72. Functional imaging of the lung parenchyma, tumours and circulation

Quantifying lung function in COPD with hyperpolarised 3He MRI
Samuel Janoff1, Helen Marshall1, Martin Deppe1, Cath Billings1, Juan Parra-Robles1, Sue Hiliis1, Sam Miller2, David Lipson2, Jim Wild1, Rod Lawson2, Academic Radiology, University of Sheffield, United Kingdom; 2Respiratory Medicine, Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, Sheffield, United Kingdom; 1Academic Radiology, University of Sheffield, United Kingdom; 3GlaxoSmithKline, GlaxoSmithKline, Stockley Park, United Kingdom; 4GlaxoSmithKline, King of Prussia, United States

Introduction: Hyperpolarised 3He MRI can identify regional lung defects and has been found more sensitive than spirometry to early changes in smokers lungs. We aim to quantify change in lung function in response to bronchodilator in COPD using 3He MRI.

Method: 10 patients with moderate to severe COPD (per NICE guidelines) were scanned using 3He MRI. Ventilated volume (VV) was defined by a threshold on 3He MRI. Percentage ventilation (PV) was defined as VV/LV. Lungs were segmented into 4 regions on each slice with large airways removed.

Results: Change in ventilation, including recruitment of newly ventilated areas, was seen post treatment.

Regional analysis showed patterns of change in different lung areas which may be hidden in global measures.

Conclusions: Global MRI measures and spirometry simplify lungs to one unit. Regional analysis explains better change in lung function.

Reference:

MRI of delayed-ventilation perfusion matching in COPD
Helen Marshall1, Martin Deppe1, Juan Parra-Robles1, David Lipson2, Rod Lawson1, Jim Wild1, Academic Radiology, University of Sheffield, United Kingdom; 2Respiratory Medicine, Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, Sheffield, United Kingdom; 3GlaxoSmithKline, GlaxoSmithKline, Stockley Park, United Kingdom; 4GlaxoSmithKline, King of Prussia, United States

Introduction: Delayed ventilation in COPD may be caused by collateral ventilation, partial obstruction, lung hyperinflation or a mixture of such mechanisms, and allows initially-unventilated lung regions to become ventilated over time. Recently hyperpolarised gas MRI has been used to directly visualise delayed and collateral ventilation in COPD over the period of a single breath-hold. Delayed ventilation will only contribute to gas exchange if there is blood perfusion in these regions.

Objective: To image the perfusion matching of lung regions with delayed ventilation in COPD.

Methods: Ten patients with moderate to severe COPD as defined by NICE guidelines were scanned using 3He and proton MRI. Delayed-ventilation images; hyperpolarised 3He images with full lung coverage were acquired at six time-points during a single breath-hold. Contrast-enhanced perfusion images with full lung coverage were acquired at breath-hold.

Results: Regions of delayed-ventilation were perfused in some cases and were not perfused in others giving an indication of which areas remained active in gas exchange.

Example ventilation and perfusion images are shown in the figure. The defects with delayed-ventilation in patient A are not perfused, whereas the smaller defect in Patient B is perfused.

Conclusions: Hyperpolarised gas and proton MRI allow the visualisation of ventilation and perfusion matching, and may aid in the understanding of delayed-ventilation in COPD and its role in gas exchange.

MRI equilibrium signal mapping is a quantitative and reproducible alternative to CT for the estimation of lung density in COPD
Weijian Zhang1, Penny Hubbard1,2, Eva Bondesson3, Lars Wigmüller4, Simon Young2, David Singh5, Josephine Naish1,2, Geoffrey Parker1,2,7
1Imaging Sciences, School of Cancer and Imaging Sciences, The University of Manchester, United Kingdom; 2The Biomedical Imaging Institute, The University of Manchester, United Kingdom; 3Semcon Drug Development Consulting, Semcon Carus AB, Lund, Sweden; 4Respiratory & Inflammation Therapy Area, Clinical Development, AstraZeneca, Malmö, Sweden; 5Personalised Healthcare and Biomarkers, AstraZeneca, Alderley Park, United Kingdom; 6Medicines Evaluation Unit, University Hospital of South Manchester Foundation Trust, Manchester, United Kingdom; 7BiOxyDyn Limited, BiOxyDyn Limited, Manchester, United Kingdom

In MRI, the equilibrium tissue magnetisation is proportional to tissue water density. This study aimed to explore the feasibility and reproducibility of mapping the signal (S0) associated with the equilibrium magnetisation in the assessment of structural abnormalities in COPD. MR images were acquired in 12 COPD subjects twice within 1 week for T1 and S0 mapping. Lung S0 was normalized by dividing by muscle S0 to obtain a quantitative S0 (qS0). Matched CT slices were selected to calculate PD15 and R.A.20.

