MRI scanner-independent specific absorption rate measurements using diffusion coefficients

Youngseob Seo¹² | Zhiyue J. Wang²

¹Medical Metrology Center, Korea Research Institute of Standards and Science, Yuseong-Gu, Daejeon, 34113, Republic of Korea
²Department of Radiology, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center and Children’s Medical Center Dallas, Dallas, TX, 75390, USA

Abstract
Objective: The purpose of this study was to measure specific absorption rate (SAR) during MRI scanning using a human torso phantom through quantification of diffusion coefficients independently of those reported by the scanner software for five 1.5 and 3 T clinical MRI systems from different vendors.

Methods: A quadrature body coil transmitted the RF power and a body array coil received the signals. With diffusion tensor imaging, SAR values for three MRI sequences were measured on the five scanners and compared to the nominal values calculated by the scanners.

Results: For the GE 1.5 T MRI system, the scanner-reported SAR value was 1.58 W kg⁻¹ and the measured SAR value was 1.38 W kg⁻¹. For the Philips 1.5 T MRI scanner, the MRI system-reported SAR value was 1.48 W kg⁻¹ and the measured value was 1.39 W kg⁻¹. For the Siemens 3 T MRI system, the reported SAR value was 2.5 W kg⁻¹ and the measured SAR value was 1.96 W kg⁻¹. For two Philips 3 T MRI scanners, the reported SAR values were 1.5 W kg⁻¹ and the measured values were 1.94 and 1.96 W kg⁻¹. The percentage differences between the measured and reported SAR values on the GE 1.5 T, Philips 1.5 T, Siemens 3 T, and Philips 3 T were 13.5, 6.3, 24.2, 25.6, and 26.6% respectively.

Conclusion: The scanner-independent SAR measurements using diffusion coefficients described in this study can play a significant role in estimating accurate SAR values as a standardized method.

PACS
87.50.-a, 87.57.uq

KEY WORDS
diffusion coefficient, diffusion tensor imaging, human torso phantom, MR safety, specific absorption rate

1 | INTRODUCTION

Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) generates images for medical diagnoses of diseases using a static magnetic field and time-varying electromagnetic fields generated by a radiofrequency (RF) transmit coil and x-, y-, and z-gradient coils, respectively. These time-variant electromagnetic fields induce electric currents and voltages in the conductive human body when positioned inside an MRI scanner.

The eddy currents induced by the time-varying electromagnetic fields during an MRI scan can cause undesired heating of patients.
due to the deposition of RF power into the body, and this is a significant safety concern.\textsuperscript{1–11} It is thus necessary to determine the RF energy absorbed by the body in terms of the specific absorption rate (SAR). According to International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), the SAR value should be limited to 3.2 W kg\textsuperscript{-1} for the head and 4.0 W kg\textsuperscript{-1} for body applications for durations of 6 min.\textsuperscript{12} Similarly, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) of the United States requires that the SAR should be less than 4 W kg\textsuperscript{-1} when averaged over the entire body for 15 min and 3 W kg\textsuperscript{-1} for the head for 10 min.\textsuperscript{13} The risk of hyperthermic tissue damage is relatively serious for neonates and for children who cannot communicate verbally, as well as for patients who have insensate limbs and those who are under anesthesia during the MRI scan.

Commercial MRI scanners provide an estimated SAR level for each scan; this level is calculated from the RF waveforms and sequence parameters, system calibration, Q factors and loading of the RF transmit coil, etc. The SAR calculation assumes certain average parameters, which in reality can vary from scanner to scanner and may change over time.\textsuperscript{14–16} Incorrect manufacturer-reported SAR values have been acknowledged for clinical MR imaging systems.\textsuperscript{14–16} For example, one study found a scanner overestimated the SAR by up to 2.2 folds.\textsuperscript{15} Even before the highest allowed SAR level has been reached, a patient’s sweating during an MRI can raise concerns of possible overheating. On the other hand, overestimating the SAR can prevent certain important scans to be run on a patient. It is also conceivable that a malfunction in the quadrature RF transmit coil can generate RF with higher levels in the counter rotating component, resulting in higher than expected power deposition levels. Direct estimation of SAR values independent of the level calculated by MRI scanners is therefore desirable.

