Image quality and diagnostic value of diffusion-weighted breast magnetic resonance imaging: Comparison of acquired and computed images

Hye Shin Ahn¹, Sung Hun Kim²*, Ji Youn Kim³, Chang Suk Park⁴, Robert Grimm⁵, Yohan Son⁶

¹ Department of Radiology, Chung-Ang University Hospital, Chung-Ang University College of Medicine, Seoul, Republic of Korea, ² Department of Radiology, College of Medicine, Seoul St. Mary’s Hospital, The Catholic University of Korea, Seoul, Republic of Korea, ³ Department of Radiology, College of Medicine, Yeouido St. Mary’s Hospital, The Catholic University of Korea, Seoul, Republic of Korea, ⁴ Department of Radiology, College of Medicine, Incheon St. Mary’s Hospital, The Catholic University of Korea, Icheon, Republic of Korea, ⁵ MR Applications Development, Siemens Healthcare, Erlangen, Germany, ⁶ Siemens Healthineers Ltd., Seoul, Republic of Korea

* rad-ksh@catholic.ac.kr

Abstract

Purpose

To compare the image quality of acquired diffusion-weighted imaging (DWI) and computed DWI and evaluate the lesion detectability and likelihood of malignancy in these datasets.

Materials and methods

This prospective study was approved by our institutional review board. A total of 29 women (mean age, 43.5 years) underwent DWI between August 2018 and April 2019 for 32 breast cancers and 16 benign breast lesions. Three radiologists independently reviewed the acquired DWI with b-values of 1000 and 2000 s/mm² (A-b1000 and A-b2000) and the computed DWI with a b-value of 2000 s/mm² (C-b2000). Image quality was scored and compared between the three DWI datasets. Lesion detectability was recorded, and the lesion’s likelihood for malignancy was scored using a five-point scale.

Results

The A-b1000 images were superior to the A-b2000 and C-b2000 images in chest distinction, fat suppression, and overall image quality. The A-b2000 and C-b2000 images showed comparable scores for all image quality parameters. C-b2000 showed the highest values for lesion detection among all readers, although there was no statistical difference in sensitivity, specificity, positive predictive value, negative predictive value, and accuracy between the DWI datasets. The malignancy scores of the DWI images were not significantly different among the three readers.
Conclusions

A-b1000 DWI is suitable for breast lesion evaluations, considering its better image quality and comparable diagnostic values compared to that of A-b2000 and C-b2000 images. The additional use of computed high b-value DWI may have the potential to increase the detectability of breast masses.

Introduction

Dynamic contrast-enhanced magnetic resonance imaging (DCE-MRI) is currently the most sensitive method for breast cancer detection [1–4]. Although DCE-MRI is generally used for breast cancer patients, it has limitations such as the use of a contrast agent, gadolinium. Gadolinium is widely known for its side effect of nephrogenic systemic fibrosis in patients with reduced renal function. Gadolinium is also retained in other parts of the body including the brain. Its long-term effects are uncertain [5]. Therefore, the use of gadolinium-based contrast agents should be minimized. The potential role of non-enhanced MRI using diffusion-weighted imaging (DWI) combined with other sequences in breast cancer patients has been proposed in several studies [6–9].

DWI is a functional MR technique that provides information based on the microscopic movement of water molecules in tissues and allows an indirect assessment of tissue microstructures and cellularity [10]. The derived apparent diffusion coefficient (ADC) values can differentiate between malignant and benign breast lesions. Therefore, it has been shown to improve the diagnostic specificity and positive predictive value (PPV) of dynamic contrast-enhanced (DCE)-MRI [11, 12]. A high b-value (>1000 s/mm$^2$) DWI is useful for lesion detection and characterization as it maximizes the tissue contrast between pathologic and normal tissues [13–16]. However, high b-value DWI can be limited by a low signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) due to the longer echo times required and artifacts such as eddy current-induced distortions.

Computed DWI is a mathematical technique that calculates any b-value image from the acquired DWI data with at least two different b-values [17]. Computed b-value images do not have the same disadvantages as acquired DWI because they are not directly acquired but are calculated from acquired b-value images in a voxel-wise manner. Several previous studies have reported that computed high b-values are useful for lesion detection in patients with breast cancer [18–20]. In particular, Bickel et al. [20] compared DWIs with different synthetic b-values between b1000 and b2000 s/mm$^2$ and concluded that synthetically increased b-values may improve image quality and lesion visibility in breast DWI. Although the aforementioned references reported on the usefulness of computed high b-values for lesion detection in breast cancer patients [18–20]; there are no published study comparing both acquired and computed DWI with high b-values of 1000 and 2000 s/mm$^2$ yet. Therefore, the purpose of this study was to compare the image quality of acquired DWI (with b-values of 1000 s/mm$^2$ and 2000 s/mm$^2$) and computed DWI (with b-value 2000 s/mm$^2$) and evaluate the lesion detectability and likelihood of malignancy of the three datasets.

