

MODERATED POSTER PRESENTATION

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Severity of blood flow reduction associated with detectable T2 enhancement in the area at risk of a reperfused canine model of acute myocardial infarction

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From 17th Annual SCMR Scientific Sessions
New Orleans, LA, USA. 16-19 January 2014

Background

T2-weighted enhancement depicts the myocardial area at risk (AAR) associated with coronary occlusion. However, the severity of blood flow abnormality required to cause a detectable elevation in myocardial T2 is unknown. The aim of this study was to use microspheres to determine the severity of reduction in myocardial blood flow that results in visually detectable T2 weighted enhancement.

Methods

Surface coil intensity corrected T2 prepared SSFP at 1.5T was performed after 2 hours of coronary occlusion followed by 4 hours of reperfusion in a canine model.

Myocardial blood flow during ischemia was determined by administering microspheres. A mid-ventricular short axis slice of the heart was divided into 16 transmural sectors for microsphere analysis. MR images were matched to the pathological slices at the sector level using papillary muscles and RV insertion as landmarks. ROIs delineated T2-enhanced and remote regions of the MR images and measurements were compared with microsphere blood flows. Results were reported as median (interquartile range [IQ]) and compared using the signed Wilcoxon rank test. Each T2-prepared sector was classified as bright (AAR) or normal (remote) by 2 independent readers and compared with absolute microsphere blood

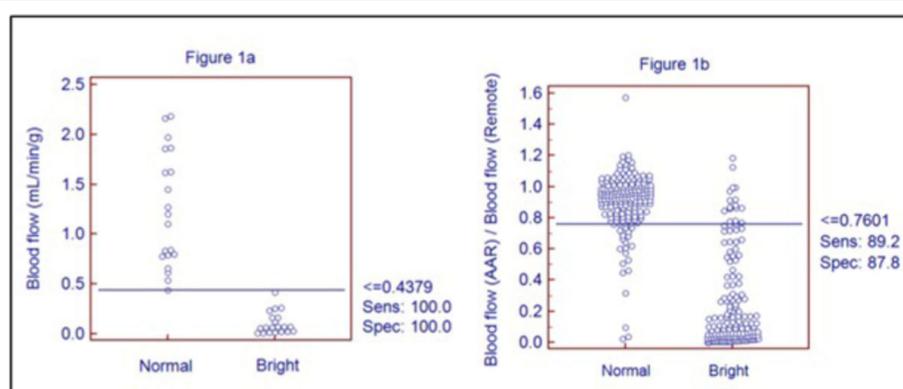


Figure 1 Absolute myocardial blood flow threshold based on ROI analysis (panel a) and relative myocardial blood flow threshold based on sector analysis (panel b) needed to detect elevated T2 signal intensity.

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Table 1 Sensitivity and Specificity for Determination of T2 Enhancement

| Image Analysis | Optimal Threshold | Sensitivity (%) | Specificity (%) |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Manual ROI | 0.44 mL/min/g | 100 | 100 |
| 16 sector matching (absolute flow) | 0.50 mL/min/g | 78 | 88 |
| 16 sector matching (relative flow) | 24% flow reduction | 89 | 88 |

flow and flow relative to remote myocardium. ROC analyses were performed to find the thresholds of absolute and relative blood flow reduction needed to detect T2 enhancement in the sector based analysis.

Results

In ROI analysis ($n = 20$), SNR in the AAR was 14.6 ± 5.7 and CNR of AAR vs. remote regions was 5.7 ± 2.3 . Median blood flow in remote myocardium was 1.15 ml/min/g (IQ 0.73-1.74) and in the AAR 0.072 ml/min/g (IQ 0.020-0.22), $p < 0.0001$. The blood flow threshold that best separated increased T2 signal intensity from normal was 0.44 ml/min/g (Figure 1a). In a sector-based analysis ($n = 320$), interobserver agreement for visually detecting T2 signal enhancement was excellent (κ 0.85, 95% CI 0.79-0.91). The optimal threshold based on the ROC curve was a 24% flow reduction relative to remote (Figure 1b) and an absolute flow $< 0.50 \text{ ml/min/g}$. The AUC for relative and absolute blood flow reductions were 0.94 ± 0.02 and 0.88 ± 0.02 , respectively. Sensitivities and specificities of the three thresholds for detecting T2 enhancement are listed in table 1.

Conclusions

A relative reduction in blood flow 24% lower than remote myocardium was the best threshold discriminating detectable T2 enhancement in the area at risk. An absolute blood flow reduction below about $0.44\text{-}0.50 \text{ ml/min/g}$ also predicted T2 enhancement.

Funding

Funded by the Intramural Research Program of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute of The National Institutes of Health.

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Published: 16 January 2014

doi:10.1186/1532-429X-16-S1-M10

Cite this article as: Hammer-Hansen *et al.*: Severity of blood flow reduction associated with detectable T2 enhancement in the area at risk of a reperfused canine model of acute myocardial infarction. *Journal of Cardiovascular Magnetic Resonance* 2014 **16**(Suppl 1):M10.

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