμότητας των νευρικών ινών. Γίνεται αναφορά στην βελτιστοποίηση του πρωτοκόλλου καθώς επίσης και στις κλινικές εφαρμογές.

INTRODUCTION

A major challenge for neuroscience is to understand brain function in terms of connectional anatomy and the dynamic flow of information across neural networks. MRI now offers a noninvasive approach called Diffusion Tensor Imaging (DTI). DTI has emerged as a powerful method for investigating white matter architecture in health and disease. Diffusion in tissue can be either anisotropic or isotropic depending on the characteristics of the tissue. With DTI, diffusion anisotropy effects can be fully characterized, providing even more exquisite details on tissue microstructure. In this article we present the technical aspects of DTI, fiber tracking algorithms and clinical applications.

BACKGROUND

Diffusion is the Brownian motion (random movement of particles suspended in a liquid or gas) of molecules that is driven by internal thermal energy. The mobility of molecules can be characterized by a physical constant, the diffusion coefficient D. The MRI signal attenuates in the presence of diffusion. The attenuation depends on D, the b factor, which is determined by the strength of the gradients G, the duration of the gradients Δ, and the amount of time passing between the gradients δ. The signal attenuation A and the b-factor are given by

$$A = \exp(-bD)$$

$$b = \gamma^2 G^2 \delta^2 \left(\Delta - \frac{\delta}{3} \right)$$

Λέξεις κλειδιά: Κλασματική ανισοτροπία, δεσμοδογραφία, απεικόνιση διάχυσης.

The relationship between signal intensity S in diffusion weighted

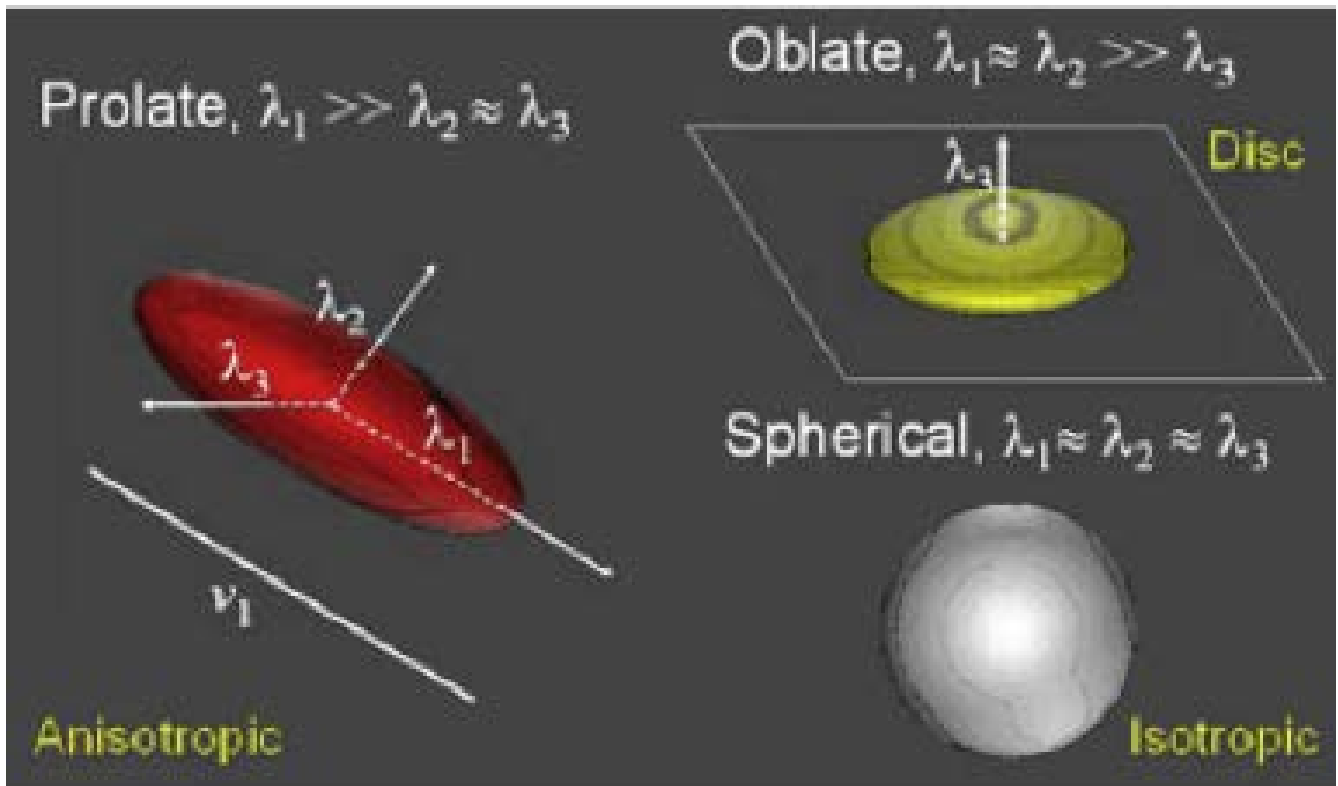


Fig 1 Eigenvalues and eigenvectors

MR image and the different parameters is given by,

$$S = S_0 e^{-b(ADC)}$$

where S_0 is the signal intensity and ADC is the apparent diffusion coefficient, that reflects molecular diffusivity in the presence of restrictions, such as viscosity and spatial barriers. In the presence of anisotropy, diffusion can no longer be characterized by the constant D , but requires a tensor D . A tensor is a mathematic construct that describes the properties of an ellipsoid in three-dimensional space and is given by,

$$D = \begin{bmatrix} D_{xx} & D_{xy} & D_{xz} \\ D_{yx} & D_{yy} & D_{yz} \\ D_{zx} & D_{zy} & D_{zz} \end{bmatrix}$$

The diagonal elements of D represent the apparent diffusion coefficient along the x, y, and z directions

(molecular mobility along each direction) while the off diagonal elements represent the correlation between the diffusion in perpendicular directions. The tensor D is symmetric

$$(D_{ij} = D_{ji}, i, j = x, y, z, i \neq j)$$

and positive definite. In order to determine tensor D one should acquire diffusion-weighted images, by the application of at least 6 gradient directions, along with an image that is not diffusion weighted (b_0). The diagonalization of tensor D is necessary in order to determine the basic diffusion directions. The diagonalization leaves only three nonzero elements along the main diagonal of the tensor

$$\hat{D} = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \lambda_3 \end{bmatrix}$$

The diagonal elements, which are called eigenvalues, reflect the shape of the ellipsoid and are the solution of the following equation:

$$|D - \lambda_i I| = 0$$

An eigenvector v_i corresponds to each eigenvalue λ_i . The eigenvector which corresponds to the largest eigenvalue will point in the direction of the largest diffusion direction (Fig.1)

The eigenvector v_i can be found by solving,

$$(D - \lambda_i I)v_i = 0$$

ANISOTROPY INDICES

The DTI data can be analyzed in three ways to provide information on microstructure and architecture for each voxel, and are expressed by various indices. First, mean diffusivity characterizes the overall mean-squared displacement of molecules and the overall presence of obstacles to diffusion. Second, the degree of anisotropy describes how much molecular displacements vary in space and is related to the presence of oriented structures. The third way, that DTI can be analyzed, is the main direction of diffusivities, which is linked to the orientation, in space, of structures. The most commonly used invariant indices are :Relative anisotropy (RA),

$$RA = \sqrt{\frac{1}{3}} \sqrt{\frac{(\lambda_1 - MD)^2 + (\lambda_2 - MD)^2 + (\lambda_3 - MD)^2}{MD^2}}$$

Fractional anisotropy(FA)

$$FA = \sqrt{\frac{2}{3}} \sqrt{\frac{(\lambda_1 - MD)^2 + (\lambda_2 - MD)^2 + (\lambda_3 - MD)^2}{\lambda_1^2 + \lambda_2^2 + \lambda_3^2}}$$

Volume Ratio(VR)

$$VR = \frac{\lambda_1 \times \lambda_2 \times \lambda_3}{MD^3}$$

Where $MD = ((\lambda_1 + \lambda_2 + \lambda_3)/3)$ is mean diffusivity. Anisotropy maps are often color encoded to represent directional information regarding the principal eigenvector (Fig.2)

IMAGING PROTOCOL

In order to extract all necessary informations from DTI data, the full tensor must be determined. This is accomplished by collecting a b0 image and diffusion weighted images along six gradient directions, using diffusion-sensitized MRI pulse sequences. Although the increase of the number of sensitizing gradient directions improves the accuracy of diffusion tensor estimates and fiber tracking applications the optimal number of gradients and their orientation are under debate. However, for most applications, many more images are usually required to boost SNR to acceptable levels. It has been a common practice simply to repeat acquisition of the same DWIs (ie, increasing NEX) to achieve this. However, acquiring more distinct diffusion-encoding directions without any repeated acquisitions is becoming more widespread. The rationale for sampling more directions is that this reduces the orientational dependence and increases the accuracy and precision of diffusion tensor parameters such as FA, mean diffusivity, the eigenvalues and eigenvectors. In other words, measurement errors will not be as dependent on relative orientation of the measured diffusion tensor compared with the set of diffusion-gradient directions. According to 1 Monte Carlo computer simulation study at least 20 unique directions are necessary for a robust estimation of anisotropy, whereas at least 30

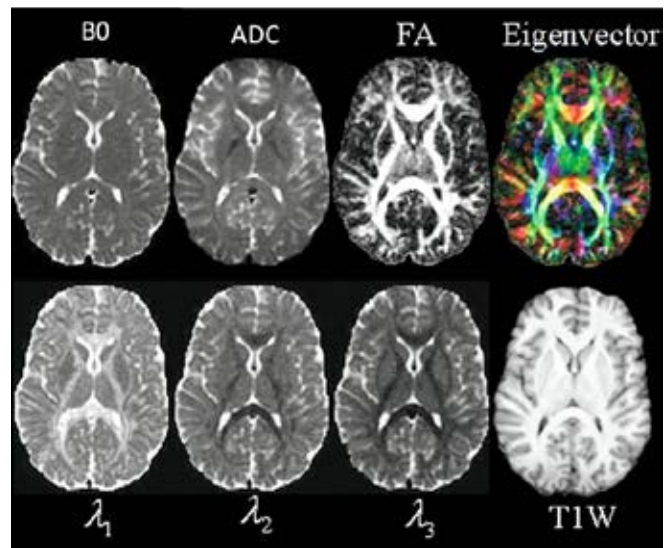


Fig.2.. Quantitative maps from a diffusion tensor imaging (DTI) and anatomical T1W image

directions are required for a robust estimation of tensor orientation (ie, the primary eigenvector) and mean diffusivity. Thus, using 30 directions is recommended for routine clinical DTI studies as long as time permits, and even more directions would be useful primarily when more sophisticated diffusion modeling such as high angular resolution diffusion imaging (HARDI) is contemplated to better delineate connectivity in regions of complex white matter architecture such as crossing fiber tracts. These methods generally involve examining q-space, which contains the Fourier transform of diffusion properties just as k-space in conventional MR images contains the Fourier transform of magnetic properties. In addition to optimizing the number of diffusion-encoding directions at high b-values, there is a need to decide the best number of b0 s/mm² T2-weighted image acquisitions, though image sets acquired at a very low b-value are sometimes used instead to crush artifacts from residual magnetization. This translates to having 1 low-b image set for every 5–10 high-b image sets; hence, 3–6 low-b image sets would need to be acquired in addition to 30 high-b diffusion encoding directional images sets. For many routine clinical applications (brain screening, stroke, brain tumors), a fairly coarse spatial resolution can be used with a small number of encoding directions. For applications requiring accurate quantification,

Acquisition Parameter	3T	1.5T
Parallel factor	2	2
Slice thickness	2.0 mm	2.5 mm
Matrix	128 x 128 x 60	96 x 96 x 50
Field of view	256 mm	240 mm
# Diffusion-encoding directions	25	25
# b=0 image sets	3	3
# repetitions (NEX)	1	1
b-value	1000 s/mm ²	1000 s/mm ²
TE/TR	min/<12 s	min/<10 s
Total acquisition time	<7 min	<6 min

Table 1

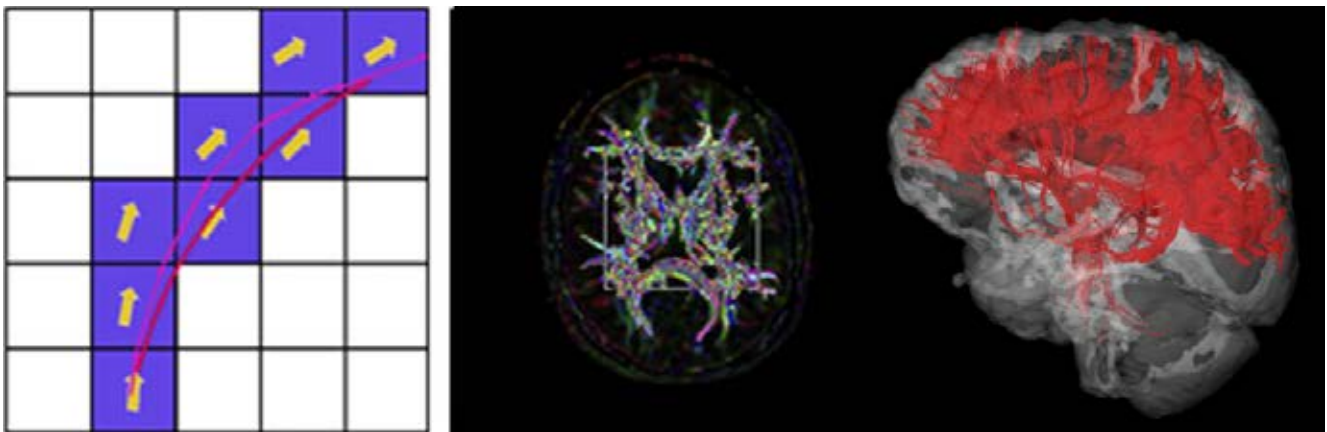


Figure 3 Results of a deterministic fiber tracking algorithm.

however, such as quantifying changes in multiple sclerosis plaques (MS), comparing DTI measures between different neurological or psychiatric groups, quantifying DTI measures in very small white matter tracts, or estimating white matter trajectories with