Material and methods

Study population

This prospective study was approved by the Catholic Medical Center Office of Human Research Protection Program (CMC-OHRP) and Institutional Review Board (Approval No. KC16EISI0542). Informed consent was obtained from all the patients. Between August 2018 and April 2019, 32
consecutive women who underwent breast MRI to confirm breast lesions (24 patients with biopsy-proven invasive cancers and eight patients with biopsy-proven benign breast masses) were recruited. Among these patients, three were excluded from the study (consent withdrawal in one case, and referral to other hospitals in two cases). Thus, a total of 52 breast lesions identified in 29 female patients (age range, 21–65 years; mean age, 43.52 ± 9.39 years) were included.

**Image acquisition**

MRI was performed using a 3-T MR scanner (MAGNETOM Verio; Siemens Healthcare, Erlangen, Germany) with a dedicated breast coil in the prone position. All DWI images were acquired before the administration of a contrast agent. For DWI, the readout-segmented echo-planar imaging (EPI) sequence was applied using the following parameters: TR/TE, 6300/68 ms; FOV, 320 × 160 mm; matrix size, 192 × 96; fat saturation, an acquisition time of 6 min 32 s; and automatically generated ADC maps. Imaging was performed with b-values of 0, 1000 and 2000 s/mm². The acquired diffusion-weighted images were exported and post-processed using a prototype software (MR Body Diffusion Toolbox v1.3.0, Siemens Healthcare, Erlangen, Germany). The ADC maps and computed diffusion-weighted images with high b-value (2000 s/mm²) were generated from b = 0 and b = 1000 by fitting signal intensities to the Stejskal-Tanner equation S(b) = S₀ exp(-b·ADC) with a pixel intensity of S₀ in b = 0 s/mm².

**Image analysis**

Mammography, ultrasound images, breast MRI (T2-weighted images, dynamic contrast-enhanced MRI, and DWI) and pathologic reports were reviewed by one radiologist (S.H.K, the supervisor) with 15 years of experience in breast imaging who did not participate in the DWI analysis. A total of 52 breast lesions (36 malignant and 16 benign) were identified in 29 patients. The mean tumor size was 24.1 mm (range, 5–87 mm). All malignant lesions (n = 36) were pathologically proven to be invasive ductal carcinomas (n = 33), invasive lobular carcinoma (n = 1), and ductal carcinoma in situ (n = 2), including index cancers, daughter nodules, and contralateral cancer. Among a total of 16 benign lesions, eight were pathologically confirmed benign masses (five fibroadenomas, two benign phyllodes tumors, and one fibrocystic change) and the other eight were diagnosed as benign at follow-up (all lesions were stable on after more than two years of follow-up). Imaging in 29 patients with three different DWI sets (A-b1000, A-b2000, and C-b2000) resulted in 87 individual datasets that were provided in random order to the three readers. Three radiologists with 20, 10, and 8 years of experience in breast imaging independently reviewed the images (C.S.P., J.Y.K., and H.S.A.). The ADC maps and b = 0 images were included in the image sets. The readers could check the ADC value of any lesions, but T2-weighted or contrast-enhanced MR images were not provided. First, the readers recorded the image quality factors for each DWI, and then the detectability and likelihood of malignancy of the lesions were evaluated. The image quality factors are presented in Table 1. For image quality, the authors rated each anatomical structure using a score of 0 (non-distinction of anatomy) or 1 (distinction of anatomy). For lesion detectability, the readers were asked to report all distinguishable lesions along with the location (left/right) and image number containing the detected lesion. They were also asked to assign the likelihood of malignancy scored using a 5-point scale (1 = definitely not malignant, 2 = probably not malignant, 3 = indeterminate, 4 = probably malignant, and 5 = definitely malignant). The radiologists knew that all the patients had a breast mass but were blinded to the final diagnosis and the number of masses, laterality, and quadrant location of the lesion(s). Finally, the supervisor reviewed the lesions detected by the three radiologists and matched the detected lesions with the 52 previously identified reference lesions.
Statistical analysis

Regarding the image quality, the inter-reader agreement was assessed by the intraclass correlation coefficient (ICC) [21]. An ICC greater than 0.75 was considered excellent agreement (ICC < 0.4, poor; and ICC 0.4–0.75, fair-to-good). The average scores of the three readers were calculated and used for the analysis. Differences in image quality between the DWI datasets were compared using the Chi-square test or Fisher’s exact test. For the detection and likelihood of the lesions, the predictive performance for malignancy (a likelihood score of 3, 4, or 5) was determined by the area under the receiver operating characteristic curve (AUC) analysis, including sensitivity, specificity, PPV, negative predictive value (NPV), and accuracy. All statistical analyses were performed using SAS (version 9.4, SAS Institute Inc., Cary, NC, USA). P-values < 0.05 were considered statistically significant.