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Table 1. Pearson correlation coefficient between lung qS0 values and quantitative CT parameters

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Mean qS0</th>
<th>15th centile qS0</th>
<th>50th centile qS0</th>
<th>75th centile qS0</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PD1</td>
<td>0.93*</td>
<td>0.84*</td>
<td>0.93*</td>
<td>0.91*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RA-750</td>
<td>-0.007*</td>
<td>-0.830*</td>
<td>-0.906*</td>
<td>-0.892*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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*p value < 0.01.

Lung qS0 maps were reproducible with reduced values seen in regions comparable to CT detected emphysema regions. The mean and 15th, 50th, 75th percentile qS0 showed strong correlations with PD1 and RA-750.

Equilibrium signal maps of MRI correlate strongly with CT density estimates, indicating that qS0 may be a reproducible, non-invasive/sonising measure for quantifying lung density changes in COPD.

377 Measurement of airway inflammation in smokers by means of positron emission tomography

Salbors Gundersen, Lars Edsbrandt, Syen Valind, Per Wollmer. Dept. of Clinical Sciences, Lund University, Malmo, Sweden

Smokers and subjects with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) have neutrophilic inflammation in peripheral airways. Activated neutrophils are known to accumulate 18F-fluorodeoxyglucose (18FDG). The aim of this study was to examine if inflammation in the lung in smokers can be detected with 18FDG and combined positron emission tomography/computed tomography (PET/CT).

We recruited 22 current smokers and 23 never-smokers among subjects referred for diagnosis or staging of cancer with and 18FDG and PET/CT. Subjects with focal abnormalities in 18FDG lung uptake or CT were excluded. Other exclusion criteria were diabetes and suspicion of infection or interstitial lung disease. The right lung was segmented in the CT image and lung density measured. 18FDG uptake was measured in standardised uptake values in the corresponding CT and corrected for lung density.

There were no significant differences in lung uptake of 18FDG or lung density between smokers and never-smokers (0.49±0.11 vs. 0.49±0.10 and -772±56 HU vs. -756±50 HU, respectively). When corrected for lung density, lung uptake of 18FDG was nine per cent higher in current smokers than in never-smokers (2.00±0.21 vs. 1.84±0.20, p<0.05). Increased uptake of 18FDG in lung tissue in current smokers relative to never-smokers probably indicates inflammation in peripheral airways. Measurements of 18FDG uptake in the lung may be useful for studies of the pathophysiology of airways disease in COPD and the relation between systemic inflammation.

378 Within-breath specific gas volume variations (ΔSVg) assessed by four-dimensional computed tomography (4D-CT) in lung tumor patients

Francesco Donnem, Caterina Salito, Aurora Fassi, Guido Baron, Andrea Aliverti. Dipartimento di Bioingegneria, Politecnico di Milano, Milano, Italy

ΔSVg between different lung volumes reliably estimate regional lung function (Salito et al, Radiology 2009). Here we assessed with voxel-resolution within-breath ΔSVg from 4D-CT images in 5 tumor patients. Each breathing phase (1 to 9) of the 4D-CT dataset was registered onto the reference (phase 0, i.e. end inspiration) using the Demons algorithm and subtracted from it in terms of SVg. Mean ΔSVg of ΔSVg in lower (UL) and upper (UL) lobes were computed in both healthy (H) and tumor (T) lung. In H mean ΔSVg was significantly different between UL and LL (p<0.001) with higher values in UL. Mean ΔSVg increased by 0.8±0.3 ml/g in UL and 0.4±0.2 ml/g in LL. No significant inter-lobes-differences were found in T (p=0.8): mean ΔSVg increased by 0.8±0.4 ml/g in UL and 0.6±0.3 ml/g in LL. Fig 1 shows within-breath ΔSVg maps of an exemplificative tumor lung and the mean ΔSVg is reported for each breathing phase separately for UL and LL.

In conclusion: 1) ΔSVg maps applied to 4D-CT provide information about within-breath gas distribution in the lung; 2) in H there is higher ΔSVg in UL; 3) the presence of the tumor modifies ΔSVg distribution; 4) heterogeneous ΔSVg distribution suggests that areas with normal function could be identified as organs at risk during radiotherapy treatment planning.

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379 The role of dynamic magnetic resonance imaging in the evaluation of pulmonary nodules and masses

Andrew Swift, Dave Capener, Jim Wild. 1Academic Unit of Radiology, University of Sheffield, United Kingdom; 2Sheffield Pulmonary Vascular Disease Unit, Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, Sheffield, United Kingdom

Background: The role of the right atrium (RA) is under-researched within pulmonary vascular disease. The aim was to investigate the use of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) with use of kinetic and morphological parameters relevant to evaluate the utility of dynamic MRI in the management of pulmonary nodules.