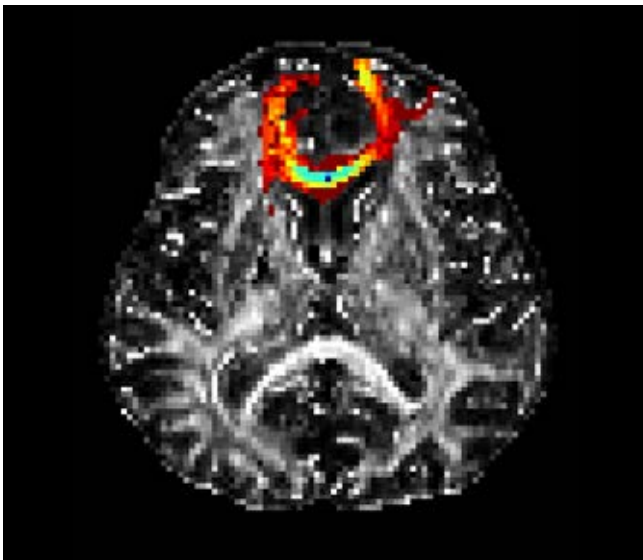


Fig.4 Probabilistic tractography

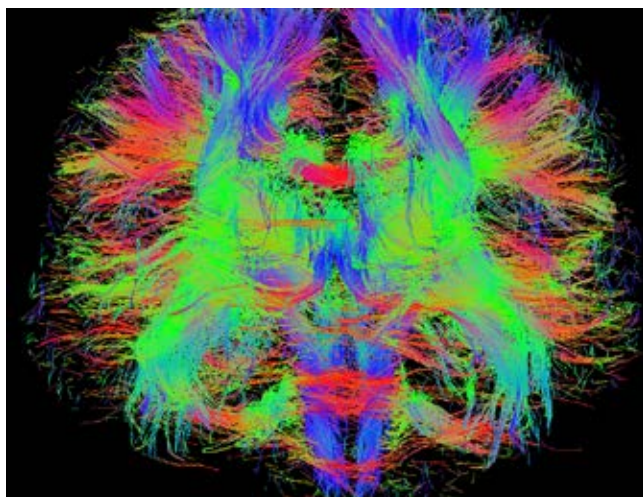


Fig.4 3T deterministic tractography

white matter tractography, high spatial resolution is much more important and a large number of diffusion encoding directions or averaging is desirable. High-quality DTI data with whole-brain coverage, 2.5-mm isotropic resolution and 64 diffusion encoding directions may be obtained in 12-15 minutes on clinical 1.5-T scanners. Similar DTI data quality may be achieved in 4-6 minutes at 3.0 T. Subject motion during data acquisition may lead to signal tissue misinterpretation. Therefore scan times are kept short by using fast acquisition techniques such as echo-planar imaging. Artifacts such as eddy currents are corrected during postprocessing and can be further reduced with a modified acquisition. Pulsation of cerebrospinal fluid can be corrected by using fluid-attenuated inversion recovery diffusion weighted imaging or by using cardiac gating. Susceptibility artifact is addressed by applying a multi-shot diffusion protocol which does not introduce phase errors from subject motion. Finally parallel imaging has proved useful in reducing susceptibility artifacts in both single-shot and multi-shot acquisitions. A common acquisition protocol for DTI images optimized for 3T and 1.5T systems is provided in Table 1.

FIBER TRACKING ALGORITHMS

A number of methods for the tracking of the fibers within white matter using DTI has recently been suggested. Methods to reconstruct white matter tracts can be placed into two broad categories: a) deterministic and b) probabilistic. Methods in the first category based on line propagation algorithms that use local tensor information for each step of propagation (Fig. 3). Methods in the second category are based on global energy minimization to find a path between two predetermined voxels with minimum energy violation (Fig.4). Probabilistic methods are especially useful for tracking through areas of lower anisotropy including gray matter. Although tips for optimizing DTI acquisition for fiber tracking are similar to those for DTI optimization in general, there are a few issues that are specific to fiber tracking. Unlike routine clinical DTI, acquisitions for fiber tractography must be contiguous in 3D, with no gaps between sections. Another point is that making the voxel isotropic is more important with fiber tracking. This generally requires much thinner sections and, therefore, many more sections for whole-brain coverage than with routine clinical DTI. With these thinner sections it is typical to interleave the acquisition to prevent cross-talk between adjacent contiguous sections.

INTERPRETATION OF DTI MEASURES

The interpretation of changes in the measured diffusion tensor is complex and should be performed with care. Many published research studies have focused primarily on the diffusion anisotropy (usually the FA), which may not be enough to characterize the tissue changes. For example white matter (WM) neuropathology often causes the anisotropy to decrease, which may result from increased radial (perpendicular) diffusivity, reduced axial (parallel) diffusivity or both. Measurements of the MD or ADC may help to better understand how the diffusion tensor is changing. Alternatively more recent studies have started to examine measurements of either the eigenvalues or the radial and axial diffusivities directly, to provide more specific information about the diffusion tensor. Interpretation is further complicated by the sensitivity of the diffusion tensor and the anisotropy in particular, to a broad spectrum of other factors, including image noise artifacts (eg., misregistration from eddy currents or head motion), partial volume averaging between tissues in large voxels and regions of crossing WM tracts. Within healthy WM, FA can range between values of 0.1 to almost 1.0 and much of this variation is caused by crossing WM fibers. In the absence of other information FA is thus a highly sensitive but fairly nonspecific biomarker of neuropathology and microstructural architecture. Use in combination with other imaging measures (e.g. perfusion, spectroscopy) may help to improve the specificity of DTI in complex diseases.

CLINICAL APPLICATIONS:

Demyelination and dysmyelination

Early studies demonstrated that the parallel organization of white matter fiber bundles is the basis for diffusion anisotropy, whereas myelin appears to modulate the amount of anisotropy. Nearly all studies of myelination with normal brain development or demyelination with disease-related processes have found less diffusion anisotropy when axons are less myelinated.

Regardless of the specific mechanisms, in comparison to the diffusion anisotropy, the axial and radial diffusivities (or diffusion eigenvalues) provide more specific information about diffusion tensor changes or differences. Recently, more studies have started to examine the axial and radial diffusivities using DTI. Increased radial diffusivities have been observed in high anisotropy WM of patients with relapsing-remitting MS, in periventricular frontal WM in early Alzheimer's disease, in periventricular WM of patients with hydrocephalus, in remaining corpus callosum WM tracts post corpus callosotomy, in extratemporal WM in patients with temporal lobe epilepsy, in the genu of the corpus callosum of cocaine addicts and in the corpus callosum of subjects with autism. In many of these cases, myelination may play a significant modulatory role in the radial diffusivity.

Edema

The effects of edema on DTI measurements are similar to that of inflammation, as one would expect: the MD is increased and the anisotropy is decreased. This pattern of DTI measures is a general hallmark of many disease and injury processes, limits the specificity of DTI measurements. One observation of note is that, although

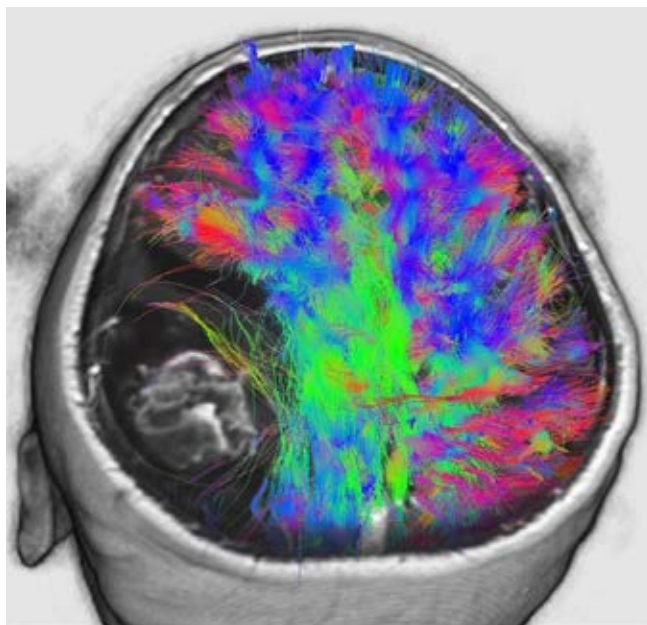


Fig.5 . 3D Fiber tracking in patient with glioblastoma

the anisotropy is reduced, the directional patterns of the affected WM tracts appear unaltered, whereas glioma infiltration may cause alterations in the WM fiber orientations.

Ischemic stroke

Recent studies have shown that the FA appears to increase in acute lesions and decrease below baseline levels in the chronic phase. Investigations of specific eigenvalues appear to show decreases in the first and second (largest and medium) eigenvalues during acute ischemia, relative to the contralateral hemisphere.

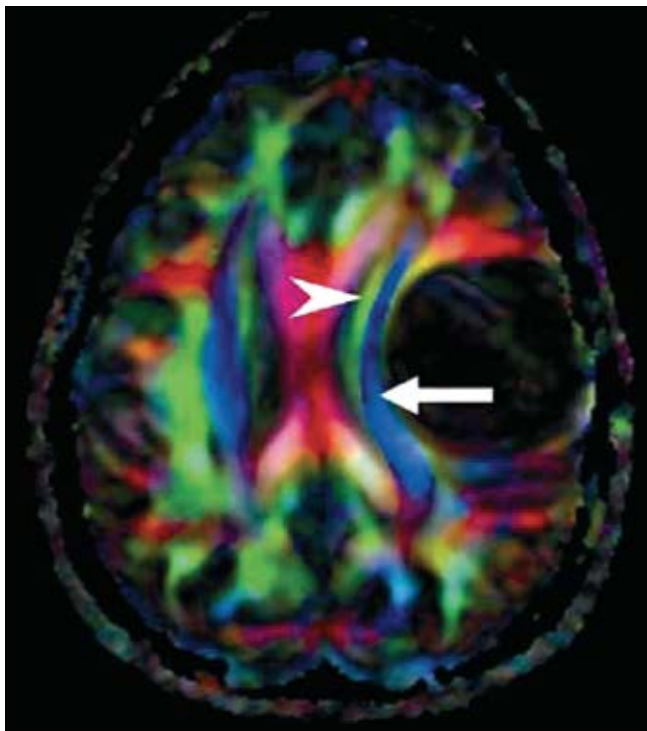


Fig.6 . Pattern 1 in patient with cystic astrocytoma

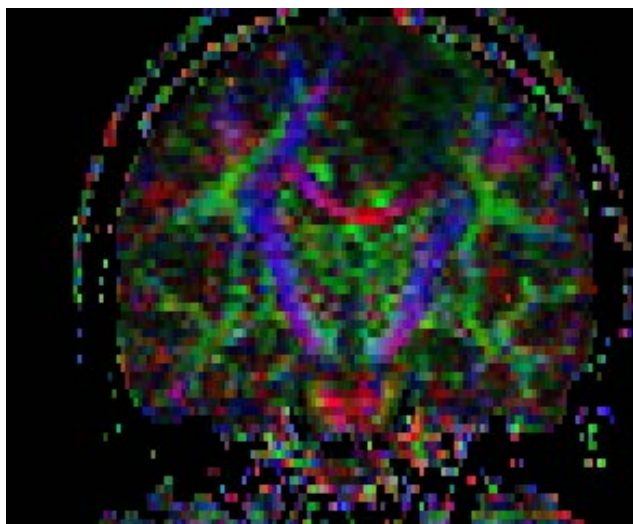


Fig.7 Pattern 4 complete disruption of superior

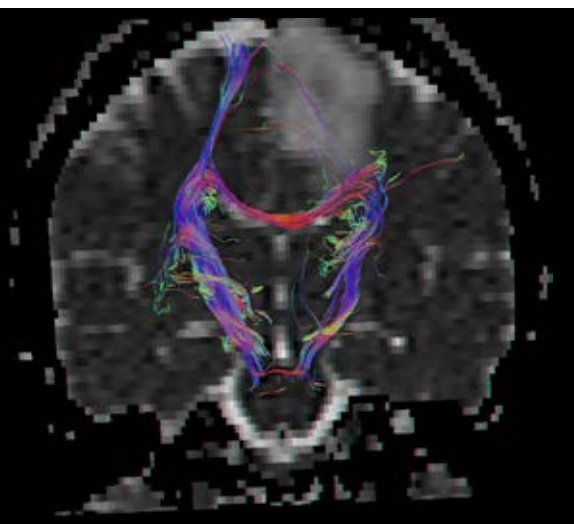


Fig.7 3D fiber tracking region of corona radiata

Neoplasia and Surgical interventions

Much of this work focuses on using DTI maps and tractography to help localize WM fiber tracts that are important for such critical functions as motion, language and vision. Armed with this information, the neurosurgeon can plan surgical procedures that will minimize injury to critical tracts (Fig.5). DTI has also been applied to characterize tissues, albeit with limited success. The heterogeneity of brain tumors in the presence of complex environments (e.g., edema, mass effects) and the inherent heterogeneity of diffusion anisotropy in normal white matter reduces the overall specificity of DTI measures. The directional color maps with FA incorporated by way of color intensity modulation provided a concise, readily interpretable summary of the anisotropic diffusion characteristics of tumor-altered WM fiber

tracts and revealed four basic DTI patterns.