Numerical calculations of RF energy deposition levels have been performed to predict SAR levels in anatomical models consisting of homogeneous cylinders, spheres, or in head models.\textsuperscript{1–4,17–20} There is a large range of variability in SAR levels for different pulse sequences. Global and local SAR measurements at different B\textsubscript{0} magnetic field strengths and measurements of exposure to different RF coils have been conducted.\textsuperscript{21–24} However, direct measurement of RF heating in a clinical setting has not been an easy task. Temperature measurement using optical thermometry only yields values in few spatial points. In the present study, we demonstrate the measurement of SAR of a human torso phantom using diffusion MRI in clinical MRI systems from different vendors.

\section*{2 | MATERIALS AND METHODS}

\subsection*{2.A | MRI scanners}

SAR levels were measured on five MRI scanners: an Achieva 1.5 T (Philips Healthcare), a Signa Excite 1.5 T (GE Healthcare), a Magnetom Verio 3 T (Siemens Healthcare), and two Achieva 3 T (Philips Healthcare) systems. SAR values for three different MRI sequences with SAR values (1.48, 1.5, 1.58, and 2.5 W kg\textsuperscript{-1} nominal values as reported by MRI scanners) were measured on various scanners at two discrete magnetic field strengths. Image acquisition parameters are summarized in Table 1. The RF excitation power was transmitted by an integrated RF body coil (Multi-transmit mode = "NO" at Philips 3 T). A four- or eight-channel body array coil was employed as a receive coil in this study.

\subsection*{2.B | Human torso phantom morphology}

A cylinder-shaped human torso phantom (50 cm (L) × 43 cm (W) × 28 cm (H)) was constructed on the basis of U.S. anthropometric reference data\textsuperscript{25} (Fig. 1). The airtight plastic phantom container

\begin{table}
\centering
\begin{tabular}{|l|l|l|l|}
\hline
\textbf{Image sequence} & \textbf{T1w TSE} & \textbf{T1 TIRM} & \textbf{T2w TSE} \\
\hline
\textbf{TR/TE [ms]} & 800/10 & 1150/9.3 & 4710/110 \\
\textbf{TI [ms]} & n/a & 220 & n/a \\
\textbf{Field of view [mm\textsuperscript{2}]} & 400 × 400 & 400 × 400 & 400 × 400 \\
\textbf{No. of slices} & 10 & 8 & 10 \\
\textbf{Slice thickness [mm]} & 6 & 6 & 6 \\
\textbf{Acquisition matrix} & 400 × 400 & 256 × 256 & 200 × 154 (reconstructed to 400 × 400) \\
\textbf{Voxel size [mm\textsuperscript{3}]} & 1 × 1 × 6 & 1.56 × 1.56 × 6 & 1 × 1 × 6 \\
\textbf{Slice orientation} & Transverse & Transverse & Transverse \\
\textbf{Phase-encoding direction} & AP & AP & AP \\
\textbf{NSA} & 2 & 1 & 4 \\
\textbf{Total scan time (GE 1.5 T/ Philips 1.5 T)} & 5 min 12 s/4 min 56 s & 4 min 18 s & 4 min 23 s \\
\textbf{Parallel imaging method} & No & GRAPPA for Siemens 3 T & No \\
\textbf{Bandwidth [Hz/pixel] (GE 1.5 T/ Philips 1.5 T)} & 260/290 & 260 & 334 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
\caption{Image acquisition parameters at 1.5 and 3.0 T.}
\end{table}