Results

Image quality among DWI datasets

Table 2 displays the image quality factors of the pooled data from the three readers and the inter-reader agreement. Among the four factors used to distinguish the anatomical structures, such as skin-line, parenchyma, chest, and sternum, the score for chest wall distinction was significantly lower in A-b2000 and C-b2000 than in A-b1000 (p < 0.001). In the subgroup analysis, there were significant differences between A-b1000 and A-b2000 and between A-b1000 and C-b2000 (p < 0.001 in both), but there was no statistical difference between A-b2000 and

Table 1. Criteria for comparison of image quality in DWI images.

| Characteristics          | 0–1: skin, parenchyma-fat, chest wall, sternum |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Distinction of anatomical structure | Homogeneity (Right vs. Left) |
| 1: Right > Left          | 2: Right = Left                               |
| 3: Right < Left          | Ghosting artifacts                            |
| 1: Definitely confounding interpretation | 2: Present, but no impact on interpretation |
| 3: No artifact           | Fat suppression                               |
| 1: No suppression        | 2: Inhomogeneous fat suppression               |
| 3: Homogeneous fat suppression | Background noise                             |
| 1: Definitely confounding interpretation | 2: Present, but no impact on interpretation |
| 3: No artifact           | Overall image quality                         |
| 1: Poor                  | 2: Moderate                                   |
| 3: Good                  | 4: Excellent                                  |

DWI = diffusion-weighted imaging

https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0247379.t001
Similarly, C-b2000 showed significantly lower scores for fat suppression and overall image quality (p < 0.001). However, there was no significant difference between A-b2000 and C-b2000 in fat suppression (p = 0.090) and overall image quality (p = 0.089) (Fig 1). Other parameters, including three anatomical distinctions (skin-line, parenchyma, and sternum), homogeneity, and background noise were not significantly different between the DWI images. The three readers were in fair-to-good inter-reader agreement regarding the overall image quality of the A-b1000 (ICC = 0.705, range 0.453–0.852) images. However, there was poor agreement for A-b2000 (ICC = 0.258, range -0.375–0.852) and C-b2000 (ICC = 0.279, range -0.336–0.638).

### Detectability and likelihood of malignancy of the lesions among DWI datasets

Table 3 summarizes the detection and malignancy scores of the readers for the lesions on the DWI images. For lesion detection, the C-b2000 images showed the highest values for sensitivity, specificity, PPV, NPV, and accuracy compared to the A-b1000 and A-b2000 images and

---

| Parameter | Score range | A-b1000 Mean ± SD | A-b2000 Mean ± SD | C-b2000 Mean ± SD | p value |
|-----------|-------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------|
| Anatomical structure distinction | | | | | |
| Skinline | 0–1 | 0.93 ± 0.26 | 0.581 (0.725–0.925) | 0.97 ± 0.18 | 0.574 (0.210–0.786) | 0.94 ± 0.23 | 0.421 ((-)0.072–0.709) | 0.696 |
| Parenchyma | 0–1 | 0.90 ± 0.31 | 0.509 (0.089–0.753) | 0.90 ± 0.31 | 0.655 (0.362–0.827) | 0.87 ± 0.33 | 0.379 ((-)0.150–0.688) | 0.856 |
| Chest | 0–1 | 0.97 ± 0.18 | 0.596 (0.251–0.797) | 0.66 ± 0.48 | 0.373 ((-)0.162–0.685) | 0.64 ± 0.48 | 0.695 (0.438–0.847) | <0.001 |
| Sternum | 0–1 | 0.93 ± 0.26 | 1.000 (1.000–1.000) | 0.93 ± 0.26 | 1.000 (1.000–1.000) | 0.97 ± 0.18 | 1.000 (1.000–1.000) | 0.572 |
| Homogeneity | 1–3 | 2.07 ± 0.26 | 0.321 ((-)0.257–0.659) | 2.07 ± 0.26 | (-0.196 ((-)1.215–0.399) | 2.08 ± 0.41 | (-0.644 ((-)2.047–0.174) | 0.052 |
| Ghosting artifact | 1–3 | 2.53 ± 0.61 | 0.869 (0.757–0.934) | 2.53 ± 0.61 | 0.780 (0.592–0.889) | 2.57 ± 0.60 | 0.813 (0.653–0.906) | 0.846 |
| Fat suppression | 1–3 | 2.48 ± 0.59 | 0.561 (0.187–0.779) | 1.98 ± 0.43 | 0.197 ((-)0.488–0.596) | 1.84 ± 0.40 | 0.452 ((-)0.016–0.724) | <0.001 |
| Background noise | 1–3 | 2.41 ± 0.50 | 0.331 ((-)0.239–0.664) | 2.31 ± 0.54 | 0.269 ((-)0.355–0.633) | 2.30 ± 0.49 | 0.354 ((-)0.196–0.675) | 0.258 |
| Overall image quality | 1–4 | 2.90 ± 0.95 | 0.705 (0.453–0.852) | 2.22 ± 0.77 | 0.258 ((-)0.375–0.627) | 1.98 ± 0.68 | 0.279 ((-)0.336–0.638) | <0.001 |