Fiber tracts showing Pattern 1 (Fig.6) were characterized by normal or mildly decreased FA (<25%) and normal or mildly increased ADC (<25%) relative to the homologous tract in contralateral hemisphere, with abnormal location and/or direction resulting from bulk mass displacement. Patterns 2 and 3 both were characterized by substantially decreased FA but differed in their appearance on directional color maps. Whereas Pattern 2 tracts were normal in location and direction (i.e., showed normal color hues), Pattern 3 tracts exhibited abnormal hues not attributable to bulk mass displacement. Pattern 2 was observed in peritumoral WM tracts that showed probable vasogenic edema without tumor (the solitary metastases). Pattern 4 was characterized by isotropic or near-isotropic diffusion, such that the tract was not identifiable

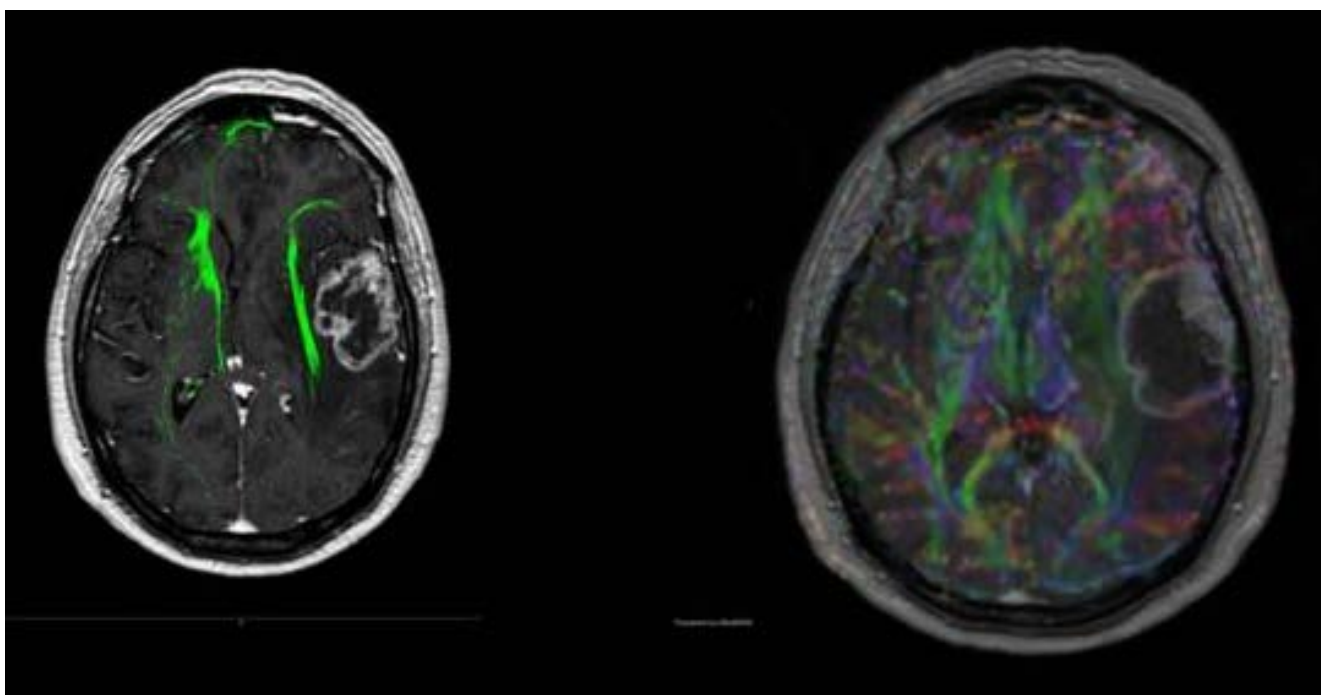


Fig.8. Combined Pattern 2 and 3. 2d fiber tracking and F.A.color map superimposed on T1w image with GD.

on FA or directional color maps (Fig 7). It should be noted that combinations of the above patterns may occur; for example, a combination of Patterns 1 and 2 may be observed in a tract that is both displaced and edematous. It should also be noted that the effects of tumor on adjacent WM tracts may manifest at some distance from the tumor (Fig.8)

DTI has been used widely for mapping WM anatomy prior to surgery. This assists the clinical intervention team with localization of critical white matter pathways to minimize damage to these areas. These pathways may be visualized using either color eigenvector maps or tractography. DTI and tractography have also been implemented in the intraoperative setting to facilitate real-time WM tract mapping, to compensate for shifting tissues during the surgery. These visualization techniques have also been applied after surgical intervention to assess the effects of the surgery on the WM tracts.

Radiation treatment in neoplasia

Several studies have demonstrated that radiation therapy decreases the FA of affected WM regions. This decrease in FA appears to be

related to the overall radiation dose and so may be used to assess dose distribution. The ADC and FA measures also appear to be promising for differentiating between recurrent brain tumors and radiation injury in regions of new contrast enhancing lesions.

CONCLUSIONS

DTI is the only noninvasive approach available to track white matter fibers, therefore has a tremendous impacts on the brain function studies. One of the most interesting applications, apart from fiber tracking, is the integration of tractography with functional imaging. Activation maps are the natural complement of tractography. This combination will open a window on the important issue of brain connectivity. Crossing white matter tracts may be detected and resolved using HARDI/QBI methods, diffusion spectrum imaging or new diffusion imaging models.

The use of multiple DTI measures, such as various combinations of MD, FA, Dr, and Da or the application of DTI in combination with other quantitative imaging modalities (e.g., magnetization transfer, T1, T2, spectroscopy, perfusion) may help to improve the specificity of tissue pathology.



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ΚΑΤΑΝΟΜΗ ΕΓΚΑΤΕΣΤΗΜΕΝΩΝ ΣΥΣΤΗΜΑΤΩΝ ΜΑΓΝΗΤΙΚΗΣ ΤΟΜΟΓΡΑΦΙΑΣ ΣΤΟΝ ΙΔΙΩΤΙΚΟ ΚΑΙ ΔΗΜΟΣΙΟ ΤΟΜΕΑ

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Χ. ΧΡΗΣΤΟΥ	ΑΘΗΝΑ	PHILIPS	NT POWER 1.0T	1998
Χ. ΧΡΗΣΤΟΥ	ΑΘΗΝΑ	ESAOTE	ARTSCAN	2007
ΒΙΟΚΛΙΝΙΚΗ ΑΘΗΝΩΝ	ΑΘΗΝΑ	PHILIPS	ACHIVA 1.5T	2007
EUROMEDICA ΑΘΗΝΑΙΟΝ	ΑΘΗΝΑ	PHILIPS	NT10 1.0T	1995
EUROMEDICA ΑΓΙΟΣ ΑΝΤΩΝΙΟΣ	ΑΘΗΝΑ	GE Healthcare	SIGNA 1.5T	2006
EUROMEDICA ΠΑΛ. ΦΑΛΗΡΟΥ	Π.ΦΑΛΗΡΟ	GE Healthcare	SIGNA HDi 1.5T	2008
ΝΟΣΟΚΟΜΕΙΟ ΙΑΣΩ	ΑΘΗΝΑ	SIEMENS	AVANTO 1.5T	2010
ΙΑΤΡΙΚΟ ΚΕΝΤΡΟ ΙΠΠΟΚΡΑΤΗΣ	ΑΘΗΝΑ	PHILIPS	T5II 0.5T	1995
ΙΑΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ (ΜΑΓΝΗΤΙΚΗ ΤΟΜΟΓΡΑΦ)	ΑΘΗΝΑ	SIEMENS	SONATA 1.5T maestro	2002
ΙΑΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ (ΜΑΓΝΗΤΙΚΗ ΤΟΜΟΓΡΑΦ)	ΑΘΗΝΑ	SIEMENS	SYMPHONY 1.5 T maestro	1999
ΙΑΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ (ΜΑΓΝΗΤΙΚΗ ΤΟΜΟΓΡΑΦ)	ΑΘΗΝΑ	SIEMENS	SYMPHONY 1.5 T maestro	2001
ΙΑΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ (ΜΑΓΝΗΤΙΚΗ ΤΟΜΟΓΡΑΦ)	ΑΘΗΝΑ	SIEMENS	AVANTO 1.5T	2001
ΙΑΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ (ΜΑΓΝΗΤΙΚΗ ΤΟΜΟΓΡΑΦ)	ΑΘΗΝΑ	SIEMENS	AVANTO 1.5T	2009
ΙΑΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ (ΜΑΓΝΗΤΙΚΗ ΤΟΜΟΓΡΑΦ)	ΑΘΗΝΑ	SIEMENS	ESPREE 1.5T	2006
ΙΑΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ (ΜΑΓΝΗΤΙΚΗ ΤΟΜΟΓΡΑΦ)	ΑΘΗΝΑ	SIEMENS	SOMATOM TRIO 3T	2007
ΙΑΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ (ΜΑΓΝΗΤΙΚΗ ΤΟΜΟΓΡΑΦ)	ΑΘΗΝΑ	SIEMENS	MAGNETOM SKYRA 3.0 T	2010
ΙΑΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ (ΜΑΓΝΗΤΙΚΗ ΤΟΜΟΓΡΑΦ)	ΑΘΗΝΑ	ONI MED. / GE	MSK EXTREME 1.5T	2009
ΙΑΤΡΙΚΟ ΑΘΗΝΩΝ	ΑΘΗΝΑ	SIEMENS	SONATA 1.5 T	1995
ΙΑΤΡΙΚΟ ΑΘΗΝΩΝ	ΑΘΗΝΑ	SIEMENS	AVANTO 1.5T	1998
ΙΑΤΡΙΚΟ ΠΑΛΛΑΙΟΥ ΦΑΛΗΡΟΥ	ΑΘΗΝΑ	GE Healthcare	SIGNA Hde 1.5T	2009
ΕΥΡΩΚΛΙΝΙΚΗ	ΑΘΗΝΑ	SIEMENS	SYMPHONY 1.5T maestro	1997
ΜΑΙΕΥΤΗΡΙΟ ΜΗΤΕΡΑ	ΑΘΗΝΑ	PHILIPS	PANORAMA AMBIENT	2007
ΔΙΑΓΝΩΣΤΙΚΟ BABYMED	ΑΘΗΝΑ	GE Healthcare	SIGNA INFINITY 1.5T	2005
MEDITERRANEO	ΑΘΗΝΑ	PHILIPS	INTERA 1.5T	2005

ΗΛΕΚΤΡΟΝΙΚΗ ΔΙΑΓΝΩΣΗ	ΑΘΗΝΑ	PHILIPS	INTERA OMNI 1.0T	2000
ΚΥΑΝΟΥΣ ΣΤΑΥΡΟΣ	ΑΘΗΝΑ	PHILIPS	ACHIVA 1.5T	2007
ΓΕΝΙΚΗ ΑΠΕΙΚΟΝΙΣΤΙΚΗ –ΣΤΡΙΓΓΑΡΗΣ	ΑΘΗΝΑ	SIEMENS	AVANTO 1.5T	2007
METROPOLITAN HOSPITAL	ΠΕΙΡΑΙΑΣ	SIEMENS	SYMPHONY 1.5 T maestro	2000
METROPOLITAN HOSPITAL	ΠΕΙΡΑΙΑΣ	SIEMENS	AVANTO 1.5T	2008

ΡΕΑ ΓΥΝΑΙΚΟΛΟΓΙΚΗ ΚΛΙΝΙΚΗ	ΑΜΦΙΘΕΑ	PHILIPS	PANORAMA 1.0T	2010
ΒΙΟΪΑΤΡΙΚΗ ΑΙΓΑΛΕΩ	ΑΘΗΝΑ	SIEMENS	VISION 1.5T	2005
ΚΛΙΝΙΚΗ ΓΑΛΗΝΟΣ	ΑΘΗΝΑ	SIEMENS	IMPACT 1.0T	2003
ΔΙΑΓΝΩΣΤΙΚΗ ΘΕΡΑΠΕΥΤΙΚΗ	ΑΘΗΝΑ	GE Healthcare	SIGNA INFINITY 1.5T	2005
EUROMEDICA ΕΓΚΕΦΑΛΟΣ	ΑΘΗΝΑ	GE Healthcare	SIGNA HDx 1.5 T	2007
EUROMEDICA ΕΓΚΕΦΑΛΟΣ	ΑΘΗΝΑ	GE Healthcare	SIGNA MRI 1.5 T	2003
EUROMEDICA ΠΙΚΕΡΜΙ	ΠΙΚΕΡΜΙ	GE Healthcare	SIGNA MRI 1.5T EXCITE	2007
EUROMEDICA ΓΑΛΑΤΣΙ	ΓΑΛΑΤΣΙ	GE Healthcare	SIGNA EXCITE 1.5 T	2007
ΔΙΑΓΝ. ΚΕΝΤΡΟ ΓΕΩΡΓΑΚΟΠΟΥΛΟΣ	ΑΘΗΝΑ	SIEMENS	IMPACT 1.0T	2005
ΗΛΙΟΠΟΥΛΟΣ ΑΞΟΝΙΚΗ ΠΑΤΗΣΙΩΝ	ΑΘΗΝΑ	PHILIPS	T5 0.5T	2004
ΑΘΗΝΑΙΟΝ	ΠΑΓΚΡΑΤΙ	HITACHI	APPERTO OPEN 0.4T	2007
ΒΙΟΙΑΤΡΙΚΗ ΠΑΠΑΔΑ	ΑΘΗΝΑ	ON-GE	MSK EXTREME 1.0T	2010
ΒΙΟΙΑΤΡΙΚΗ ΑΜΠΕΛΟΚΗΠΙΩΝ	ΑΘΗΝΑ	GE Healthcare	SIGNA 1.5T DXi	2007
ΒΙΟΙΑΤΡΙΚΗ ΑΙΓΑΛΕΩ	ΧΑΙΔΑΡΙ	PHILIPS	ACHIVA 1.5T	2007
ΒΙΟΙΑΤΡΙΚΗ ΜΙΧΑΛΑΚΟΠΟΥΛΟΥ	ΙΛΙΣΙΑ	PHILIPS	INTERA CV 1.5T	2001
ΒΙΟΙΑΤΡΙΚΗ ΜΙΧΑΛΑΚΟΠΟΥΛΟΥ	ΙΛΙΣΙΑ	GE Healthcare	SIGNA HDXi	2007
ΒΙΟΙΑΤΡΙΚΗ ΚΗΦΙΣΙΑΣ	ΑΘΗΝΑ	PHILIPS	INTERA 1.5T INFINITY	2009
ΒΙΟΙΑΤΡΙΚΗ ΚΗΦΙΣΙΑΣ	ΑΘΗΝΑ	GE Healthcare	MR750 3T	2009
ΒΙΟΙΑΤΡΙΚΗ ΑΛΙΜΟΥ	ΑΛΙΜΟΣ	GE Healthcare	SIGNA HDx 1.5 T	2007
ΒΙΟΙΑΤΡΙΚΗ ΑΛΙΜΟΥ	ΑΛΙΜΟΣ	PHILIPS	INTERA OMNI 1.5T	2002
ΒΙΟΙΑΤΡΙΚΗ (ΔΕΥΚΟΣ ΣΤΑΥΡΟΣ)	ΑΘΗΝΑ	PHILIPS	PANORAMA 0.23T	2004
ΒΙΟΙΑΤΡΙΚΗ ΠΕΡΙΣΤΕΡΙΟΥ	ΠΕΡΙΣΤΕΡΙ	GE Healthcare	SIGNA INFINITY I 1.5T	2006
ΙΟΝΙΟ ΘΕΡΑΠΕΥΤΗΡΙΟ	Ν. ΙΩΝΙΑ	GE Healthcare	SIGNA PROFILE	2007
ΑΘΗΝΑΙΚΗ ΙΑΤΡΙΚΗ	ΑΘΗΝΑ	SIEMENS	IMPACT 1.0T	2003
ΔΙΑΓΝΩΣΗ ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΑΣ	ΑΘΗΝΑ	TOSHIBA	VANTAGE XGV 1.5T	2007
ΙΩΝΙΑ ΙΑΤΡΙΚΗ ΕΛΕΥΣΙΝΑ	ΕΛΕΥΣΙΝΑ	TOSHIBA	OPART 0.35 T	2001
EUROMEDICA ΙΩΝΙΑ	ΑΣΠΡΟΠΥΡΓΟΣ	TOSHIBA	EXELART XG	2008
ΔΙΑΓΝΩΣΤΙΚΟ ΚΕΝΤΡΟ ΓΥΦΑΔΑΣ	ΑΘΗΝΑ	TOSHIBA	MRT50 FLEXART	2001
ΔΙΑΓΝΩΣΤΙΚΟ ΚΕΝΤΡΟ ΙΠΠΟΚΡΑΤΗΣ	ΑΘΗΝΑ	PHILIPS	OUTLOOK 0.35T	2003
ΔΙΑΓΝΩΣΤΙΚΟ ΚΕΝΤΡΟ ΙΠΠΟΚΡΑΤΗΣ	ΑΘΗΝΑ	SIEMENS	HARMONY 1.0T	2007
ΚΕΝΤΡΙΚΗ ΚΛΙΝΙΚΗ ΑΘΗΝΩΝ	ΑΘΗΝΑ	SIEMENS	AVANTO 1.5 T	2010
EUROMEDICA ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟ	ΑΘΗΝΑ	GE Healthcare	HORIZON LX 1.0T	2002
EUROMEDICA ΑΓΙΑ ΠΑΡΑΣΚΕΥΗ	ΑΓ. ΠΑΡΑΣΚΕΥΗ	GE Healthcare	SIGNA HDx 1.5T	2006
ΙΑΣΩ GENERAL	ΑΘΗΝΑ	SIEMENS	SYMPHONY 1.5 T	2001
ΚΕΝΤΡΟ ΓΥΦΑΔΑΣ	ΑΝΩ ΓΥΦΑΔΑ	SIEMENS	SYMPHONY 1.5 T	2009
ΔΙΑΓ. ΚΕΝΤΡΟ ΑΓ. ΑΝΑΡΓΥΡΩΝ	ΑΘΗΝΑ	GE Healthcare	SIGNA MRI 1.5 T	2002
ΑΚΤΙΝΟΔΙΑΓΝΩΣΗ ΑΕ	ΑΘΗΝΑ	GE Healthcare	SIGNA HORIZON 1.5 T	1994
ΚΛΙΝΙΚΗ ΔΕΥΚΟΣ ΣΤΑΥΡΟΣ	ΑΘΗΝΑ	PHILIPS	INTERA 1.0 T	2005
ΚΟΣΜΟΪΑΤΡΙΚΗ	ΚΟΛΙΑΤΣΟΥ	SIEMENS	SYMPHONY 1.5T	2009
ΓΑΛΗΝΟΣ ΔΙΑΓΝΩΣΤΙΚΟ ΚΕΝΤΡΟ	ΠΑΓΚΡΑΤΙ	SIEMENS	IMPACT 1.0T	1998
ΓΑΛΗΝΟΣ ΔΙΑΓΝΩΣΤΙΚΟ ΚΕΝΤΡΟ	ΠΑΓΚΡΑΤΙ	SIEMENS	SYMPHONY 1.5T	2007
ΓΑΛΗΝΟΣ ΔΙΑΓΝΩΣΤΙΚΟ ΚΕΝΤΡΟ	ΠΑΓΚΡΑΤΙ	SIEMENS	SYMPHONY 1.5T	2007
ΓΑΛΗΝΟΣ ΔΙΑΓΝΩΣΤΙΚΟ ΚΕΝΤΡΟ	ΓΥΦΑΔΑ	SIEMENS	ESSENZA 1.5T	2009
ΑΚΤΙΝΟΔΙΑΓΝΩΣΗ ΑΕ	ΠΕΙΡΑΙΑΣ	GE Healthcare	SIGNA MRI 1.5 T	2000
ΒΟΥΓΓΙΟΥΚΛΑΚΕΙΟ ΚΕΝΤΡΟ	ΑΘΗΝΑ	SIEMENS	HARMONY 1.0T	2009
ΚΛΙΝΙΚΗ ΤΑΞΙΑΡΧΕΣ	ΠΕΡΙΣΤΕΡΙ	PHILIPS	INTERA 1.5T	2004
ΙΑΤΡΙΚΗ ΦΡΟΝΤΙΔΑ	Ν. ΧΑΛΚΗΔΩΝΑ	TOSHIBA	EXCELART 1.5T	2009