TSE, Turbo spin echo; TIRM, Turbo inversion recovery magnitude.
(15 mm thickness) was filled with a volume of approximately 16.6 L of a hydroxy-ethyl cellulose (HEC) gelled-saline solution consisting of 25.7 g of NaCl, 514.6 g of HEC powder, and 16.6 L of distilled water, simulating human tissue, as described in the American Society of Testing Materials (ASTM) International standard method for SAR measurements.26

The gel thermal properties (thermal diffusivity $= 1.4 \times 10^{-7}$ m$^2$s$^{-1}$ and heat capacity $= 4156$ J/(kg°C)) were measured with a thermal property analyzer (KD2, Decagon Devices Inc., Pullman, WA, USA). The electric conductivity ($\sigma = 0.48 \pm 0.04$ S m$^{-1}$ at 64 MHz and $0.49 \pm 0.04$ S m$^{-1}$ at 128 MHz) and relative electric permittivity ($\epsilon_r = 76.48 \pm 3.98$ at 64 MHz and $76.22 \pm 4.12$ at 128 MHz) of the gel solution were measured using a dielectric assessment kit (DAK-12, SPEAG Ltd., Zurich, Switzerland). A vacuum was created in the phantom container to eliminate air bubbles in the gel phantom.

2.C | Independent SAR assessment using diffusion measurement

Four optic fiber temperature sensors (OFS, Neoptix Inc., Quebec, Canada) were placed at the periphery of the gel phantom at 28°C to certify that there was minimal heat loss to the environment during the measurements (Fig. 2). We measured the initial temperatures of the sensors positioned in the phantom and the time it took to reach equilibrium with the environment. We considered that thermal equilibrium has been reached when the difference between temperatures measured by the sensors in the phantom and temperature inside the magnet bore was less than 0.1°C.

On each MRI scanner, the heating of the gel phantom caused by a high SAR sequence was assessed by the changes in the mean diffusivity (MD) value, before and after running the high SAR image sequence.26 A region-of-interest (ROI)-based MD calculation was performed for the SAR measurements. In the ROI-based quantification, the average signal intensity within the ROI as shown in Fig. 3 for the $b = 0$ image and each high $b$ diffusion-weighted image was measured first. Using these values, a diffusion tensor was calculated, and MD value was obtained. The water diffusion coefficient in the gel was practically identical to that of free water,27 and the diffusion coefficient (D) was very sensitive to the temperature (T).28,29 The temperature was calculated using the following equation:28

$$D = D_0 \cdot \left[ \left( \frac{T}{T_s} \right) - 1 \right]^\gamma$$

where $D_0 = 1.635 \times 10^{-8}$ m$^2$s$^{-1}$, $T_s = 215.05$ K, and $\gamma = 2.063$. The mean diffusivity measured by DTI is the same as the diffusion coefficient (D) in Eq. (1).

Verification of temperature changes obtained by the diffusion coefficients using Eq. 1 was performed by comparison to those measured by four optic fiber temperature sensors positioned as in Fig. 2. The mean diffusion coefficients within each ROI which were

---

**Fig. 1.** Phantom morphology mimics the shape of the human torso.

**Fig. 2.** Location of four optic fiber temperature sensors in the phantom periphery, used to measure the initial temperatures of the phantom and the time taken to reach equilibrium with the environment.

**Fig. 3.** The apparent diffusion coefficient within an ROI (red) which was manually placed on the periphery of the phantom was quantified using a set of diffusion-weighted images.
manually drawn around the temperature sensors were calculated using software written in IDL 8.4 (IDL Research Systems Inc., Boulder, CO, USA) before and after the high SAR image sequence at 3 T. The MD value was the average over 14 pixels within the ROI in one slice showing the tip of the sensors.