Note.—Numbers shows mean values ± standard deviation except for score range and p-value

DWI = diffusion-weighted imaging, ICC = intraclass correlation coefficient, SD = standard deviation

*p-values between A-b1000 and A-b2000
+*p-values between A-b1000 and C-b2000
§p-values between A-b2000 and C-b2000

https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0247379.t002

C-b2000 (p > 0.990). Similarly, C-b2000 showed significantly lower scores for fat suppression and overall image quality (p < 0.001). However, there was no significant difference between A-b2000 and C-b2000 in fat suppression (p = 0.090) and overall image quality (p = 0.089) (Fig 1). Other parameters, including three anatomical distinctions (skin-line, parenchyma, and sternum), homogeneity, and background noise were not significantly different between the DWI images. The three readers were in fair-to-good inter-reader agreement regarding the overall image quality of the A-b1000 (ICC = 0.705, range 0.453–0.852) images. However, there was poor agreement for A-b2000 (ICC = 0.258, range -0.375–0.852) and C-b2000 (ICC = 0.279, range -0.336–0.638).
the pooled data. However, there was no significant difference between DWI datasets (Fig 2). In terms of the malignancy scores for the lesions, the three DWI datasets showed variable diagnostic values. The sensitivity and PPV were similar for the three datasets. The mean sensitivity was 97.6% for A-b1000, 94.5% for A-b2000, and 95.8% for the C-b2000 images (p = 0.593). The mean PPV was 84.5% in A-b1000, 81.9% in A-b2000, and 84.3% in C-b2000 images (p = 0.854). The specificity and NPVs tended to be higher in the A-b1000 images than in other image sets, but inter-reader value variations were not statistically significant. The mean specificity was 48.3% for A-b1000, 34.5% for A-b2000, and 29.2% for the C-b2000 images (p = 0.325). The mean NPV was 87.5% in A-b1000, 66.7% in A-b2000, and 63.6% in the C-b2000 images (p = 0.281). The accuracy was higher in the C-b2000 image (78.2%) than in the other images (73.7% in both), but there was no significant difference between the DWI datasets (p = 0.570).

**Discussion**

The goal of this study was to compare acquired DWI at b = 1000 and b = 2000 s/mm² and computed DWI at b = 2000 s/mm² in terms of image quality and lesion detectability and likelihood of malignancy for breast lesions. The A-b1000 images were superior to the A-b2000 and C-b2000 images in visualizing chest distinction and fat suppression, as well as the overall image quality. C-b2000 showed the highest values for lesion detection by all readers, although there was no statistical difference in sensitivity, specificity, PPV, NPV, and accuracy between the three DWI datasets. In addition, the malignancy scores of the DWI images showed variable diagnostic values without significant differences among the three readers.
Table 3. Lesion detection and likelihood of malignancy of DWI datasets.

| Lesion detection | Reader 1                  | Reader 2                  | Reader 3                  | Pooled         |
|------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| **Sensitivity, %** | **88.9 (73.9–96.9)** | **69.4 (51.9–83.7)** | **75.0 (57.8–87.9)** | **77.8 (68.8–85.2)** |
| **Specificity, %** | **37.5 (15.2–64.6)** | **37.5 (15.2–64.6)** | **43.8 (19.8–70.1)** | **39.6 (25.8–54.7)** |
| **PPV, %**       | **76.2 (60.6–88.0)** | **71.4 (53.7–85.4)** | **75.0 (57.8–87.9)** | **74.3 (65.3–82.1)** |
| **NPV, %**       | **60.0 (26.2–88.8)** | **35.3 (14.2–61.7)** | **43.8 (19.8–70.1)** | **44.2 (29.1–60.1)** |
| **Accuracy, %**  | **73.1 (59.0–84.4)** | **59.6 (45.1–73.0)** | **65.4 (50.9–78.0)** | **66.0 (58.0–73.4)** |