ΕΥΡΩΔΙΑΓΝΩΣΗ	ΝΙΚΑΙΑ	SIEMENS	IMPACT 1.0 T	2000
ΑΠΕΙΚΟΝΙΣΤΙΚΗ ΧΑΛΑΤΣΗΣ	ΠΕΙΡΑΙΑΣ	SIEMENS	IMPACT 1.0 T	2003
ΔΙΑΓΝΩΣΤΙΚΗ ΤΟΜΟΓΡΑΦΙΑ ΠΕΙΡΑΙΑ	ΠΕΙΡΑΙΑΣ	GE Healthcare	SIGNA EXCITE 1.5 T	2006
ΙΠΠΟΚΡΑΤΗΣ ΜΑΓΝΗΤΙΚΗ ΤΟΜΟΓΡΑΦ	ΠΕΙΡΑΙΑΣ	HITACHI	APPERTO OPEN 0.4T	2008
ΒΙΟΔΙΑΓΝΩΣΤΙΚΗ	ΠΕΙΡΑΙΑΣ	HITACHI	APPERTO OPEN 0.4T	2008
ΒΙΟΚΛΙΝΙΚΗ ΠΕΙΡΑΙΑ	ΠΕΙΡΑΙΑΣ	GE Healthcare		

ΙΑΤΡΙΚΗ ΔΙΑΣΤΑΣΗ (ΕΥΡΩΙΑΤΡΙΚΗ)	ΒΑΡΗ	SIEMENS	SYMPHONY 1.5 T	2003
ΠΑΝΟΠΟΥΛΟΣ	ΜΕΝΙΔΙ	GE Healthcare	SIGNA PROFILE 0.2 T	2007
ΚΑΡΑΜΗΝΑΣ – ΑΣΚΛΗΠΕΙΟΣ	ΧΑΪΔΑΡΙ	SIEMENS	VISION 1.5T	2008
ΚΑΡΑΜΗΝΑΣ – ΑΣΚΛΗΠΕΙΟΣ	ΚΕΡΑΤΣΙΝΙ	SIEMENS	VISION 1.5T	2009
ΚΑΡΑΜΗΝΑΣ – ΑΣΚΛΗΠΕΙΟΣ	ΚΟΡΩΠΙ	SIEMENS	VISION 1.5T	2009
ΨΗΦΙΑΚΗ ΔΙΑΣΤΑΣΗ	ΚΟΡΩΠΙ	SIEMENS	IMPACT 1.0T	2009
ΜΕΣΟΓΕΙΑ ΙΑΣΗ	ΠΑΛΛΗΝΗ	SIEMENS	IMPACT 1.0T	2000
ΣΑΚΑΡΕΛΛΟΣ	ΑΝΟΙΞΗ ΑΤΤΙΚΗΣ	GE Healthcare	SIGNA PROFILE EXC 0.2T	2007
ΙΑΤΡΙΚΗ ΔΙΑΓΝΩΣΗ ΑΧΑΡΝΑΙ	ΑΧΑΡΝΑΙ	SIEMENS	IMPACT 1.0T	2008
ΔΙΑΓΝΩΣΤΙΚΟ ΚΕΝΤΡΟ ΡΑΦΗΝΑΣ	ΡΑΦΗΝΑ	GE Healthcare	SIGNA MRI 1.5 T	2009
ΓΕΝΙΚΟ ΝΟΣΟΚΟΜΕΙΟ ΙΠΠΟΚΡΑΤΕΙΟ	ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ	SIEMENS	SYMPHONY 1.5 T maestro	2003
ΑΧΕΠΑ	ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ	PHILIPS	GYROSCAN 1.5 T ACSII	1992
ΝΟΣΟΚΟΜΕΙΟ ΠΑΠΑΓΕΩΡΓΙΟΥ	ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ	PHILIPS	ISIGNIA 3.0T	2011
ΙΚΑ 2 ^ο ΝΟΣΟΚΟΜΕΙΟ ΘΕΣ/ΝΙΚΗΣ	ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ	SIEMENS	HARMONY 1.0 T	2002
ΓΕΝΙΚΟ ΝΟΣ. ΠΑΠΑΝΙΚΟΛΑΟΥ	ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ	SIEMENS	SYMPHONY 1.5 T maestro	2003
424 ΓΣΝΕΘ	ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ	SIEMENS	AVANTO 1.5 T	2010
ΑΡΙΣΤΟΤΕΛΕΙΟ – ΑΣΚΛΗΠΙΟΣ	ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ	GE Healthcare	SIGNA EXCITE 1.0 T	2004
ΑΡΙΣΤΟΤΕΛΕΙΟ – ΑΣΚΛΗΠΙΟΣ	ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ	GE Healthcare	SIGNA EXCITE 1.5 T	2006
ΒΙΟΙΑΤΡΙΚΗ ΕΥΟΣΜΟΥ	ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ	SIEMENS	VISION 1.5T	2005
ΠΛΑΤΩΝ	ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ	PHILIPS	INTERA 1.5T	2008
ΚΕΛΕΜΟΥΡΙΔΗΣ	ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ	PHILIPS	NT05	1995
ΒΙΟΙΑΤΡΙΚΗ ΕΥΟΣΜΟΥ	ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ	GE Healthcare	PROFILE 0.25T	2008
ΒΙΟΙΑΤΡΙΚΗ ΚΑΛΑΜΑΡΙΑΣ	ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ	PHILIPS	INTERA NOVA DUAL 1.5 T	2004
ΒΙΟΙΑΤΡΙΚΗ ΞΗΡΟΚΡΗΝΗΣ	ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ	GE Healthcare	SIGNA EXCITE EXP. 1.5T	2008
ΣΥΓΧΡΟΝΗ ΙΑΤΡΙΚΗ ΔΙΑΓΝΩΣΗ	ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ	SIEMENS	IMPACT 1.0 T	2004
ΑΞΟΝΙΚΗ ΔΙΑΓΝΩΣΗ	ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ	GE Healthcare	VECTRA 0.5 T	2003
ΔΙΑΒΑΛΚΑΝΙΚΟ	ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ	SIEMENS	SYMPHONY 1.5 T	1999
ΔΙΑΒΑΛΚΑΝΙΚΟ	ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ	SIEMENS	MAGNETOM OPEN 0.2 T	1999
ΔΙΑΒΑΛΚΑΝΙΚΟ	ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ	GE Healthcare	SIGNA HDxt 3.0T	2009
ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΕΙΟ EUROMEDICA	ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ	GE Healthcare	SIGNA EXCITE 1.5T	2008
EUROMEDICA ΠΥΛΗΣ ΑΞΙΟΥ	ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ	GE Healthcare	SIGNA INFINITY 1.5 T/2005	2007
EUROMEDICA ΣΤΑΥΡΟΥΠΟΛΗΣ	ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ	GE Healthcare	SIGNA 1.5T	2008
EXPRESS SERVICE	ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ	HITACHI	APPERTO OPEN 0.4T	2009
ΜΠΕΚΙΑΡΙΔΗΣ ΠΑΣΧΑΛΗΣ	ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ	GE Healthcare	SIGNA EXCITE 1.5T	2009
ΑΣΚΛΗΠΙΟΣ ΕΥΟΣΜΟΥ	ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ	GE Healthcare	SIGNA EXCITE 1.5T	2009
ΚΛΙΝΙΚΗ ΑΓΙΟΣ ΛΟΥΚΑΣ	ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ	SIEMENS	AVANTO 1.5T	2006
ΒΙΟΚΛΙΝΙΚΗ ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗΣ	ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ	PHILIPS	ACHIVA 1.5T	2007
ΕΥΡΩΙΑΤΡΙΚΗ ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗΣ	ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ	GE Healthcare	SIGNA EXCITE 1.5 T	2007
ΜΙΣΘΩΜΕΝΕΣ ΕΞΟΠΛΙΣΤΙΚΕΣ ΕΦΑΡΜ	ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ	GE Healthcare	SIGNA EXCITE 1.5 T	2007
ΚΛΙΝΙΚΗ ΑΓΙΟΣ ΓΕΩΡΓΙΟΣ	ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ	SIEMENS	HARMONY 1.0T	
ΤΟΜΟΓΡΑΦΙΑ ΑΕ (ΝΙΚΟΛΟΠΟΥΛΟΣ)	ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ	SIEMENS	AVANTO 1.5T	2008
ΓΕΝΙΚΗ ΑΠΕΙΚΟΝΙΣΤΙΚΗ ΘΕΣ/ΝΙΚΗΣ	ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ	SIEMENS	AVANTO 1.5T	2008
ΚΛΙΝΙΚΗ ΑΓΙΟΣ ΠΑΥΛΟΣ	ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ	SIEMENS	AVANTO 1.5T	2009
ΦΡΟΝΤΙΔΑ ΥΓΕΙΑΣ	ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ	GE Healthcare	SIGNA 1.5 T	2009
ΥΓΕΙΑ ΑΜΠΕΛΟΚΗΠΩΝ	ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ	GE Healthcare	SIGNA EXCITE 1.5T	2009
ΟΡΘΟΜΑΓΝΗΤΙΚΗ	ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ	FONAR	UPRIGHT MULTI-POSITION	2011

ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΑΚΟ ΝΟΣ. ΡΙΟΥ ΠΑΤΡΑΣ	ΠΑΤΡΑ	PHILIPS	INTERA OMNI 1.0 T	2001
ΦΡΟΝΤΙΔΑ ΥΓΕΙΑΣ	ΠΑΤΡΑ	SIEMENS	SONATA 1.5T	2007
Β. ΔΙΑΓΝΩΣΗ	ΠΑΤΡΑ	SIEMENS	SYMPHONY 1.5T	2009
Β ΔΙΑΓΝΩΣΗ ΑΙΓΙΟΥ	ΑΙΓΙΟ	SIEMENS	IMPACT 1.0 T	2007
ΜΑΓΝΗΤΙΚΗ ΠΑΤΡΑΣ	ΠΑΤΡΑ	GE Healthcare	SIGNA HDx 1.5 T/2003 Up	2007
ΜΑΓΝΗΤΙΚΗ ΠΑΤΡΑΣ	ΠΑΤΡΑ	GE Healthcare	OPTIMA MR 450W 1.5T	2010
ΟΛΥΜΠΙΟΝ	ΠΑΤΡΑ	SIEMENS	SYMPHONY 1.5 T	2005
ΟΛΥΜΠΙΟΝ	ΠΑΤΡΑ	SIEMENS	CONCERTO 0.35T	2005