For each study, the phantom was placed in the scanner room for at least 24 hr to establish thermal equilibrium with the environment. The same phantom weight (18 kg) was entered into the MRI system at registration. First, the SAR value induced by the diffusion tensor imaging (DTI) scan was measured for the torso phantom on each MRI scanner using repeated DTI scans. Second, in order to measure the SAR value caused by the high SAR sequences, an axial DTI scan was initially conducted, followed by several minutes of high SAR scan. The DTI scan was then repeated. The scanner-specific DTI acquisition parameters are listed in Table 2. Auto-shim was utilized in all studies. The mean diffusivity within a ROI which was manually placed at the periphery of the phantom was evaluated for each DTI scan using software written in IDL 8.4 (Fig. 3), and the temperature change derived from the difference between the MD maps was estimated (Fig. 4). The standard error of the mean diffusivity for the ROI ranges from 0.0005 to 10^-3 to 0.0006 × 10^-3 mm^2 s^-1 for the 5 scanners based on repeated measurements.

The SAR values and the temperature change are related according to the equation below:

\[
C_p \Delta T = \text{SAR}_{\text{DTI}} \cdot T_{\text{A DTI}} + \text{SAR}_{\text{high}} \cdot T_{\text{A high}}
\]

Here, \(C_p = 4.18 \text{ kJ/(kg}^\circ \text{C)}\) is the specific heat of the phantom, \(\Delta T\) is the temperature change in °C, and \(T_A\) is the acquisition time of the pulse sequence. The first term on the right-hand side is the heating from the DTI sequence, and the second term on the same side represents the heating from the high SAR sequence under investigation. One SAR measurement was performed in one MRI session, and then the phantom was placed in the scanner room for one day to reach thermal equilibrium with the environment. SAR measurements were repeated at least 10 times for each MRI scanner and the mean and standard deviation (SD) were calculated. Percentage differences between the measured mean and reported SAR values on the MRI scanners were calculated.

The results of the temperatures measured by the optic fiber sensors positioned at the phantom periphery and the times taken to reach equilibrium with the environment are summarized in Table 3. At initial phantom temperatures of 28°C, it took more than 4 hr to reach equilibrium with the environment.

Table 2 shows temperatures obtained by the diffusion coefficients and measured using four optic fiber temperature sensors in the phantom on one of 3 T MRI scanners. The measured temperature changes by the two methods agreed very well, with the difference between these two methods ranging from 6% to 9%.

The results of the measured high SAR values for each scanner are summarized in Table 5. For the GE 1.5 T MRI system, the MRI scanner-reported SAR value was 1.58 W kg^-1 and the measured SAR value was 1.38 W kg^-1. For the Philips 1.5 T MRI scanner, the MRI system-reported SAR value was 1.48 W kg^-1 and the measured value was 1.39 W kg^-1. For the Siemens 3 T MRI system, the reported SAR value was 2.5 W kg^-1 and the measured SAR value was 1.96 W kg^-1. For the two same model Philips 3 T MRI scanners, the reported SAR values were 1.5 W kg^-1 and the measured values were 1.94 and 1.96 W kg^-1. Percentage differences between the measured and reported SAR values on the GE 1.5 T, Philips 1.5 T, Siemens 3 T, and Philips 3 T were 13.5, 6.3, 24.2, 25.6, and 26.6% respectively.

**Table 2** DTI acquisition parameters for each scanner.

|                  | GE 1.5 T | Philips 1.5 T | Siemens 3 T | Philips 3 T |
|------------------|----------|---------------|--------------|-------------|
| b-values [s mm^-2] | 0, 1000  | 0, 1000       | 0, 1000      | 0, 1000     |
| No. of gradient directions | 30       | 30            | 30           | 30          |
| TE [msec]        | 80       | 82            | 88           | 74          |
| TR [msec]        | 9218     | 8000          | 7100         | 6844        |
| FoV [mm^2]       | 400 × 400| 380 × 380     | 400 × 400    | 400 × 400   |
| Acquisition matrix | 128 × 128| 128 × 128     | 128 × 128    | 128 × 128   |
| Slice thickness [mm] | 4        | 4             | 4            | 4           |
| No. of slices    | 16       | 14            | 14           | 14          |
| Parallel imaging method | ASSET    | SENSE         | GRAPPA       | SENSE       |
| Acquisition time | 5 min 12 s | 4 min 56 s    | 4 min 18 s   | 4 min 23 s  |
Obtaining an accurate SAR measurement during an MRI scan is challenging. The scanner-reported whole-body averaged SAR value can be significantly different compared to the actual one. Diffusion coefficients allowed us to quantify the relative SAR levels of different pulse sequences and compare the levels of different MRI scanners from various MR device manufacturers and different magnetic field strengths.