**Malignancy score**

| Sensitivity, % | **96.9 (83.8–99.9)** | **96.0 (79.7–99.9)** | **100 (87.2–100)** | **97.6 (91.7–99.7)** |
| Specificity, % | **97.0 (84.2–99.9)** | **96.4 (81.7–99.9)** | **90.0 (73.5–97.9)** | **94.5 (87.6–98.2)** |
| PPV, %         | **40.0 (12.2–73.8)** | **70.0 (34.8–93.3)** | **33.3 (7.5–70.1)** | **48.3 (29.5–67.5)** |
| NPV, %         | **83.3 (68.8–94.0)** | **87.5 (71.0–96.5)** | **81.6 (65.7–92.3)** | **84.3 (76.0–90.6)** |

(Continued)
Our hypotheses for image quality are as follows: First, the lower b-value DWI showed better image quality than the higher b-value DWI. Second, the computed high b-value DWI was superior in image quality to the acquired high b-value image. Since a high b-value DWI has inherently low SNR and is sensitive to artifacts, it leads to long acquisition times and degraded image quality. Breast tissues are susceptible to differences between tissue and air interfaces and lung/cardiac motion movements. The lower chest distinction, fat suppression, and overall image quality scores for the high b-value images in the current study may be due to these reasons. The results were comparable to our hypothesis (Fig 1). In this study, we acquired DWI with b-values of 0, 1000 and 2000 s/mm$^2$ with an acquisition time of 6 min 32 s. However, acquisition time is shorter in acquired DWI with b-values of 0 and 1000 s/mm$^2$ in the same vendor (4 min 27 s). Another hypothesis was that computed DWI showed better image quality than acquired DWI when the same b-value was applied. Previous studies have reported that a computed high b-value DWI is feasible with good SNR, and results in less image distortion [17, 18, 22–24]. This can result in improved lesion detection in patients with malignancies in variable organs. Blackledge et al. [17] reported that computed high b-value DWI improves SNR, diagnostic sensitivity, and specificity for tumor detection in a relatively small and

![Fig 2. Axial DWIs of a 44-year-old woman with ductal carcinoma in situ (DCIS, 1 cm and histologic grade I) for (a) an ADC image, (b) an acquired b value of 1000 s/mm$^2$ (A-b1000) (c) an acquired b value of 2000 s/mm$^2$ (A-b2000) and (d) a computed b value of 2000 s/mm$^2$ (C-b2000) in her right breast, which was missed by two of three readers in A-b1000, but was well seen in C-b2000. All readers detected this lesion in C-b2000 and two readers rated as 5 and the other rated 3 in malignancy score.](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0247379.g002)
heterogeneous group of patients with different types of cancer. In our study, C-b2000 showed similar values in image quality parameters as the A-b2000 images (Fig 2). O’Flynn et al. [18] compared the image quality of acquired DWI (b = 1150 s/mm$^2$) and computed DWI (b = 1500 and b = 2000 s/mm$^2$) and reported that the computed DW-MR images produced better image quality according to the mean score of the readers. However, in their study, readers 1 and 2 showed different results. Reader 1 scored computed DWI with b1500 and b2000 significantly higher. However, reader 2 scored both computed DWI image sets marginally lower than the acquired DWI with b1150. The authors suggested that the reason for variation in scoring between the two readers was subjectivity in the qualitative evaluation of the computed DWI, personal preference for image quality, and a learning curve effect associated with reading standard and synthetic images. Our unexpected results including lower ICC values between the readers for high b-value images, may be explained by the above factors. In a future study, we may consider improving the reviewer’s learning curve or consensus status of computed DWI to overcome the lower ICC in the current study.