ΙΚΑ ΠΑΤΡΑΣ	ΠΑΤΡΑ	SIEMENS	HARMONY 1.0 T	2002
ΙΑΤΡΙΚΗ ΤΟΜΟΓΡΑΦΙΑ	ΝΑΥΠΑΚΤΟΣ	SIEMENS	IMPACT 1.0T	2007
ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΑΚΟ ΝΟΣ. ΛΑΡΙΣΑΣ	ΛΑΡΙΣΑ	GE Healthcare	SIGNA HDx 3.0T	2008
ΠΑΡΑΦΕΣΤΑΣ	ΛΑΡΙΣΑ	SIEMENS	AVANTO1.5T	2008
ΓΕΝ. ΝΟΣ. ΛΑΡΙΣΑΣ	ΛΑΡΙΣΑ	PHILIPS	INTERA 1.0 T SD	1996
ΔΙΑΓΝΩΣΗ ΛΑΡΙΣΑΣ - EUROMEDICA	ΛΑΡΙΣΑ	SIEMENS	VISION 1.5 T	2001
ΔΙΑΓΝΩΣΗ ΛΑΡΙΣΑΣ - EUROMEDICA	ΛΑΡΙΣΑ	SIEMENS	AVANTO 1.5 T	2008
ΛΕΚΑΤΣΑΣ	ΛΑΡΙΣΑ	PHILIPS	T5II 0.5 T	2001
ΥΓΕΙΑ ΜΑΓΝΗΤΙΚΗ ΔΙΑΓΝΩΣΗ	ΛΑΡΙΣΑ	PHILIPS	ACHIVA 1.5T	2007
ΙΑΣΩ ΘΕΣΣΑΛΙΑΣ	ΛΑΡΙΣΑ	SIEMENS	AVANTO 1.5T	2009
EUROMEDICA ΚΡΗΤΗΣ	ΗΡΑΚΛΕΙΟ	SIEMENS	AVANTO 1.5 T	2007
CRETA INTERCLINIC	ΗΡΑΚΛΕΙΟ	SIEMENS	ESSENZA 1.5 T	2010
ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΑΚΟ ΝΟΣ. ΗΡΑΚΛΕΙΟΥ	ΗΡΑΚΛΕΙΟ	SIEMENS	SONATA1.5 T maestro	1996
ΙΑΤΡΙΚΟ ΚΡΗΤΗΣ (ΕΥΡΩΙΑΤΡΙΚΗ)	ΗΡΑΚΛΕΙΟ	GE Healthcare	SIGNA HDx 1.5 T	2007
ΕΥΡΩΙΑΤΡΙΚΗ	ΗΡΑΚΛΕΙΟ	ONI - GE	MSK EXTREME 1.5T	2010
ΑΣΚΛΗΠΕΙΟΣ	ΗΡΑΚΛΕΙΟ	PHILIPS	ACHIVA 1.5T	2007
ΓΕΝΙΚΗ ΚΛΙΝΙΚΗ ΤΡΙΚΑΛΩΝ	ΤΡΙΚΑΛΑ	SIEMENS	IMPACT 1.0 T	2003
ΔΙΑΓΝΩΣΤΙΚΟ ΚΕΝΤΡΟ ΚΑΡΑΠΑΝΟΣ	ΤΡΙΚΑΛΑ	SIEMENS	IMPACT 1.0 T	2007
ΔΙΑΚΟΜΑΝΩΛΗΣ	ΤΡΙΚΑΛΑ	PHILIPS	T5 0.5 T	2004
ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΑΚΟ ΝΟΣ. ΙΩΑΝΝΙΝΩΝ	ΙΩΑΝΝΙΝΑ	PHILIPS	INTERA MASTER 1.5 T	1994
ΓΕΝΙΚΟ ΝΟΣΟΚΟΜΕΙΟ ΧΑΤΖΗΚΩΣΤΑ	ΙΩΑΝΝΙΝΑ	SIEMENS	AVANTO 1.5T	2009
ΓΑΛΗΝΟΣ ΗΠΕΙΡΟΥ	ΙΩΑΝΝΙΝΑ	PHILIPS	INTERA STELLAR 1.0 T	2003
ΜΑΓΝΗΤΙΚΗ ΤΟΜΟΓΡΑΦΙΑ ΗΠΕΙΡΟΥ	ΙΩΑΝΝΙΝΑ	SIEMENS	ESSENZA 1.5T	2010
ΙΠΠΟΚΡΑΤΕΙΟ ΔΙΑΓΝΩΣΤΙΚΟ ΕΡΓΑΣΤ	ΙΩΑΝΝΙΝΑ	PHILIPS	INTERA MASTER 1.5T	2006
ΔΙΑΓΝΩΣΗ (Γ.ΓΕΙΤΟΝΑ)	ΙΩΑΝΝΙΝΑ	ESAOTE		2007
ΟΛΥΜΠΙΟΝ ΙΩΑΝΝΙΝΩΝ	ΙΩΑΝΝΙΝΑ	SIEMENS	MAGNETOM C 0.35T	2011
ΔΙΑΓΝΩΣΤΙΚΟ ΚΝ. ΘΕΣΠΡΩΤΙΑΣ ΥΓΕΙΑ	ΗΓΟΥΜΕΝΙΤΣΑ	SIEMENS	HARMONY 1.0T	2009
ΠΑΝΕΠ. ΝΟΣ. ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΥΠΟΛΗΣ	ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΥΠΟΛΗ	GE Healthcare	SIGNA INFINITY 1.0 T	2001
MEDINET ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΥΠΟΛΗΣ	ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΥΠΟΛΗ	PHILIPS	ACHIVA 1.5T	2010
ΑΚΤΙΝΟΔΙΑΓΝΩΣΤΙΚΟ ΕΡΓΑΣΤΗΡΙΟ	ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΥΠΟΛΗ	SIEMENS	HARMONY 1.0T	2004
ΝΙΚΟΛΑΟΣ ΠΑΝΤΑΖΗΣ	ΟΡΕΣΤΙΑΔΑ	SIEMENS	HARMONY 1.0T	2008
ΔΙΑΓΝΩΣΤΙΚΟ ΚΕΝΤΡΟ ΚΟΜΟΤΙΝΗΣ	ΚΟΜΟΤΗΝΗ	PHILIPS	INTERA 1.0 T	2007
ΔΗΜΗΤΡΙΑΔΗΣ ΞΕΝΟΦΩΝ	ΚΟΜΟΤΗΝΗ	GE Healthcare	SIGNA INFINITY 1.0 T	2002
ΔΙΑΓΝΩΣΤΙΚΟ ΚΕΝΤΡΟ	ΞΑΝΘΗ	SIEMENS	IMPACT 1.0 T	2003
ΔΙΑΓΝΩΣΤΙΚΟ ΚΕΝΤΡΟ ΑΣΚΛΗΠΕΙΟΣ	ΞΑΝΘΗ	SIEMENS	AVANTO 1.5T	2011
ΔΙΑΓΝΩΣΤΙΚΟ ΚΕΝΤΡΟ ΑΣΚΛΗΠΕΙΟΣ	ΞΑΝΘΗ	GE Healthcare	SIGNA INFINITY 1.5 T	2005
ΜΑΓΝΗΤΙΚΗ ΤΟΜΟΓΡΑΦΙΑ ΒΟΛΟΥ	ΒΟΛΟΣ	GE Healthcare	SIGNA INFINITY 1.5 T	2004
ΙΑΤΡΙΚΗ ΑΠΕΙΚΟΝΙΣΗ ΒΟΛΟΥ	ΒΟΛΟΣ	PHILIPS	ACHIVA 1.5T	2008
ΔΙΑΓΝΩΣΤΙΚΟ ΚΕΝΤΡΟ	ΒΟΛΟΣ	SIEMENS	ESSENZA 1.5 T	2010
ΓΕΝΙΚΟ ΝΟΣΟΚΟΜΕΙΟ ΚΑΡΔΙΤΣΑΣ	ΚΑΡΔΙΤΣΑ	GE Healthcare	SIGNA EXCITE 1.5 T	2005
ΜΠΟΛΩΤΗΣ ΘΩΜΑΣ	ΚΑΡΔΙΤΣΑ	PHILIPS	T5 II 0.5 T	
EUROMEDICA	ΚΑΡΔΙΤΣΑ	GE Healthcare	SIGNA HDe 1.5T	2009
	ΚΑΡΔΙΤΣΑ	SIEMENS	SONATA 1.5T	2010
ΚΩΝΣΤΑΝΤΙΝΙΔΗΣ	ΧΑΛΚΙΔΑ	GE Healthcare	SIGNA MRI 1.5 T	2003

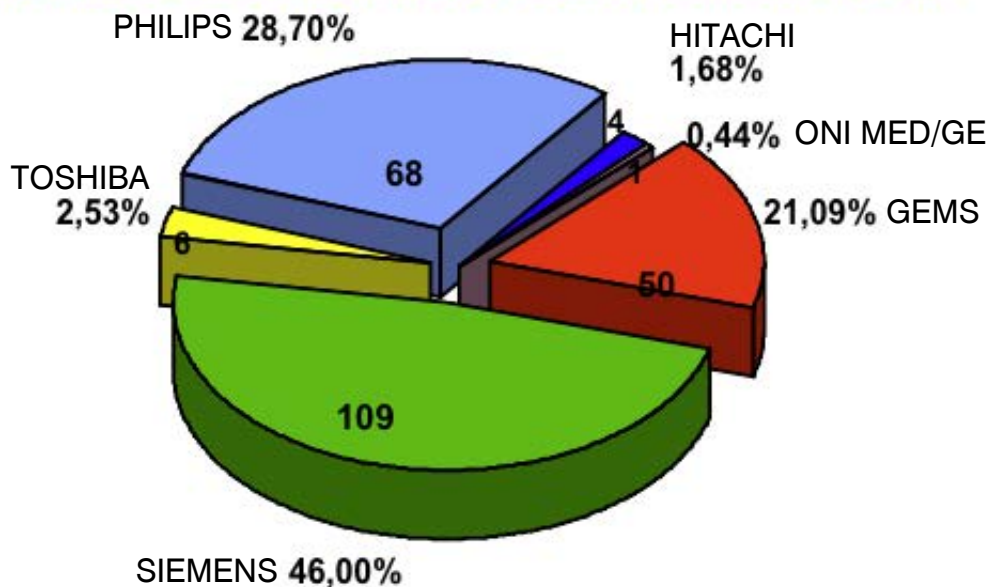
ΑΚΤΙΝΟΔΙΑΓΝΩΣΗ ΧΑΛΚΙΔΑΣ	ΧΑΛΚΙΔΑ	SIEMENS	HARMONY 1.0 T	2000
ΠΡΟΜΠΟΝΑΣ	ΧΑΛΚΙΔΑ	SIEMENS	IMPACT 1.0T	2001
ΚΑΡΑΠΑΝΑΓΟΣ	ΧΑΛΚΙΔΑ	GE Healthcare	SIGNA MRI 1.5 T	2009
ΙΑΤΡΙΚΟ ΘΗΒΑΣ	ΘΗΒΑ	SIEMENS	HARMONY 1.0T	2007
ΔΙΑΓΝΩΣΗ – ΤΣΙΣΜΑΝΙΔΗΣ	ΚΙΑΚΙΣ	SIEMENS	IMPACT 1.0 T	2005
ΔΙΑΓΝΩΣΗ – ΤΣΙΣΜΑΝΙΔΗΣ	ΚΙΑΚΙΣ	SIEMENS	IMPACT 1.0 T	2005
ΔΙΑΓΝΩΣΤΙΚΟ ΚΟΡΙΝΘΟΥ	ΚΟΡΙΝΘΟΣ	PHILIPS	T5 0.5 T	2001
ΜΑΓΝΗΤΙΚΗ ΠΕΛΟΠΟΝΝΗΣΟΥ	ΚΟΡΙΝΘΟΣ	GE Healthcare	SIGNA INFINITY 1.5 T	2004
ΙΩΝΙΑ EUROMEDICA ΚΟΡΙΝΘΟΥ	ΚΟΡΙΝΘΟΣ	TOSHIBA	VANTAGE 1.5T	2009
ΙΑΤΡΟΣ ΠΛΩΤΑΣ	ΛΟΥΤΡΑΚΙ	SIEMENS	AVANTO 1.5T	2008

