2nd International Congress of Breast Disease Centers

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Role of MRI in the initial diagnosis of breast cancer

Ulrich Bick

MRI of the Breast

- Highest sensitivity for both invasive and in-situ lesions of all imaging modalities
- Specificity and ppv will vary with lesion size and individual breast cancer risk
- Evaluation of MRI always in conjunction with history, clinical exam and other imaging modalities (mammography, ultrasound)





39-year-old asymptomatic patient with known BRAC2 mutation in the family, first high-risk screening round









5-mm invasive-ductal carcinoma pT1a pN0(sn) G2









48-year-old female with palpable invasive-ductal carcinoma confirmed by ultrasound-guided core biopsy













Final surgical pathology: second multicentric 4-mm invasive ductal cancer







Breast MRI and DCIS

- Most high-grade DCIS beyond a certain size (10mm?) will be visible on MRI
- Early as well as low-grade DCIS difficult to diagnose with any imaging modality
- Some lesions may be visible on mammography alone, some only on MRI and some on both
- Distribution patterns (unilateral, segmental) of otherwise non-specific enhancement foci on MRI are often key to diagnosis (comparable to distribution patterns of microcalcifications)







44-year-old patient after right breast-conserving therapy for breast cancer 3 years ago now with 115 mm DCIS high-grade in the left breast







Radiology

Ductal Carcinoma in Situ: X-ray Fluorescence Microscopy and Dynamic Contrast-enhanced MR Imaging Reveals Gadolinium Uptake within Neoplastic Mammary Ducts in a Murine Model¹





x-ray fluorescence microscopy image of ducts with DCIS showing gadolinium uptake

Jansen et al. 2009, Radiology 253: 399-406





CHARITÉ





MRI of the Breast - Indications

Early Detection

Assessment

Therapy



Breast MRI: Assessment

- Differentiation scar / recurrence*
- Unknown primary*
- Palpable abnormality without corresponding imaging finding in mammography and ultrasound
- Percutaneous biopsy not possible (Abnormality e.g. visible only in one view)
- Poor concordance between imaging findings and biopsy results

***reimbursed by public payors in Germany**



28-year-old female with asymmetry on palpation





28-year-old female with asymmetry on palpation





Breast MRI: *Therapy*

 Evaluation of the contralateral breast

Preoperative tumor staging

Follow-up during neoadjuvant chemotherapy





49-year-old high-risk patient with DCIS intermediate-grade in the right breast detected on mammography





Non-calcified DCIS low-grade in the left breast detected by MRI only



Local Staging with MRI

 Identification of additional malignant lesions (16%-20%) at acceptable ppv (66%)
 [Houssami 2008, Kuhl 2008]



Prospective Studies with > 100 Patients

	Ultrasound	Patients	Additional malignant lesions (ipsilateral)	PPV (additional MRI- Findings)
Deurloo et al. (Eur J Cancer 2005)	yes	116	14.7%	0.50
Schnall et al. (J Surg Oncol 2005)	partially	426	9.6%	0.67
Berg et al. (Radiology 2004)	yes	111	12.5%	0.40
Schelfout et al. (EJSO 2004)	yes	170	19.4%	0,85
Hlawatsch et al. (AJR 2002)	yes	101	5.0%	0.63
Drew et al. (Ann Surg Oncol 1999)	yes	178	23.0%	0.69
Siegmann et al. (Clin Radiol 2009)	yes	119	21.0%	0.74*

**including additional lesions in the contralateral breast*

Local Staging with MRI

 Identification of additional malignant lesions (16%-20%) at acceptable ppv (66%)
 [Houssami 2008, Kuhl 2008]

Reduced re-operation rates
 Turnbull et al. (2010) Lancet 375: 563 - 571
 Prospective randomised COMICE trial (1625 patients)
 Re-operation rate of 19% with and without MRI

Fewer local recurrences*
 [Fischer 2004, Solin 2008]

Improved long-term survival*

*up to now no prospective data available



Influence of preoperative MRI on recurrence rates and long-term survival

	with MRI		without MRI	
	5 years	8 years	5 years	8 years
Patients	215		541	
pTis + PT1	82%		84%	
Local Recurrence	3%	3%	2%	4%
Contralateral Carcinoma	6%	6%	3%	6%

Solin et al. (2008) J Clin Oncol 26: 386 - 391



When should Breast MRI be performed ?

- To answer a specific question
 - suspicious clinical abnormality
 - benign biopsy results for a highly suspicious imaging finding
 - abnormality visible only in one view
- Search for possible malignancy in high-risk situations
 - high-risk screening
 - newly diagnosed breast cancer
 - surveillance after breast cancer treatment