It is well known that increasing the b-value during image acquisition can increase breast lesion contrast due to higher diffusivity in normal fibroglandular tissue (FGT) versus malignancy [25, 26]. As the b-value increases, the signal intensity of the normal FGT decreases at a rate faster than that of the tumor, making a malignancy more conspicuous. Furthermore, computed images have the advantage of decreasing image distortions due to susceptibility effects and eddy currents, increased SNR, and shortened scan times compared to acquired images with the same high b-value [27]. Therefore, the authors of this study anticipated that C-b2000 would show the highest performance in lesion detection and malignancy scoring among the three DWI datasets. Although C-b2000 showed the highest diagnostic values in lesion detection, there was no statistical difference between the DWI datasets. A recent study by DelPriore et al. [28] compared the conspicuity of breast cancer on computed and acquired high b-value DWI using 3-T MRI and found that the lesion contrast-to-noise ratio (CNR) was higher on the acquired images and began to decrease at b-values greater than 1500 s/mm$^2$. However, lesion visibility was not significantly different between acquired and computed images. A study by Tamura et al. [29] suggested improving the conspicuity of breast tumors on computed high b-value DWI by 1.5-T MRI, and the CNR of computed DWI generated from high SNR images and a high number of excitations (NEX) was superior to that of acquired DWI. However, the CNR on computed DWI obtained using the same scanning parameters was inferior to the acquired DWI. In this study, we acquired DWI images with b-values of 0, 1000, and 2000 s/mm$^2$, and obtained a computed image with a b-value of 2000 s/mm$^2$ generated from DWI with b-values of 0 and 1000 s/mm$^2$ with the same scanning parameters, including NEX. This could cause a decrease in the SNR in computed DWI images and affect lesion detection and malignancy scores.

This study had several limitations. First, the small sample size in this study may have affected the statistical significance of the results, such as the diagnostic values of lesion detection. Second, the supervisor settled distinguishable lesions on DWI images by readers as reference standard. The readers did not have enhanced dynamic or T2-weighted images for reference and made comparisons between the DWI images. Therefore, the sensitivity of lesion detection may be overestimated compared to the results of previous studies [18, 19], which could affect the diagnostic values, such as PPV and accuracy. However, the purpose of this study was to compare the image quality and diagnostic values of DWI image sets. The result suggests differences in these points. Third, the likelihood of malignancy was scored using a 5-point scale by the three readers. Bath and Mansson [30] initially demonstrated visual grading characteristics (VGC) analysis for image quality evaluation between two compared modalities. Although VGC may have its intrinsic subjectivity, this evaluation method has been used by
many researchers for assessing the diagnostic performance of breast MRI and the results have suggested consistent results between compared modalities [18, 19, 31].

In conclusion, the image quality of acquired DWI at $b = 1000$ s/mm$^2$ was superior to that of acquired DWI at $b = 2000$ s/mm$^2$ and computed DWI at $b = 2000$ s/mm$^2$. Computed DWI at $b = 2000$ s/mm$^2$ showed the highest values for lesion detection, although the difference was not statistically significant. Therefore, acquired DWI at $b = 1000$ s/mm$^2$ can be recommended in 3-T MRI. However, computed DWI at $b = 2000$ s/mm$^2$ may be considered an additional DWI protocol. Further studies in larger cohorts are needed to test the feasibility of high b-value DWI for increasing diagnostic performance in clinical practice.

Acknowledgments
The statistical consultation was supported by the Department of Biostatistics of the Catholic Research Coordinating Center, Catholic Medical Center, South Korea.

Author Contributions
Conceptualization: Sung Hun Kim.
Data curation: Sung Hun Kim.
Formal analysis: Hye Shin Ahn, Sung Hun Kim, Ji Youn Kim, Chang Suk Park.
Funding acquisition: Sung Hun Kim.
Investigation: Sung Hun Kim, Robert Grimm, Yohan Son.
Methodology: Sung Hun Kim.
Software: Robert Grimm, Yohan Son.
Supervision: Sung Hun Kim.
Writing – original draft: Hye Shin Ahn.
Writing – review & editing: Hye Shin Ahn.

References
1. Kuhl C, Weigel S, Schrading S, Arand B, Bieling H, et al. (2010) Prospective multicenter cohort study to refine management recommendations for women at elevated familial risk of breast cancer: the EVA trial. J Clin Oncol 28: 1450–1457. https://doi.org/10.1200/JCO.2009.23.0839 PMID: 20177029
2. Sardanelli F, Podo F, Santoro F, Manoukian S, Bergonzi S, et al. (2011) Multicenter surveillance of women at high genetic breast cancer risk using mammography, ultrasonography, and contrast-enhanced magnetic resonance imaging (the high breast cancer risk Italian 1 study): final results. Invest Radiol 46: 94–105. https://doi.org/10.1097/RLI.0b013e3181f3fcdf PMID: 21139507
3. Riedl CC, Luft N, Bernhart C, Weber M, Bernathova M, et al. (2015) Triple-modality screening trial for familial breast cancer underlines the importance of magnetic resonance imaging and questions the role of mammography and ultrasound regardless of patient mutation status, age, and breast density. J Clin Oncol 33: 1126–1135. https://doi.org/10.1200/JCO.2014.56.8626 PMID: 25713430
4. Cho N, Han W, Han BK, Bae MS, Ko ES, et al. (2017) Breast Cancer Screening With Mammography Plus Ultrasonography or Magnetic Resonance Imaging in Women 50 Years or Younger at Diagnosis and Treated With Breast Conservation Therapy. JAMA Oncol 3: 1495–1502. https://doi.org/10.1001/jamaoncol.2017.1256 PMID: 28655029
5. McDonald RJ, McDonald JS, Kalimies DF, Jenofto ME, Murray DL, et al. (2015) Intracranial Gadolinium Deposition after Contrast-enhanced MR Imaging. Radiology 275: 772–782. https://doi.org/10.1148/ radiol.15150025 PMID: 25742194
6. Baltzer PA, Benndorf M, Dietzel M, Gajda M, Camara O, et al. (2010) Sensitivity and specificity of unenhanced MR mammography (DWI combined with T2-weighted TSE imaging, uMRM) for the
Comparison of acquired and computed breast DWI