ΜΑΓΝΗΤΙΚΟΣ ΤΟΜΟΓΡΑΦΟΣ ΚΑΒΑΛΑΣ	ΚΑΒΑΛΑ	GE Healthcare	SIGNA MRI 1.5 T EXCITE	2009
MEDINET EUROMEDICA ΚΑΒΑΛΑΣ	ΚΑΒΑΛΑ	SIEMENS	SONATA 1.5T	2010
MEDISCAN	ΝΑΥΠΑΛΙΟ	SIEMENS	VISION 1.5T	2007
ΜΕΣΣΗΝΙΑΚΗ ΔΙΑΓΝΩΣΗ (ΑΛΙ ΑΛΑΜΕΡ)	ΚΑΛΑΜΑΤΑ	SIEMENS	SYMPHONY 1.5T	2010
ΔΙΑΓΝΩΣΤΙΚΟ ΚΕΝΤΡΟ ΜΕΣΣΗΝΙΑΣ	ΚΑΛΑΜΑΤΑ	PHILIPS	ACHIVA 1.5 T	2004
ΓΕΝΙΚΟ ΝΟΣ. ΡΟΔΟΥ	ΡΟΔΟΣ	PHILIPS	INTERA NOVA DUAL 1.5 T	2004
ΔΙΑΓΝΩΣΤΙΚΕΣ ΑΠΕΙΚΟΝΗΣΕΙΣ ΑΙΓΑΙΟΥ	ΡΟΔΟΣ	PHILIPS	NT 1.0 T SD	2004
EUROMEDICA ΓΕΝΙΚΗ ΚΛΙΝΙΚΗ ΔΩΔΕΚ	ΡΟΔΟΣ	GE Healthcare	SIGNA INFINITY 1.5T	2006
MEDLIFE – ΣΤΑΥΡΟΥΛΗΣ	ΡΟΔΟΣ	TOSHIBA	VANTAGE 1.5T	2009
ΙΑΤΡΙΚΟ ΧΑΝΙΩΝ	ΧΑΝΙΑ	GE Healthcare	SIGNA INFINITY 1.5 T	2005
ΚΛΙΝΙΚΗ ΓΑΒΡΙΛΑΚΗ	ΧΑΝΙΑ	SIEMENS	SYMPHONY 1.5 T maestro	2005
ΟΛΥΜΠΙΟΝ ΧΑΝΙΩΝ	ΧΑΝΙΑ	SIEMENS	MAGNETOM C 0.35T	2007
EUROMEDICA ΡΕΘΥΜΝΟΥ	ΡΕΘΥΜΝΟ	SIEMENS	SYMPHONY 1.5T	2008
ΠΑΝΑΡΚΑΔΙΚΗ ΜΕΡΙΜΝΑ	ΤΡΙΠΟΛΗ	SIEMENS	IMPACT 1.0 T	2005
ΓΕΝΙΚΟ ΝΟΣΟΚΟΜΕΙΟ ΤΡΙΠΟΛΗΣ	ΤΡΙΠΟΛΗ	GE Healthcare	SIGNA EXCITE 1.5 T	2004
ΚΛΙΝΙΚΗ ΤΡΙΠΟΛΗΣ	ΤΡΙΠΟΛΗ	SIEMENS	HARMONY 1.0T	2009
ΙΑΤΡΙΚΗ ΔΙΑΓΝΩΣΗ ΔΡΑΜΑΣ	ΔΡΑΜΑ	PHILIPS	INTERA 1.5T	2009
ΣΙΩΖΟΠΟΥΛΟΣ ΑΧΙΛΛΕΑΣ	ΔΡΑΜΑ	SIEMENS	IMPACT 1.0 T	2007
ΠΑΡΙΣΗΣ	ΣΕΡΡΕΣ	SIEMENS	ESSENZA 1.5T	2009
ΑΣΚΛΗΠΙΟΣ – ΑΝΑΣΤΑΣΟΠΟΥΛΟΥ	ΠΡΕΒΕΖΑ	SIEMENS	IMPACT 1.0 T	2006
ΚΩΣΤΑΣ ΑΛΕΞΙΟΥ – Ο. ΓΕΡΟΒΑΣΙΔΗ	ΑΡΤΑ	PHILIPS	NT 10 1.0 T	2010
MEDIPARTNERS-ΙΑΤΡΙΚΗ ΔΙΑΓΝΩΣΤΙΚΗ	ΑΡΤΑ	GE Healthcare	SIGNA HDe 1.5T	2009
ΚΛΙΝΙΚΗ ΑΛΕΞΟΠΟΥΛΟΣ	ΑΓΡΙΝΙΟ	SIEMENS	VISION 1.5 T	2005
ΑΞΟΝΙΚΗ ΤΟΜΟΓΡΑΦΙΑ	ΑΓΡΙΝΙΟ	SIEMENS	HARMONY 1.0 T	2008
ΔΙΑΓΝΩΣΤΙΚΟ ΚΕΝΤΡΟ ΒΕΡΟΙΑΣ	ΒΕΡΟΙΑ	SIEMENS	HARMONY 1.0 T	2008
ΥΓΕΙΑ ΜΑΓΝΗΤΙΚΗ ΔΙΑΓΝΩΣΗ	ΠΤΟΛΕΜΑΙΔΑ	PHILIPS	INTERA STELLAR 1.0 T	2000
ΙΠΠΟΚΡΑΤΗΣ ΚΟΖΑΝΗΣ	ΚΟΖΑΝΗ	SIEMENS	ESSENZA	2009
ΔΙΑΓΝΩΣΤΙΚΗ ΚΟΖΑΝΗΣ	ΚΟΖΑΝΗ	GE Healthcare	SIGNA HDe	2006
PIERIA MEDICAL	ΚΑΤΕΡΙΝΗ	GE Healthcare	SIGNA INFINITY 1.5 T	2004
ΚΛΙΝΙΚΗ ΒΕΛΙΚΗ	ΚΑΤΕΡΙΝΗ	GE Healthcare	SIGNA 1.5 T	2007
ΙΑΤΡΙΚΟ ΚΕΝΤΡΟ	ΜΟΥΔΑΝΙΑ	SIEMENS	HARMONY 1.0 T	2007
ΔΙΑΓΝΩΣΤΙΚΟ ΚΕΝΤΡΟ ΛΕΙΒΑΔΙΑΣ	ΛΕΙΒΑΔΙΑ	SIEMENS	IMPACT 1.0 T	2004
ΚΛΙΝΙΚΗ ΙΠΠΟΚΡΑΤΗΣ	ΠΥΡΓΟΣ	SIEMENS	VISION 1.5 T	2005
ΓΕΝΙΚΟ ΝΟΣΟΚΟΜΕΙΟ ΚΕΡΚΥΡΑΣ	ΚΕΡΚΥΡΑ	SIEMENS	SYMPHONY 1.5 T	2010
ΔΙΑΓΝΩΣΤΙΚΟ ΚΕΡΚΥΡΑΣ	ΚΕΡΚΥΡΑ	SIEMENS	IMPACT EXPERT 1.0 T	2001
ΙΑΤΡΙΚΗ ΒΙΟΠΡΟΓΝΩΣΗ	ΚΕΡΚΥΡΑ	PHILIPS	INTERA 1.5T	2007
ΔΙΑΓΝΩΣΤΙΚΟ ΚΕΝΤΡΟ ΜΥΤΙΛΗΝΗΣ	ΜΥΤΙΛΗΝΗ	GE Healthcare	SIGNA INFINITY 1.5 T	2005
ΜΑΓΝΗΤΙΚΗ ΤΟΜΟΓΡΑΦΙΑ ΛΕΣΒΟΥ	ΜΥΤΙΛΗΝΗ	SIEMENS	IMPACT 1.0 T	2007
ΔΙΑΓΝΩΣΤΙΚΟ ΣΑΜΟΥ ΠΑΠΑΙΩΑΝΝΟΥ	ΣΑΜΟΣ	SIEMENS	HARMONY 1.0 T	2006
ΜΑΓΝΗΤΙΚΗ ΤΟΜΟΓΡΑΦΙΑ ΧΙΟΥ	ΧΙΟΣ	SIEMENS	MAGNETOM C 0.35T	2009
ΑΚΤΙΝΟΛΟΓΙΚΟ ΚΕΝΤΡΟ Λ. ΜΠΙΛΙΡΑΚΗΣ	ΧΙΟΣ	GE Healthcare	SIGNA MRI 1.5T	2010
ΙΑΤΡΙΚΟ ΚΕΝΤΡΟ	ΝΑΞΟΣ	PHILIPS	INTERA 1,5T	2011

ΑΛΕΙΦΕΡΟΠΟΥΛΟΣ	ΣΠΑΡΤΗ	SIEMENS	VISION 1.5 T	2007
ΙΑΤΡΙΚΟ ΣΠΑΡΤΗΣ	ΣΠΑΡΤΗ	GE Healthcare	SIGNA INFINITY 1.5 T	2008
ΚΟΥΤΡΟΥΜΑΝΙΔΗΣ	ΕΔΕΣΣΑ	SIEMENS	IMPACT 1.0 T	2007
ΑΣΚΛΗΠΕΙΟΣ ΕΔΕΣΣΑΣ	ΕΔΕΣΣΑ	GE Healthcare	SIGNA MRI 1.5 T	2007
ΠΟΛΥΚΛΙΝΙΚΗ ΛΑΜΙΑΣ	ΛΑΜΙΑ	GE Healthcare	SIGNA INFINITY 1.5 T	2007
ΙΑΤΡΙΚΟ ΕΡΕΥΝΗΤΙΚΟ ΚΕΝΤΡΟ	ΛΑΜΙΑ	PHILIPS	NT 1.0 T	2002
ΑΠΕΙΚΟΝΙΣΤΙΚΗ ΓΙΑΝΝΙΤΣΩΝ	ΓΙΑΝΝΙΤΣΑ	GE Healthcare	SIGNA 1.5T	2009
ΜΑΓΝΗΤΙΚΗ ΤΟΜΟΓΡΑΦΙΑ ΓΑΚΗΣ ΜΙΧ.	ΚΕΦΑΛΛΗΝΙΑ	SIEMENS	HARMONY 1.0T MAESTRO	2011
ΙΑΤΡΙΚΗ ΛΟΚΡΙΔΟΣ	ΑΤΑΛΑΝΤΗ	SIEMENS	HARMONY 1.0T	2010
ΣΥΝΟΛΟ ΣΥΣΤΗΜΑΤΩΝ	31.10.2011	262		

Πηγή: The Scanner

ΜΕΡΙΔΙΟ ΑΓΟΡΑΣ ΜΑΓΝΗΤΙΚΩΝ ΤΟΜΟΓΡΑΦΩΝ



ΣΥΝΟΛΟ ΜΗΧΑΝΗΜΑΤΩΝ : 262

31.12.2010

* Το εν λόγω δημοσίευμα βασίζεται σε στοιχεία που συγκεντρώθηκαν έως τον Οκτώβριο του 2011. Παρακαλούμε τους συναδέλφους Τεχνολόγους Ακτινολόγους και τους συνεργάτες Ιατρούς Ακτινολόγους/Ακτινοφυσικούς καθώς επίσης και τις εμπορικές εταιρείες αν διαπιστώσουν κάποια εσφαλμένα στοιχεία να μας ενημερώσουν στο info@otae.gr ούτως ώστε να επικαιροποιηθεί ο πίνακας.

Σας ευχαριστούμε εκ των προτέρων για την συνεργασία.

Γεωργιάδης Κων/νος
Διευθυντής Σύνταξης

Οδηγίες για τους συγγραφείς

Η ΑΚΤΙΝΟΤΕΧΝΟΛΟΓΙΑ, ISSN: 1108-7455, επίσημη έκδοση του ΣΤΡΑΕΠ και του Τμήματος Ραδιολογίας – Ακτινολογίας του Τ.Ε.Ι. Αθήνας, έχει σαν στόχο την καταγραφή της επιστημονικής και ερευνητικής δραστηριότητας στους τομείς της ακτινοτεχνολογίας και γενικότερα της διαγνωστικής απεικόνισης, της ακτινοθεραπευτικής ογκολογίας, της πυρηνικής ιατρικής και των συναφών βασικών επιστημών. Για την επίτευξη του σκοπού αυτού δέχεται προς δημοσίευση

1. Άρθρα σύνταξης: Σύντομα σχόλια και απόψεις πάνω σε επίκαιρα θέματα. Γράφονται μετά από πρόσκληση της Σύνταξης του περιοδικού.
2. Ανασκοπήσεις: Ολοκληρωμένες αναλύσεις θεμάτων για τα οποία οι απόψεις έχουν αναθεωρηθεί πρόσφατα ή υπάρχει γενικότερο ενδιαφέρον. Στις ανασκοπήσεις τονίζονται ιδιαίτερα οι σύγχρονες απόψεις. Γίνονται δεκτές ανασκοπήσεις μέχρι και από δύο συγγραφείς.
3. Ερευνητικές εργασίες: Κλινικές μελέτες και δοκιμές ή μη πειραματικές έρευνες προοπτικού ή αναδρομικού τύπου, που πραγματοποιήθηκαν με βάση ερευνητικό πρωτόκολλο. Οφείλουν να περιέχουν πρωτοδημοσιευμένα αποτελέσματα.
4. Ενδιαφέρουσες περιπτώσεις: Σύντομη αναφορά σε νέα ή πολύ σπάνια νοσήματα και σύνδρομα, σπάνιες εκδηλώσεις μιας συνήθους νόσου, νέα διαγνωστικά κριτήρια ή νέα θεραπευτική μέθοδος, με τεκμηριωμένο αποτέλεσμα.
5. Διαγνωστικές τεχνικές: Σύντομη περιγραφή μιας νέας τεχνικής ή της τροποποίησης μιας ήδη υπάρχουσας.
6. Θέματα συνεχιζόμενης εκπαίδευσης: Γράφονται κατ' ανάθεση.
7. Σεμινάρια, συζητήσεις στρογγυλών τραπεζών, διαλέξεις.
8. Κλινικο-ακτινολογική συζήτηση: Περιλαμβάνει βραχύ ιστορικό, αντιπροσωπευτικές ακτινογραφίες και σχόλιο με επίκεντρο τη διαφορική διαγνωστική προσέγγιση της περίπτωσης.
9. Ακτινολογικές ασκήσεις:
 - Ερωτήσεις πολλαπλής επιλογής.
 - Ασκήσεις πολλαπλών εικόνων.

Η ΑΚΤΙΝΟΛΟΓΙΑ ΟΣΩΝ ΑΦΟΡΑ ΤΟΝ ΤΡΟΠΟ ΓΡΑΦΗΣ

των κειμένων που υποβάλλονται προς δημοσίευση, ακολουθεί τις υποδείξεις των τελευταίων οδηγιών της Διεθνούς Επιτροπής Συντακτών Ιατρικών Περιοδικών. Οι οδηγίες αυτές διασφαλίζουν την ομοιομορφία των δημοσιεύσεων, τόσο μέσα στο ίδιο το περιοδικό, όσο και με τα άλλα βιοϊατρικά περιοδικά και αναπτύσσονται στα άρθρα: International Committee of Medical Journal Editors Uniform requirements for manuscripts submitted to biomedical journals. An Intern Med 1988, 108:258-265 και Uniform requirements for manuscripts submitted to biomedical journals. JAMA 1993, 269:2282-2286. Τα άρθρα θα κρίνονται για δημοσίευση με την προϋπόθεση ότι τα αποτελέσματα και το ίδιο το κείμενο δεν έχουν δημοσιευθεί ή δεν έχουν υποβληθεί για δημοσίευση σε άλλο περιοδικό. Ωστόσο, γίνονται δεκτά προς κρίση τα ολοκληρωμένα αποτελέσματα εργασιών που έχουν δημοσιευθεί σαν πρόδρομες ανακοινώσεις. Κατά την υποβολή της εργασίας, ο συγγραφέας δηλώνει αν πρόκειται για πρώτη δημοσίευση, αν η εργασία έχει υποβληθεί για δημοσίευση σε άλλο περιοδικό ή να έχει κατά οποιονδήποτε τρόπο δημοσιευθεί, μερικά ή ολικά. Στην τελευταία περίπτωση συνυποβάλλονται αντίγραφα του υλικού αυτού, για να εκτιμηθεί η δυνατότητα δημοσίευσης του νέου άρθρου.

ΣΥΓΓΡΑΦΙΚΗ ΙΔΙΟΤΗΤΑ

Κάθε συγγραφέας πρέπει να έχει συμμετάσχει ουσιαστικά στην εργασία, ώστε να μπορεί να αναλάβει την ευθύνη του περιεχομένου της. Η συγγραφική ιδιότητα πληροί τρεις όρους: (α) σύλληψη της ιδέας, σχεδιασμός της μελέτης και ανάλυση των δεδομένων, (β) Εισαγωγή - Περίληψη: Η εισαγωγή απαντά στο γιατί πραγματοποιήθηκε η εργασία. Γράφεται σε ενεστώτα και δεν αναφέρεται σε αποτελέσματα ή συμπεράσματα. Η έκταση της να μην ξεπερνάει τις 180 λέξεις.