It took around four hours for the phantom to equilibrate with the room temperature (Table 3). On the other hand, the SAR measurement was done much faster. It meant that the effect of SAR heating would not go away during the time of the measurement, which was about 10 min.

Details of the SAR calibration procedure used by vendors are unknown to the end user. Table 5 shows that the SAR values calculated by the MRI systems were not reliable. Usually an MRI scanner-reported SAR is larger than the actual SAR, but two 3 T units of the same model showed a higher measured SAR value than that reported by the system. An MRI system can produce a higher than expected power output. This could be caused by drift of the coil Q-factor or a malfunction of the RF transmit coil (e.g., an increased B counter-

### Table 3

Phantom temperatures (mean ± SD) measured via optic fiber sensors and times to equilibrate with temperature inside a magnet bore at 3 T.

| Sensor No. | Initial temperature [°C] | Final temperature [°C] | Time to equilibrate with the environment |
|------------|--------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| OFS#1      | 28.4 ± 0.5°C             | 22.7 ± 0.6°C           | 4 hrs 08 min                             |
| OFS#2      | 28.3 ± 0.6°C             | 22.8 ± 0.5°C           | 4 hrs 02 min                             |
| OFS#3      | 28.3 ± 0.6°C             | 22.8 ± 0.6°C           | 4 hrs 07 min                             |
| OFS#4      | 28.2 ± 0.5°C             | 22.7 ± 0.6°C           | 4 hrs 11 min                             |

### Table 4

Temperatures obtained by diffusion coefficients and measured via optic fiber temperature sensors before and after high SAR image sequence on one of two same model Philips 3 T (T2w TSE and MRI system-reported SAR value = 1.5 W kg$^{-1}$).

| Position | Mean diffusion coefficient [$\times$ 10$^{-3}$ mm$^2$ s$^{-1}$] | Before high SAR image sequence | After high SAR image sequence | Temperature difference between before and after high SAR image sequence |
|----------|---------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Position #1 | 2.1462                                                       | 2.1553                        | 0.09                         |
| Position #2 | 2.1473                                                       | 2.1542                        | 0.07                         |
| Position #3 | 2.1473                                                       | 2.1533                        | 0.06                         |
| Position #4 | 2.1484                                                       | 2.1583                        | 0.06                         |

### Table 5

SAR measurement results using MR DTI from four MRI systems.

| Image sequence | GE 1.5 T T1w TSE | Philips 1.5 T T1w TSE | Siemens 3 T T1 TIRM | Philips 3 T T2w TSE | Philips 3 T T2w TSE |
|----------------|------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Temperature difference between before and after the high SAR image sequence [°C] (mean ± SD) | 0.08 ± 0.01 | 0.07 ± 0.01 | 0.11 ± 0.01 | 0.18 ± 0.02 | 0.18 ± 0.02 |
| Measured SAR value induced by a DTI scan [W kg$^{-1}$] (mean±SD) | 0.11 ± 0.01 | 0.21 ± 0.02 | 0.48 ± 0.04 | 0.53 ± 0.05 | 0.51 ± 0.05 |
| High SAR image sequence scan time [sec] | 168 | 169 | 186 | 320 | 320 |
| MRI system-reported SAR value [W kg$^{-1}$] | 1.58 | 1.48 | 2.5 | 1.5 | 1.5 |
| SAR value measured for the high SAR image sequence [W kg$^{-1}$] (mean ± SD) | 1.38 ± 0.09 | 1.39 ± 0.12 | 1.96 ± 0.18 | 1.94 ± 0.18 | 1.96 ± 0.19 |
| Percentage difference between measured and reported SAR values [%]$^a$ | −13.5 | −6.3 | −24.2 | 25.6 | 26.6 |

TSE, Turbo spin echo; TIRM, Turbo inversion recovery magnitude.