Materials and methods: Thirty one patients (4 women and 27 men) underwent 1.5 T MRI and 10 consecutive dynamic series were performed every 30 seconds by using 3D fast low-angle shot (FLASH) sequences. Percentage increase in signal intensity (%SI) of lesions was determined for each time point. Time-enhancement curves of the lesions were drawn and classified into four types (Type A, B, C, D).

Early peak (EP) value and maximum peak (MP) value of the curves were calculated and compared with the patients’ diagnosis. In addition of the comparison of the parameters between the groups, Receiver Operating Characteristics analysis was used to assess sensitivity, specificity, positive predictive value, negative predictive value of EP and MP parameters.

Results: Most of the malignant nodules showed stronger enhancement with higher EP and MP values. There were significant differences between benign and malignant lesions. Sensitivity, specificity, positive predictive value and negative predictive value were 75%, 93%, 92% and 78% for EP and 93%, 86%, 88% and 95% for MP respectively.

Conclusion: A combination of kinetic and morphological evaluation in dynamic MRI provided accurate differentiation between benign and malignant pulmonary lesions. It was a useful and non-invasive tool for evaluating pulmonary nodules.

Key Words: Pulmonary nodules, dynamic MRI, kinetic parameters.

380 Non-invasive estimation of pulmonary artery pressure and resistance with CMR imaging: Derivation and prospective validation cohort study

Allison Morton 2, Charlie Eller 1, Robin Condliffe 1, Jim Wild 3. 1Academic Unit of Radiology, University of Sheffield, United Kingdom; 2Sheffield Pulmonary Vascular Disease Unit, Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, Sheffield, United Kingdom

Background: The aim of this study was to develop a cardiac magnetic resonance (CMR) imaging model for non-invasive estimation of mean pulmonary arterial pressure (mPAP) and total pulmonary resistance (TPR).

Methods: A derivation cohort of 64 consecutive patients with known or suspected pulmonary hypertension underwent right heart catheterization (RHC) and CMR within 12hours. Cardiac volumes and function and pulmonary arterial (PA) flow were quantified. The strongest statistical model to predict mPAP from the derivation cohort was identified. Total pulmonary resistance (TPR) was estimated utilising the physiological model: TPR= pd pulmonary artery pressure (CMR-derived mPAP) divided by blood flow (CMR-derived PA flow).

An independent prospective validation cohort of (n= 40) tested the accuracy of the model.

Results: The multivariable regression CMR model gave the following equation: mPAP = 33.4 + [right ventricular end-diastolic mass (g/cm²) x 2.12] – [PA average velocity (cm/s) x 0.99]. In the prospective validation cohort, predicted and inversely measured mPAP were strongly correlated (R²=0.74; p<0.0001). For detection of mPAP > 25mmHg the area under the receiver operator curve (ROC) was 0.91 (p<0.0001). CMR-estimated TPR correlated strongly with RHC-derived TPR (R²=0.75; p<0.0001) in the validation cohort. CMR estimated TPR reliably identified TPR > 5WU with a high degree of accuracy, the area under the receiver operator curve (ROC) was 0.96 (p<0.0001).

Conclusions: A CMR Imaging derived model can accurately estimate mPAP and vascular resistance in patients with PH.

381 MRI assessment of right atrial volume and function in pulmonary hypertension

Thomas Spironso, Andrew Swift, Smitha Rajaram, David Capener, David Kiely, Robin Condliffe, Charlie Elliot, Jim Wild. 1Academic Unit of Radiology, University of Sheffield, South Yorkshire, United Kingdom

Background: The role of the right atrium (RA) is under-researched within pulmonary vascular disease. The aim was to investigate the use of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) derived RA volume and function in the diagnosis and management of pulmonary hypertension (PH).

Methods: Patients attending the pulmonary vascular clinic were retrospectively analysed. Inclusion criteria were cardiac MRI and right heart catheterisation within 48 hours. Standard cardiac-gated balanced steady state free precession sequences were used. Early-systolic volume (ESV) and diastolic volume (EDV) were calculated using Simpson’s numeric integral applied to manual RA area tracings in the 4-chamber stack sequence.

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Results: 71 PH patients were included, mean age was 65±15.5 years and 67.6% (48) were female. RA function was shown to correlate with cardiac index (R=0.69) and mean RA pressure (R=0.64), P < 0.001. RA ejection fraction ≤ 28.3% was shown to have moderate sensitivity (80%) and specificity (71%) for identifying patients who met diagnostic criteria. RA ESV ≥48.0 ml was useful (sensitivity 96%, specificity 78%) for identifying patients with a high RA pressure, see figure 1.

Conclusion: RA pressure is a known prognostic indicator; this study suggests high RA pressure can be detected using cardiac MRI. RA function has been shown to correlate well with haemodynamic measurements and clinical data. Further research into the natural history of RA volume change in PH is needed.