Υλικό και μέθοδος: Στη μεθοδολογία περιγράφεται το ερευνητικό πρωτόκολλο, οι τεχνικές που εφαρμόστηκαν και ο τόπος επιλογής των ασθενών, εθελοντών ή οποιουδήποτε άλλου υλικού, έμφυτου ή μη, που χρησιμοποιήθηκε. Γνωστές μεθοδολογίες, συμπεριλαμβανομένων και των στατιστικών μεθόδων, τεκμηριώνονται βιβλιογραφικά. Για μεθόδους που έχουν μεν δημοσιευτεί, αλλά δεν είναι ευρέως γνωστές, αρκεί μια περιληπτική περιγραφή, ενώ για νέες μεθοδολογίες, συμπεριλαμβανομένων και των στατιστικών μεθόδων, τεκμηριώνονται βιβλιογραφικά. Για μεθόδους που έχουν μεν δημοσιευτεί, αλλά δεν είναι ευρέως γνωστές, αρκεί μια περιληπτική περιγραφή, ενώ για νέες μεθοδολογίες απαιτείται εκτενέστερη ανάλυση. Αν πρόκειται για έρευνες που αφορούν ανθρώπους, είναι απαραίτητο να περιγραφούν τα μέτρα που πάρθηκαν ώστε η εργασία να είναι αδιάβλητη δεοντολογικά, σύμφωνα με τη διακήρυξη του Ελσίνκι και τη νομοθεσία του κράτους.

Αποτελέσματα: Αναλύονται τα ευρήματα της μελέτης. Παρουσιάζονται σε παρελθόντα χρόνο, με λογική σειρά και μπορούν να δίδονται με πίνακες, σχεδιαγράμματα ή αναλυτικά στο κείμενο. Τα στοιχεία των πινάκων δεν πρέπει να επαναλαμβάνονται στο κείμενο. Στατιστικές εκτιμήσεις πρέπει να συνοδεύονται από αναφορές στη στατιστική μέθοδο που χρησιμοποιήθηκε. Στις μετρήσεις χρησιμοποιούνται οι μονάδες του διεθνούς συστήματος (IS). Για λεπτομέρειες οι συγγραφείς παραπέμπονται στο περιοδικό ΙΑΤΡΙΚΗ 1980, 37:139.

Συζήτηση: Περιγράφονται τα τελικά συμπεράσματα και οι προοπτικές που διανοίγονται με τα αποτελέσματα της μελέτης. Δεν επαναλαμβάνονται τα όσα έχουν ήδη αναφερθεί στην εισαγωγή, ενώ μπορεί να γίνει σύγκριση με τα αποτελέσματα άλλων ομοειδών εργασιών. Συνδέονται τα αποτελέσματα με τους στόχους της μελέτης, αποφεύγοντας τα αυθαίρετα συμπεράσματα.

Οι ανασκοπήσεις επιτρέπεται να κεφαλαιοποιούνται. Τα κεφάλαια αριθμούνται με αραβικούς αριθμούς. Τα υποκεφάλαια χαρακτηρίζονται από τον αριθμό του κεφαλαίου στο οποίο ανήκουν, με τελεία και τον αριθμό του υποκεφαλαίου (1.1, 1.2, 1.1.1., κ.λπ.). Οι ενδιαφέρουσες περιπτώσεις περιλαμβάνουν σύντομη εισαγωγή, περιγραφή της περίπτωσης και σχόλιο. Παρόμοια δομή έχουν και οι διαγνωστικές τεχνικές.

Η ΑΓΓΛΙΚΗ ΠΕΡΙΛΗΨΗ

Η αγγλική περίληψη (summary) γράφεται σε χωριστή σελίδα. Περιλαμβάνει σχεδόν όλα όσα αναγράφονται στην ελληνική και επιπλέον τα ονόματα των συγγραφέων με κεφαλαία γράμματα και τον τίτλο της εργασίας με μικρά. Συνοδεύει απαραίτητα όλες τις εργασίες.

ΒΙΒΛΙΟΓΡΑΦΙΑ

(α) Οι βιβλιογραφικές παραπομπές του κειμένου αριθμούνται με

αραβικούς αριθμούς, κατ' αύξοντα αριθμό, ανάλογα με τη σειρά εμφανίσεως. Στο βιβλιογραφικό κατάλογο υπάρχουν μόνο οι βιβλιογραφικές παραπομπές που αναφέρονται στο κείμενο. Πριν από κάθε παραπομπή στον κατάλογο προηγείται ο αντίστοιχος αριθμός του κειμένου.

Οι βιβλιογραφικές παραπομπές που αναφέρονται στους πίνακες ή στους τίτλους των εικόνων αριθμούνται με παρόμοιο τρόπο. Παρατίθενται λεπτομερώς αμέσως μετά τη λήψη του τίτλου και όχι στον τελικό κατάλογο.

Σε περίπτωση αναφοράς ονομάτων συγγραφέων στο κείμενο, εφόσον είναι ξένοι, μετά το επώνυμο του πρώτου συγγραφέα ακολουθεί η συντομογραφία «et al», ενώ για τους Έλληνες «και συν». Εφόσον οι συγγραφείς είναι δύο, μεταξύ των επωνύμων τοποθετείται ο σύνδεσμος «&».

(β) Στο βιβλιογραφικό κατάλογο αναφέρονται το επώνυμο και τα αρχικά του ονόματος όλων των συγγραφέων, εφόσον οι συγγραφείς δεν είναι περισσότεροι από έξι (όταν είναι περισσότεροι αναφέρονται οι τρεις πρώτοι και ακολουθεί η ένδειξη et al). Ακολουθεί ο τίτλος του άρθρου, η συντομογραφία του ονόματος του περιοδικού, το έτος, ο τόμος, η πρώτη και η τελευταία σελίδα της δημοσίευσης. Οι συντμήσεις των τίτλων των περιοδικών περιέχονται στην ετήσια έκδοση της National Library of Medicine των Η.Π.Α., «List of Journals Indexed in Index medicus», δημοσιεύονται κάθε χρόνο στο τεύχος του Ιανουαρίου Index. Όταν πρόκειται για βιβλία και μονογραφίες, μετά τον τίτλο ακολουθούν η πόλη, ο εκδοτικός οίκος, το έτος εκδόσεως και οι σελίδες. Άρθρα που δεν έχουν ακόμη δημοσιευτεί, αλλά έχουν γίνει δεκτά για δημοσίευση μπορούν να χρησιμοποιηθούν στα βιβλιογραφικά. Στις περιπτώσεις αυτές, μετά την παράθεση του τίτλου του περιοδικού, σημειώνεται η ένδειξη «υπό δημοσίευση». Αντίθετα η αναφορά σε προσωπικές επικοινωνίες, περιλήψεις (abstracts) και αδημοσίευτες παρατηρήσεις πρέπει να αποφεύγονται. Ο αριθμός των παραπομπών υπόκειται και αυτός σε ορισμένους περιορισμούς: στα άρθρα ανασκόπησης δεν πρέπει να υπερβαίνει τα 120, στις ερευνητικές εργασίες τις 35, στα άρθρα σύνταξης, ενδιαφέρουσες περιπτώσεις, διαγνωστικές τεχνικές τις 10, ενώ στο «ΕΛΕΥΘΕΡΟ ΒΗΜΑ» τις 5.

ΠΙΝΑΚΕΣ

Οι πίνακες δακτυλογραφούνται σε χωριστή σελίδα. Αριθμούνται με τη σειρά που εμφανίζονται στο κείμενο, με αραβικούς αριθμούς. Ο τίτλος τους είναι σύντομος και περιεκτικός, ώστε για την κατανόησή τους να μην είναι απαραίτητη η αναφορά του αναγνώστη στο κείμενο. Κάθε στήλη φέρει τη δική της σύντομη επικεφαλίδα. Οι επεξηγήσεις των συντμήσεων, συμπεριλαμβανομένων των στατιστικών συμβόλων καθώς και οι λοιπές διευκρινήσεις παρατίθενται υπό μορφή υποσημειώσεων. Αποφεύγονται οι κάθετες διαγραμμίσεις και χρησιμοποιούνται μόνο οριζόντιες, εφόσον είναι τελείως απαραίτητες. Επίσης πρέπει να αποστέλλονται και σε ηλεκτρονική μορφή σε πρόγραμμα EXCEL (.xlsx).

ΕΙΚΟΝΕΣ

Σαν εικόνες χαρακτηρίζονται τα σχήματα, τα διαγράμματα, τα ιστογράμματα και οι φωτογραφίες. Υποβάλλεται μόνο ο απαραίτητος αριθμός εικόνων. Οι τίτλοι (λεζάντες) που συνοδεύουν της εικόνες σε ηλεκτρονική μορφή σε πρόγραμμα WORD (.docx).

Αριθμούνται με αραβικούς αριθμούς, ανάλογα με τη σειρά που εμφανίζονται στο κείμενο. Οι φωτογραφίες αλλά και τα βέλη και οι δείκτες που φέρουν πρέπει να είναι καθαρά, ομοιόμορφα και κατάλληλου μεγέθους, ώστε σε περίπτωση σμίκρυνσης να παραμείνουν ευανάγνωστα. Στοιχεία από γραφομηχανή ή γραμμένα στο χέρι στις εικόνες δεν γίνονται δεκτά. Σε καμία περίπτωση δεν πρέπει να φαίνονται τα ονόματα των ασθενών και εφόσον χρησιμοποιηθούν φωτογραφίες τους δεν πρέπει να αναγνωρίζεται το πρόσωπό τους. Στην αντίθετη περίπτωση, επιβάλλεται έγγραφη συγκατάθεση του ασθενούς, για τη δημοσίευση της φωτογραφίας.

ΥΠΟΒΟΛΗ ΧΕΙΡΟΓΡΑΦΟΥ

Το δακτυλογραφημένο κείμενο, οι πίνακες και οι εικόνες που το συνοδεύουν αποστέλλονται σε ΔΥΟ πλήρη αντίγραφα, σε φάκελο από χοντρό χαρτί, εσώκλειστα μέσα σε σκληρό χαρτόνι για να μην διπλωθούν. Εάν δοθούν σε ηλεκτρονική μορφή θα πρέπει να προσεχθεί η ανάλυσή τους (από 300 dpi). Επίσης τα κείμενα πρέπει να αποστέλλονται και σε ηλεκτρονική μορφή σε πρόγραμμα WORD (.docx).

Οι εργασίες θα πρέπει να αποστέλλονται στη διεύθυνση: Περιοδικό «ΑΚΤΙΝΟΤΕΧΝΟΛΟΓΙΑ» Τμήμα Ραδιολογίας – Ακτινολογίας, ΤΕΙ ΑΘΗΝΑΣ, ΑΓ. ΣΠΥΡΙΔΩΝΟΣ, 122 10 ΑΙΓΑΛΕΩ

Σύλλογος Τεχνολόγων Ραδιολόγων Ακτινολόγων
Ελλάδος Πτυχιούχων ΤΕΙ
Σταδίου 39 - 4ος όροφος – γραφείο 5
Τ.κ 105 59 Αθήνα, τηλ.210-3214133
site: www.otae.gr

Οι αποστέλλόμενες εργασίες θα πρέπει να συνοδεύονται και από μια επιστολή υπογεγραμμένη από όλους τους συγγραφείς, που θα περιλαμβάνει την δήλωσή τους ότι τα χειρόγραφα έχουν μελετηθεί και εγκριθεί από τους υπογράφοντες. Επίσης θα επισυνάπτεται και μια γραπτή άδεια δημοσίευσης του υλικού. Τα χειρόγραφα που υποβάλλονται δεν επιστρέφονται. Η σειρά υποβολής καθορίζει την προτεραιότητα δημοσίευσης ανάμεσα σε ομοειδείς εργασίες. Κάθε εργασία κρίνεται ανεξάρτητα από δύο κριτές, ειδικούς στο πεδίο του οποίου άπτεται, που προτείνουν την αποδοχή (με ή χωρίς τροποποιήσεις) ή την απόρριψή της. Οι συγγραφείς είναι υποχρεωμένοι εφόσον τους ζητηθεί, σε διόρθωση των τυπογραφικών δοκιμών, κατά την οποία δεν επιτρέπονται προσθήκες παρά μόνο διορθώσεις των τυπογραφικών λαθών.

Τα δημοσιευμένα άρθρα αποτελούν πνευματική ιδιοκτησία της ΑΚΤΙΝΟΤΕΧΝΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ. Δεν επιτρέπεται η αναδημοσίευσή τους χωρίς τη γραπτή άδεια του Διευθυντή Σύνταξης.

AUTHORSHIP

Each writer should participate to the study, in order to be able to take full responsibility of its content. Authorship should fullfil three terms: (i) idea conception, shceduling of the study and data analyzing, (ii) Introduction-Summary. Introduction should answer to the reason why this study was made. It should be written at simple present form and should not refer to results or conclusions. It should not be more than 180 words. Material and method: In methodology you should describe the inquiring protocole, the techniques that were applied and where were the patients volunteers, or any other material, living or not, were chosen to be used. Known methodologies, including statistical methods should be sustained by the bibliography. For puplished methods which aren't well known, a figurative description will do, but for new methodologies further analysis is required. If humans are involved to the research, it is nessecary to desrcibe the measures that have been taken so as the research is ideologically accepted according to the declaration of Elsinki and the legislation of the country. Results: Analysis of the findings of the study. You should present them in past form, with logical order and could be given along with tables, diagrams or extently to the text. The data of the tables should not be repeated to the text. Any statistical assesment should come with references to the statistic methods which have been used. The unit of measure should be according the international (IS). For any details writters should refer to the Medicine magazine 1980,37:139.

Discussion: You should describe the final conclusions and prospectives which appear by the results of the study. You should not repeat anything reported at the introduction, but you can

compare the results of similar studies. You should relate the results with goals of the study, avoiding any unauthorized conclusions. Retrospects are allowed to be capitalized. Chapters should be numbered by arabic numbers. Subchapters are characterized by the number of the chapter they belong, with a fullstop and the number of the subchapter (1.1, 1.2, 1.1.1, etc.). Interesting cases take place with a short introduction, description of the case and a comment. Diagnostic techniques have similar structure, too.

ENGLISH SUMMARY

The english summary is written in a different page. It includes almost all of those which are written in hellenic and in additional it includes the names of the writers in capital letters and the title of the study in small. It should accompany all the studies.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

i) The bibliographic referrals of the text are numbered with arabic numbers, in ascending order, according to their appearance. Only the bibliographic referrals referring to the text should be in the bibliographic catalogue. The number of the text comes first before any referral to the catalogue:

The bibliographic referrals which are mentioned to the tables or to the titles of the images, are numbered with similar way. It appears individually right after the title and not to the final catalogue.