$^a$The sign ‘‘’’ means that measured SAR value was lower than the reported one.
rotating RF component). These results suggest that different MR manufacturers may have different calibrations of SAR values. One limitation of this work is that a SAR measurement based on diffusion in a “torso phantom” is not the same as a human measurement, which will also include the effects of perfusion, and sample heterogeneity.

Our results confirm that some vendors’ SAR values may not be reliable, and can only be used as an approximate guide. Although our study was done using 1.5 and 3 T scanners, the same approach can be applied to higher $B_0$ fields. The scanner-independent SAR measurements described in this study using diffusion coefficients thus can play a significant role in estimating accurate SAR values as a standardized method. This study can give radiologists greater confidence when they scan patients clinically. In addition, this test can be used as a tool for quality assurance and the calibration of MRI systems.

5 | CONCLUSIONS

We demonstrated that SAR values measured by quantification of the water diffusion coefficient can be used as a feasible alternative to that calculated by clinical MRI systems.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This work was funded by the National Research Foundation of Korea (NRF-2014R1A1A2054037).

REFERENCES

1. Bottomley PA, Andrew ER. RF magnetic-field penetration, phase-shift and power dissipation in biological tissue – Implications for NMR imaging. Phys Med Biol. 1978;23:630–643.

2. Bottomley PA, Edelstein WA. Power deposition in whole-body NMR imaging. Med Phys. 1981;8:510–512.

3. Bottomley PA, Roemer PB. Homogeneous tissue model estimates of RF power deposition in human NMR-studies – Local elevations predicted in surface coil decoupling. Ann N Y Acad Sci. 1992;649:144–159.

4. Collins CM, Liu WZ, Wang JH, Gruetter R, Vaughan JT, Ugurbil K, et al. Temperature and SAR calculations for a human head within volume and surface coils at 64 and 300 MHz. J Magn Reson Imaging. 2004;19:650–656.

5. Nguyen UD, Brown JS, Chang IA, Krycia J, Mirotnik MS. Numerical evaluation of heating of the human head due to magnetic resonance imaging. IEEE Trans Biomed Eng. 2004;51:1301–1309.

6. Dempsey MF, Condon B, Hadley DM. Investigation of the factors responsible for burns during MRI. J Magn Reson Imaging. 2001;13:627–631.

7. Schaefer DJ. Safety aspects of radiofrequency power deposition in magnetic resonance. Magn Reson Imaging Clin N Am. 1998;6:775–789.

8. Shellock FG. Radiofrequency energy-induced heating during MR procedures: A review. J Magn Reson Imaging. 2000;12:30–36.

9. Achenbach S, Moshage W, Diem B, Bieberle T, Schibgilla V, Bachmann K. Effects of magnetic resonance imaging on cardiac pacemakers and electrodes. Am Heart J. 1997;134:467–473.

10. Rezaei AR, Finelli D, Nyenhuis JA, Hrdlicka G, Tkach J, Sharan K, et al. Neurostimulation systems for deep brain stimulation: In vitro evaluation of magnetic resonance imaging-related heating at 1.5 tesla. J Magn Reson Imaging. 2002;15:241–250.

11. Baker KB, Tkach JA, Nyenhuis JA, Phillips M, Shellock FG, Gonzalez-Martinez J, et al. Evaluation of specific absorption rate as a dosimeter of MRI-related implant heating. J Magn Reson Imaging. 2004;20:315–320.