differentiation of mass lesions. Eur Radiol 20: 1101–1110. https://doi.org/10.1007/s00330-009-1654-5 PMID: 19936758
7. Yabuuchi H, Matsuo Y, Sunami S, Kamitani T, Kawanami S, et al. (2011) Detection of non-palpable breast cancer in asymptomatic women by using unenhanced diffusion-weighted and T2-weighted MR imaging: comparison with mammography and dynamic contrast-enhanced MR imaging. Eur Radiol 21: 11–17. https://doi.org/10.1007/s00330-010-1890-8 PMID: 20640898
8. Kang JW, Shin HJ, Shin KC, Chae EY, Choi WJ, et al. (2017) Unenhanced magnetic resonance screening using fused diffusion-weighted imaging and maximum-intensity projection in patients with a personal history of breast cancer: role of fused DWI for postoperative screening. Breast Cancer Res Treat 165: 119–128. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10549-017-4322-5 PMID: 28577079
9. Baltzer PAT, Bickel H, Spick C, Wenger t G, Woltek R, et al. (2018) Potential of Noncontrast Magnetic Resonance Imaging With Diffusion-Weighted Imaging in Characterization of Breast Lesions: Intraindividual Comparison With Dynamic Contrast-Enhanced Magnetic Resonance Imaging. Invest Radiol 53: 229–235. https://doi.org/10.1097/RLI.0000000000000433 PMID: 29190227
10. Norris DG (2001) The effects of microscopic tissue parameters on the diffusion weighted magnetic resonance imaging experiment. NMR Biomed 14: 77–93. https://doi.org/10.1002/nbm.682 PMID: 11320535
11. Partridge SC, DeMartini WB, Kurland BF, Eby PR, White SW, et al. (2009) Quantitative diffusion-weighted imaging as an adjunct to conventional breast MRI for improved positive predictive value. AJR Am J Roentgenol 193: 1716–1722. https://doi.org/10.2214/AJR.08.2139 PMID: 19936707
12. Chen X, Li WL, Zhang YL, Wu Q, Guo YM, et al. (2010) Meta-analysis of quantitative diffusion-weighted MR imaging in the differential diagnosis of breast lesions. BMC Cancer 10: 693. https://doi.org/10.1186/1471-2407-10-693 PMID: 21189150
13. Seo HS, Chang KH, Na DG, Kwon BJ, Lee DH (2008) High b-value diffusion (b = 3000 s/mm2) MR imaging in cerebral gliomas at 3T: visual and quantitative comparisons with b = 1000 s/mm2. AJNR Am J Neuroradiol 29: 458–463. https://doi.org/10.3174/ajnr.A0842 PMID: 18065512
14. Kitajima K, Kaji Y, Kuroda K, Sugimura K (2008) High b-value diffusion-weighted imaging in normal and malignant peripheral zone tissue of the prostate: effect of signal-to-noise ratio. Magn Reson Med Sci 7: 93–99. https://doi.org/10.2463/mrms.7.93 PMID: 18603841
15. Katahira K, Takahara T, Kwee TC, Oda S, Suzuki Y, et al. (2011) Ultra-high-b-value diffusion-weighted MR imaging for the detection of prostate cancer: evaluation in 201 cases with histopathological correlation. Eur Radiol 21: 186–196. https://doi.org/10.1007/s00330-010-1883-7 PMID: 20640899
16. Baltzer P, Mann RM, Iima M, Sigmund EE, Clauser P, et al. (2020) Diffusion-weighted imaging of the breast-a consensus and mission statement from the EUSOBI International Breast-Diffusion-Weighted Imaging working group. Eur Radiol 30: 1436–1450. https://doi.org/10.1007/s00330-019-06510-3 PMID: 31786616
17. Blackledge MD, Leach MO, Collins DJ, Koh DM (2011) Computed diffusion-weighted MR imaging may improve tumor detection. Radiology 261: 573–581. https://doi.org/10.1148/radiol.11101919 PMID: 21852566
18. O’Flynn EA, Blackledge M, Collins D, Downey K, Doran S, et al. (2016) Evaluating the diagnostic sensitivity of computed diffusion-weighted MR imaging in the detection of breast cancer. J Magn Reson Imaging 44: 130–137. https://doi.org/10.1002/jmri.25131 PMID: 26762808
19. Park JH, Yun B, Jang M, Ahn HS, Kim SM, et al. (2019) Comparison of the Diagnostic Performance of Synthetic Versus Acquired High b-Value (1500 s/mm(2)) Diffusion-Weighted MRI in Women With Breast Cancers. J Magn Reson Imaging 49: 857–863. https://doi.org/10.1002/jmri.25250 PMID: 30129695
20. Bickel H, Polanec SH, Wengert G, Pinker K, Bogner W, et al. (2019) Diffusion-Weighted MRI of Breast Cancer: Improved Lesion Visibility and Image Quality Using Synthetic b-Values. J Magn Reson Imaging 50: 1754–1761. https://doi.org/10.1002/jmri.26809 PMID: 31136044
21. Shrout PE, Fleiss JL (1979) Intraclass correlations: uses in assessing rater reliability. Psychol Bull 86: 420–428. https://doi.org/10.1037/0033-2909.86.2.420 PMID: 18839484
22. Rosenkranz AB, Hindman N, Lim RP, Das K, Babb JS, et al. (2013) Diffusion-weighted imaging of the prostate: Comparison of b1000 and b2000 image sets for index lesion detection. J Magn Reson Imaging 38: 694–700. https://doi.org/10.1002/jmri.24016 PMID: 23371846
23. Verma S, Sarkar S, Young J, Venkataraman R, Yang X, et al. (2016) Evaluation of the impact of computed high b-value diffusion-weighted imaging on prostate cancer detection. Abdom Radiol (NY) 41: 934–945. https://doi.org/10.1007/s00261-015-0619-1 PMID: 27193792
24. Maas MC, Futterer JU, Scheenen TW (2013) Quantitative evaluation of computed high B value diffusion-weighted magnetic resonance imaging of the prostate. Invest Radiol 48: 779–786. https://doi.org/10.1097/RLI.0b013e31829705bb PMID: 23807102
25. Han X, Li J, Wang X (2017) Comparison and Optimization of 3.0 T Breast Images Quality of Diffusion-Weighted Imaging with Multiple B-Values. Acad Radiol 24: 418–425. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.acra.2016.11.006 PMID: 27955879