In case of author names reported to the text, when they are foreign, after the last name of the first author shortcut follows "et al", but for the Hellenic "και ουν". When we have two authors, between the last names you should put "&".

ii) At the bibliographic catalogue you should refer to the last name and the initials of the first name of all the authors, since they are not more than six (if they are more than six, you should refer to the first three and the indication et al follows). The title of the article follows the shortcut of the name of the magazine, the year, the tome, the first and the last page of the publication. The abbreviation of the magazine titles are included to the annual publication of the National Library of Medicine of the USA, "List of Journals Indexed in Index Medicus", are published every year on the edition of January Index. If you have books and monographies they should follow after the title, the city, the publish house, the year of publication and the pages. Any articles that haven't been published, but they have been approved for publication, can be used to the bibliography. At these cases, after the title of the magazine, you should note the sign "under publication". In addition, any report to personal communication, abstracts and unpublished observations must be avoided. The number of the referrals submits to specific limitations: to retrospect articles should not overcome 120, to research studies 35, to editorial articles, interesting cases and diagnostic techniques 10, and at "Free Step" 5.

TABLES

Tables are typed in a different page. They are numbered based to the order of appearance at the text with arabic numbers. Their title should be short and brief, so that the reader is able to understand them without seeing the text. Each column should have its own short heading. The explanation of the abbreviation, including the statistic symbols and any other information, are written in footnote

form. You should avoid vertical tables and you should use only horizontal, as long as they are necessary. Moreover, they should be sent in electronic form, too, in excel format (.xlsx).

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Shapes, diagrams, histograms and photos are characterized as images. Only a necessary number of images is submitted. The titles that accompany images in electronic form should be in word format (.docx). They are numbered with arabic numbers, based to the order of appearance in the text. Photos, arrows and index should be clearly uniform and of the correct size, in case of shrinking it should remain easy to read. Elements of a typewriter or written by hand at images are not being accepted. Under no circumstances, names of patients should be seen, and their faces must not be recognised. In addition, you should have a written permission of the patient in order to publish his/her photo.

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ΤΟ ΧΡΟΝΙΚΟ ΤΗΣ ΕΡΕΥΝΑΣ ΤΗΣ ΡΕΦΛΕΞΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ ΣΤΟ ΩΝΑΣΕΙΟ ΚΑΡΔΙΟ- ΧΕΙΡΟΥΡΓΙΚΟ ΚΕΝΤΡΟ

Τον Οκτώβριο του 1988 ο υποδιευθυντής και ο επιμελητής της πρώτης καρδιοχειρουργικής του Ωνάσειου Καρδιοχειρουργικού Κέντρου Κος Σταυρίδης και Κος Λουκάς αντίστοιχα, επικοινωνήσαν με αντιπροσωπεία του Σωματείου Ελλήνων Ρεφλεξολόγων για να προτείνουν την διεξαγωγή έρευνας στο Ωνάσειο Καρδιοχειρουργικό κέντρο. Έπειτα από πολλές συναντήσεις αποφασίσθηκε και οργανώθηκε η μέθοδος αυτής της έρευνας.

Προκειμένου να συμπεριληφθεί ο ασθενής στην έρευνα θα έπρεπε να ικανοποιηθούν όλα τα παρακάτω κριτήρια. Έγγραφη συγκατάθεση του ασθενούς για συμμετοχή του στην έρευνα. Ασθενείς κάθε ηλικίας και φύλλου. Ασθενείς που υποβάλλονταν σε καρδιοχειρουργικές επεμβάσεις. Οι ασθενείς που πληρούσαν τα κριτήρια συμμετοχής κατετάγησαν τυχαία σε μια από τις τρεις παρακάτω ομά-



ΣΚΟΠΟΣ ΤΗΣ ΕΡΕΥΝΑΣ

Ο σκοπός της έρευνας ήταν η μελέτη της Ρεφλεξολογίας σε ασθενείς που υποβάλλονται σε καρδιοχειρουργικές επεμβάσεις. Οι πλέον εξειδικευμένοι στόχοι περιλάμβαναν την μελέτη και αξιολόγηση των πιο κάτω :

- 1) Μείωση του επιπέδου του προεγχειρητικού στρες.
- 2) Μείωση του μετεγχειρητικού άλγους.
- 3) Βελτίωση επίπεδου επικοινωνίας με τον ασθενή.
- 4) Εξέταση της δυνατότητας συνεργασίας της Κλασσικής Ιατρικής με την Ρεφλεξολογία.
- 5) Σχέση δαπάνης – αποτελεσματικότητας.

δες:

- Ομάδα Α : Ασθενείς που δέχτηκαν συνεδρίες Ρεφλεξολογίας.
Ομάδα Β : Ασθενείς που δέχτηκαν ειδικές συνεδρίες Ρεφλεξολογίας.
Ομάδα Γ : Ασθενείς που δεν δέχτηκαν συνεδρίες Ρεφλεξολογίας.

ΑΡΧΙΚΗ ΠΡΟΣΕΓΓΙΣΗ

Τα ακόλουθα στοιχεία θα καταγράφονταν πριν από την χειρουργική επέμβαση:
Ηλικία.
Φύλο.
Έκταση καρδιόπαθειας.
Συνυπάρχουσες νόσοι.
Παρούσα φαρμακευτική αγωγή.
Ιστορικό ασθενούς.

**ΠΡΩΤΟΚΟΛΛΟ ΕΡΕΥΝΑΣ ΜΕ ΘΕΜΑ
«Η ΑΝΤΙΜΕΤΩΠΙΣΗ ΟΓΚΟΛΟΓΙΚΩΝ
ΑΣΘΕΝΩΝ ΧΡΗΣΖΟΝΤΩΝ ΑΚΤΙΝΟΘΕ-
ΡΑΠΕΥΤΙΚΗΣ ΚΑΙ ΧΗΜΕΙΟΘΕΡΑΠΕΥ-
ΤΙΚΗΣ ΑΝΤΙΜΕΤΩΠΙΣΗΣ ΣΥΝΔΥΑΖΟ-
ΝΤΑΣ ΤΗΝ ΚΛΑΣΣΙΚΗ ΙΑΤΡΙΚΗ ΜΕ
ΤΙΣ ΦΥΣΙΚΕΣ ΣΥΜΠΛΗΡΩΜΑΤΙΚΕΣ
ΘΕΡΑΠΕΙΕΣ»**

Συγκεκριμένα η μελέτη ξεκίνησε από μια ομάδα Ογκολόγων Ιατρών και μία άλλη ομάδα Θεραπευτών φυσικών συμπληρωματικών θεραπειών, σαν ένα Πρωτόκολλο Έρευνας με θέμα την αντιμετώπιση ογκολογικών περιστατικών, συνδυάζοντας την κλασσική ιατρική (Ακτινοθεραπεία – Χημειοθεραπεία – Χειρουργική ογκολογία) με τις φυσικές συμπληρωματικές θεραπείες.

Από την πλευρά της κλασσικής ιατρικής, ομάδα Ιατρών με επικεφαλής τον Δρ. Γιώργο Τσακίρη ακτινοθεραπευτή – ογκολόγο και από την πλευρά των φυσικών θεραπειών, ομάδα θεραπευτών φυσικών συμπληρωματικών θεραπειών από το Διεθνές Κέντρο Επιστημονικής Γνώσης με επικεφαλής τον κο Πέτρο Κυριακίδη και το Δρ. Μιχαήλ Κυριακίδη φυσικοπαθητικό – ρεφλεξολόγο – πτ. Ιατρικής, μέσα στα πλαίσια Πρωτοκόλλου που έχει συνταχθεί, παρακολουθούν ομάδα ασθενών με ογκολογικές παθήσεις. Με βάση τις αρχές του Πρωτοκόλλου, το οποίο θα ανοίξει μετά το πέρας δεκαετίας, για να μελετηθούν τα αποτελέσματα του παραπάνω συνδυασμού, οι ασθενείς θα παρακολουθούνται ανά 6μηνο.

Μέχρι στιγμής μας δημιουργείται η εικόνα του πόσο ωφέλιμη και απαραίτητη είναι η αντιμετώπιση μέσω κλασσικής ιατρικής (Ακτινοθεραπείας – Χημειοθεραπείας), αλλά παράλληλα και πόσο οι φυσικές μέθοδοι όπως ρεφλεξολογία, βοτανική, υγιεινή διατροφή κλπ, συμβάλλουν στην ανακούφιση, την ενίσχυση και τη βελτίωση της ποιότητας ζωής των ασθενών, προσφέροντας τους καλύτερη διάθεση, ανθεκτικότητα στις χημειοθεραπευτικές και ακτινοθεραπευτικές παρενέργειες, ενίσχυση του ανοσοποιητικού συστήματος, καθώς επίσης μείωση του στρες και του άλγους.

Ευχόμαστε η μελέτη των αποτελεσμάτων, μετά το άνοιγμα των φακέλων των ασθενών και των στοιχείων που θα αποκομιστούν από αυτά, να αποδείξουν το «ωφέλιμον» του συνδυασμού, έτσι ώστε να δοθεί μια επιπλέον στατιστική γνώση και πληροφορία στον επιστημονικό χώρο της αντιμετώπισης του καρκίνου.

ΠΡΟΕΓΧΕΙΡΗΤΙΚΗ ΚΑΙ ΜΕΤΕΓΧΕΙΡΗΤΙΚΗ ΕΡΕΥΝΑ

Μετά την εξασφάλιση της έγγραφης συγκατάθεσης εκ μέρους του ασθενούς και την τυχαία κατάταξή του σε μια από τις τρεις ομάδες ακολουθούσε ένα συγκεκριμένο και κοινό πρόγραμμα συνεδριών Ρεφλεξολογίας και εικονικής Ρεφλεξολογίας. Το πρόγραμμα περιλάμβανε μια προεγχειρητική συνεδρία την ημέρα της εισαγωγής του ασθενούς στο νοσοκομείο (συνήθως την προηγούμενη ημέρα του χειρουργείου) καθώς και από μια συνεδρία για κάθε μετεγχειρητική ημέρα του ασθενούς στο θάλαμο νοσηλείας. Συνεδρίες δεν γινόντουσαν στην μονάδα εντατικής θεραπείας.

Πριν από την έναρξη της συνεδρίας και καθ' όλη την διάρκεια της (για τις ομάδες A & B) και σε συγκεκριμένες αντίστοιχες περιόδους για την ομάδα Γ, οι ασθενείς συνδέονταν με ένα συνεχή καταγραφέα (HOLTER). Οι καταγραφές αυτές ανα-

λύθηκαν ως προς την μεταβλητότητα του καρδιακού ρυθμού. Επιπλέον πριν από την έξοδο του ασθενούς από το νοσοκομείο ζητείτο οπτικοαναλογική ανάλυση του επιπέδου του άλγους και του στρες βάσει μιας κλίμακας βαθμολόγησης από 1-10. Οι συνήθεις γνωστές μέθοδοι και τεχνικές της Ρεφλεξολογίας χρησιμοποιήθηκαν μετεγχειρητικά ανάλογα με τις ειδικές ανάγκες κάθε ασθενούς.

ΤΕΛΙΚΗ ΣΤΑΤΙΚΗ ΑΞΙΟΛΟΓΗΣΗ

Η τελική στατιστική αξιολόγηση περιλάμβανε τα παρακάτω: Την μεταβολή του καρδιακού ρυθμού κατά την διάρκεια και αμέσως μετά τις συνεδρίες (ομάδες A & B) ή κατά τα αντίστοιχα διαστήματα όσον αφορά την ομάδα Γ. Η εκτίμηση εκ μέρους του ασθενούς της επίδρασης της Ρεφλεξολογίας στην αντίληψη του άλγους και του στρες σύμφωνα με τα αποτελέσματα της οπτικοαναλογικής κλίμακας.

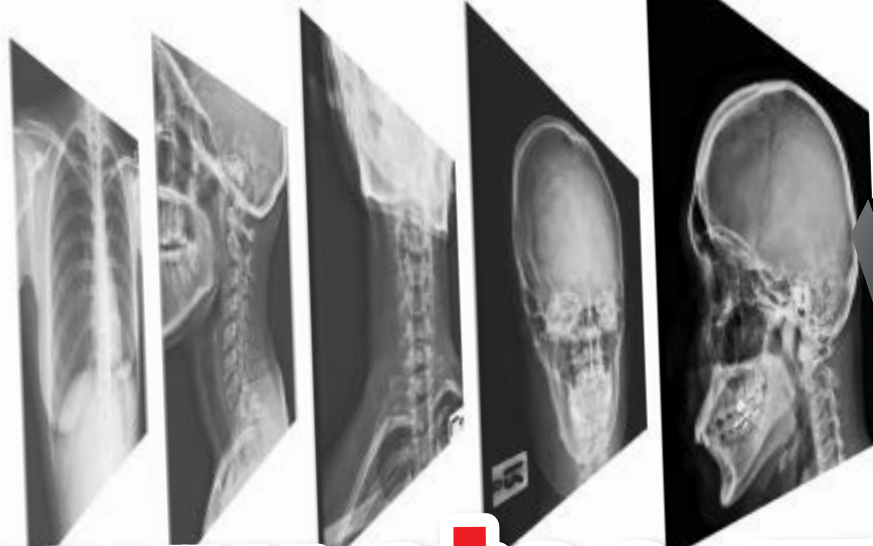
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Είναι η πρώτη φορά που η Ρεφλεξολογία εισήχθη σε ελληνικό νοσοκομείο και έγινε αποδεκτή με ενθουσιασμό, τόσο από τους Ιατρούς και τους νοσηλευτές όσο και από τους ίδιους τους ασθενείς του Ωνασείου.

Τα αποτελέσματα της έρευνας ήταν θετικά στους ασθενείς που υποβλήθηκαν σε Ρεφλεξολογία προεγχειρητικά, στα επίπεδα άλγους τους, αλλά και στους ασθενείς που υποβλήθηκαν σε Ρεφλεξολογία μετεγχειρητικά, στα επίπεδα πόνου.

Η έρευνα στο Ωνάσειο Καρδιολογικό νοσοκομείο αποτέλεσε την αρχή της προσπάθειας του Σωματίου Ελλήνων Ρεφλεξολόγων να συμβάλει στην πραγματοποίηση και άλλων ερευνών σε άλλα νοσοκομεία της Ελλάδας με κύριο στόχο την βοήθεια των συνανθρώπων μας μέσα από την Ρεφλεξολογία.

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