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Comparison of MRS and DWI differentiation between high grade gliomas and low grade gliomas

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Introduction: Glioma is neuroepithelial tumor originating from the glial cell of the central nervous system. Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy (MRS), Diffusion Weighted Imaging (DWI), Apparent Diffusion Coefficient (ADC) values are useful for differentiating between brain high grade gliomas and low grade gliomas.

Objectives: In this study we aimed to compare the MRS and DWI in differentiating between low and high grade gliomas. To assess the diagnostic accuracy of MRS and DWI, ADC value in grading gliomas before treatment. We can suspect the glioma in conventional MRI but it's hard to differentiate high and low grade glioma in it. And it is important to diagnose reliably because of its importance in treatment planning.

Methods & Materials: We conducted a retrospective analysis of 47 patients with glioma (HGG/LGG 28/19) and were evaluated by using 3T MR machine. All of the cases were pathologically proven with glioma. MRS and DWI were used to determine the differences between high and low grade gliomas. We measured the Naa (N-acetylaspartate), Cho (Choline), Cr (creatinine), Naa/Cr, Cho/Cr, Cho/Naa and ADC value on enhanced region of the tumor mass. We calculated all the results on IBM SPSS statistics 21.

Result: On MRS analysis LGG (low grade glioma) are generally characterized by relatively high N-acetyl aspartate, low level of Naa in HGGs (high grade glioma) ($P=0.01$), and in elevated Cho ($P=0.01$) peak in high grade glioma. Relatively high Cho/Naa ($P=0.012$) and high Cho/Cr ($P=0.006$) ratios in high grade gliomas and statistically significant difference between low and high grade gliomas. ADC value were higher than normal in both grade of gliomas and the ADC value significantly higher in LGG (1.46 ± 0.36) ($P=0.03$).

Conclusion: MRS and DWI are useful for grading and evaluation of high and low grade gliomas. The low grade glioma shows higher ADC values in ADC map and higher Naa, Cr, low Cho/Cr ratios in the MRS. While high grade gliomas appears low ADC values in ADC map, high Cho level, high Cho/Cr ratios, low Naa levels and high ratio of the Cho/Naa in MRS.

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