26. Woodhams R, Inoue Y, Ramadana S, Hata H, Ozaki M (2013) Diffusion-weighted imaging of the breast: comparison of b-values 1000 s/mm² and 1500 s/mm². Magn Reson Med Sci 12: 229–234. https://doi.org/10.2463/mrms.2012-0028 PMID: 23857152

27. Nilsson M, Szczepankiewicz F, van Westen D, Hansson O (2015) Extrapolation-Based References Improve Motion and Eddy-Current Correction of High B-Value DWI Data: Application in Parkinson’s Disease Dementia. PLoS One 10: e0141825. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0141825 PMID: 26528541

28. DelPriore MR, Biswas D, Hippe DS, Zecevic M, Parsian S, et al. (2020) Breast Cancer Conspicuity on Computed Versus Acquired High b-Value Diffusion-Weighted MRI. Acad Radiol. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.acra.2020.03.011 PMID: 32307271

29. Tamura T, Takasu M, Higaki T, Yokomachi K, Akiyama Y, et al. (2019) How to Improve the Conspicuity of Breast Tumors on Computed High b-value Diffusion-weighted Imaging. Magn Reson Med Sci 18: 119–125. https://doi.org/10.2463/mrms.mp.2018-0011 PMID: 30012905

30. Bath M, Mansson LG (2007) Visual grading characteristics (VGC) analysis: a non-parametric rank-invariant statistical method for image quality evaluation. Br J Radiol 80: 169–176. https://doi.org/10.1259/bjr/35012658 PMID: 16854962

31. Clauser P, Pinker K, Helbich TH, Kapetas P, Bernathova M, et al. (2014) Fat saturation in dynamic breast MRI at 3 Tesla: is the Dixon technique superior to spectral fat saturation? A visual grading characteristics study. Eur Radiol 24: 2213–2219. https://doi.org/10.1007/s00330-014-3189-7 PMID: 24792515