12. International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC). Medical electrical equipment. Particular requirements for the safety of magnetic resonance equipment for medical diagnosis. International Standard 2010 IEC60601-2-33 2010.

13. Health Canada. 1998. Guidance for industry: Guidance for the submission of premarket notifications for magnetic resonance diagnostic devices. Rockville: US Food and Drug Administration. Available: http://www.fda.gov/medicaldevices/deviceregulationandguidance/guidancedocuments/ucm073817.htm

14. Straka JP, Bottomley PA. A prototype RF dosimeter for independent measurement of the average specific absorption rate (SAR) during MRI. J Magn Reson Imaging. 2007;26:1296–1302.

15. El-Sharkawy AM, Qian D, Bottomley PA, Edelstein WA. Multichannel, real-time MRI RF power monitor for independent SAR determination. Med Phys. 2012;39:2334–2341.

16. Qian D, El-Sharkawy AM, Bottomley PA, Edelstein WA. An RF dosimeter for independent SAR measurement in MRI scanners. Med Phys. 2013;40:122303.

17. Wang Z, Lin JC, Mao W, Liu W, Smith MB, Collins CM. SAR and temperature: Simulations and comparison to regulatory limits for MRI. J Magn Reson Imaging. 2007;26:437–441.

18. Collins CM, Smith MB. Spatial resolution of numerical models of man and calculated specific absorption rate using the FDTD method: A study at 64 MHz in a magnetic resonance imaging coil. J Magn Reson Imaging. 2003;18:383–388.

19. Hand JW, Li Y, Thomas EL, Rutherford MA, Hajnal JV. Prediction of specific absorption rate in mother and fetus associated with MRI examinations during pregnancy. Magn Reson Med. 2006;55:883–893.

20. Liu W, Collins CM, Smith MB. Calculations of distribution, specific energy absorption rate, and intrinsic signal-to-noise ratio for a body-size birdcage coil loaded with different human subjects at 64 and 128 MHz. Appl Magn Reson. 2005;29:5–18.

21. Guerin B, Gebhardt M, Serano P, Adalsteinsson E, Hamm M, Pfeuffer J, et al. Comparison of simulated parallel transmit body arrays at 3 T using excitation uniformity, global SAR, local SAR, and power efficiency metrics. Magn Reson Med. 2015;73:1137–1150.

22. Hoffmann J, Henning A, Giapitzakis IA, Scheffler K, Shajan G, Pohmann R, et al. Safety testing and operational procedures for self-developed radiofrequency coils. NMR Biomed. 2016;29:1131–1144.

23. Zhu Y, Alon L, Deniz CM, Brown R, Sodickson DK. System and SAR characterization in parallel RF transmission. Magn Reson Med. 2012;67:1367–1378.

24. Katscher U, Voigt T, Findelklee C, Vernickel P, Nehrke K, Dossel O. Determination of electric conductivity and local SAR via B1 mapping. IEEE Trans Med Imaging. 2009;28:1365–1374.

25. Fryar CD, Gu Q, Ogden CL. Anthropometric reference data for children and adults: United States, 2007-2010. Vital Health Stat. 2012;11:1–48.

26. ASTM. 2011. Measurement of radio frequency induced heating on or near passive implants during magnetic resonance imaging. Available: http://www.astm.org/Standards/F2182.htm.

27. Laubach HJ, Jakob PM, Loeblad KO, Baird AE, Bovo MP, Edelman RR, et al. A phantom for diffusion-weighted imaging of acute stroke. J Magn Reson Imaging. 1998;8:1349–1354.

28. Holz M, Heil SR, Sacco A. Temperature-dependent self-diffusion coefficients of water and six selected molecular liquids for calibration in accurate 1H NMR PFG measurements. Phys Chem Chem Phys. 2000;2:4740–4742.

29. Wang ZJ, Seo Y, Chia JM, Rollins NK. A quality assurance protocol for diffusion tensor imaging using the head phantom from American college of radiology. Med Phys. 2011;38:4415–4421.