Diagnostic evaluations of ultrasound and magnetic resonance imaging in mammary duct ectasia and breast cancer

LEI SONG1*, LIANG LI2*, BIN LIU3, DEXIN YU4, FENGGUO SUN5, MINGMING GUO2, ZHENGMIN RUAN6 and FEIXUE ZHANG6

1Equipment Division; 2Department of Breast Surgery, The Second Hospital of Shandong University; 3Department of Radiology, The First Clinical College, Shandong University of Traditional Chinese Medicine; 4Department of Radiology, Qilu Hospital, Shandong University; 5Department of Radiology, Division of MRI; 6Department of Radiology, Division of Ultrasound, The Second Hospital of Shandong University, Jinan, Shandong 250033, P.R. China

Received January 12, 2017; Accepted October 24, 2017

DOI: 10.3892/ol.2017.7514

Abstract. The objective of the present study was to evaluate the diagnostic efficiency of ultrasound (US) and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) in the diagnosis and differential diagnosis of mammary duct ectasia (MDE) and breast cancer. This retrospective study was performed on 35 patients with MDE and 105 patients with breast cancer using US and MRI. Imaging features, semi-quantitative and quantitative parameters were analyzed to determine their diagnostic value for MDE and breast cancer. The average age of patients with breast cancer was increased compared with that of patients with MDE. There were no significant differences in local packages with or without tenderness ratio (P=0.259) and grade of color Doppler flow imaging (P=0.273) between the two groups. However, the morphological changes were significantly increased in breast cancer compared with MDE. In addition, there were significant diagnostic differences in US and MRI between breast cancer and MDE, including resistance index, US elastography, time-signal intensity curve, apparent diffusion coefficient, early-stage enhancement ratio, peak-of-enhancement ratio and Tpeak (P<0.05). However, there were no observable significant diagnostic differences between US, MRI and US with MRI for MDE and breast cancer (P=0.103, P=0.263 and P=0.403 respectively). Diagnosis of MDE and breast cancer requires full evaluation of multiple parameters and morphological changes of US and MRI to increase the diagnostic efficiency. US, MRI and US with MRI were all of diagnostic value for MDE and breast cancer, while US with MRI had the highest efficacy.

Introduction

Mammary duct ectasia (MDE) is a type of non-puerperal and non-specific inflammation (1). Occasionally, MDE presents with similar clinical features to those of breast cancer (2). For example, MDE often presents with an atypical and insidious mass without inflammation (3), rendering it difficult to diagnose and differentiate from breast cancer (4). Furthermore, breast cancer may be confused with benign lesion in imaging, particularly inflammatory cancer, which had an incidence rate of between 1 and 6% in the United States between 1988 and 2000 (5) and resembles MDE and breast abscess (5). Therefore, it is important to differentiate between MDE and breast cancer for timely diagnosis and subsequent treatment.

Breast cancer may be diagnosed using ultrasound (US) and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) technology (6-8). However, to the best of our knowledge, there is no report on the detailed parameter comparisons between US and MRI in the differential diagnosis of MDE and breast cancer. For example, the diagnostic value of dynamic contrast-enhanced MRI (DCE-MRI) for MDE has been seldom discussed (9). Therefore, in the present study, patients with suspected MDE and breast cancer were recruited. The diagnostic values of US and MRI were evaluated.

Materials and methods

Patients. Patients with suspected MDE and breast cancer were recruited between May 2012 and December 2015 in The Second Hospital of Shandong University (Jinan, China). All patients were examined using US and MRI. Mammoctome biopsy or resection was performed a week after the imaging examinations. The final diagnosis was made by pathological analysis (H&E staining).

Patients were included if they were: i) female; ii) clinically suspected of presenting with MDE or breast cancer by physical examination; and iii) consented to participate in the present study. Patients were excluded if they: i) declined to join in the
research; ii) declined to be examined by US and MRI; iii) were unable to be examined using MRI due to implanted metal; iv) had been treated with neoadjuvant chemotherapy and/or needle biopsy; v) refused mammotome biopsy or resection; or vi) presented with other types of malignancy. The Medical Ethics Board of The Second Hospital of Shandong University approved the present study. Written informed consent was obtained from all patients or their families.

H&E staining. H&E staining was performed according to routine procedure. Briefly, tissues were fixed with 10% neutral formalin at room temperature for 24 h, embedded in paraffin and cut into 4 μm sections. Then tissue sections were dewaxed in xylene and rehydrated in graded alcohols at room temperature. Following washing with running water and distilled water, sections were stained with hematoxylin for 3-5 min at room temperature. Following washing again with running water, sections were differentiated with 1% HCl in 70% alcohol for 5-10 sec at room temperature. Then sections were stained with eosin for 1-4 min at room temperature following washing with running water. Subsequent to dehydration and differentiation in alcohol at room temperature, sections were mounted and observed under light microscopy (OLYMPUS BX45; Olympus Corporation, Tokyo, Japan). The magnification was 400x.

US. US examination was performed using LOGIQ E9 ultrasound instrument (GE Healthcare Life Sciences, Little Chalfont, UK). Patients were fully exposed in a supine position with the arms raised above the head. A 9-14 MHz high-frequency probe was used to bilaterally scan the breasts and axillaries of the patients. US elastography (UE) was performed following routine US.

Routine US features (10) were classified into four types: Mammary-duct dilation (type I), cyst-and-solid mass (type II), solid mass (type III) and abscess (type IV). A five-point scale was determined based on the color of nodules, which was assessed by eye, in UE (11,12): Primarily green scored 1 point; blue center and predominantly green surrounding scored 2 points; equal amount of green and blue scored 3 points; predominately blue or mixed with small proportion of green scored 4 points; surrounding tissues of mostly blue scored 5 points. A lesion with scores of 1 to 3 points was considered benign, otherwise was malignant.

Two-dimensional images, color Doppler flow imaging (CDFI) and elastography were also recorded and analyzed according to Breast Imaging-Reporting and Data System (BI-RADS) lexicon of the American College of Radiology (ACR) (13). All data were collected and analyzed by two US specialists (Department of Radiology, Division of Ultrasound, the Second Hospital of Shandong University) who were blinded to the final pathological results. Disagreement was settled either by consensus or a third reviewer (Department of Radiology, Division of Ultrasound, the Second Hospital of Shandong University) blinded to the final pathological results.

MRI. MRI examination was performed using a Signa HD x3.0T TWINSPIR MR system (GE Healthcare Life Sciences). Patients were in a prone position. MRI plain scanning was performed from the direction of the feet using the parameters of Ax short tau inversion recovery (STIR; TR 8200/TE 36, Matrix 512x512, NEX 2.00), Ax T1 fast spin echo (FSE; TR 40/TE 7.9, NEX 2.00, Matrix 512x512), bilateral sag (TR3600/TE110, Matrix 512x512, NEX 2.00) and diffusion-weighted imaging (b=0, 1,000; TR6000/TE70, Matrix 512x512, NEX 4.00). DCE-MRI scanning was performed by injecting the contrast medium Gadolinium (Gd)-diethylene triamine pentacetate acid (Beilu Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd., Beijing, China) at a dosage of 0.2 mmol/kg in 20 ml saline and a speed of 1.5 ml/sec into the dorum manus vein, followed by another 20 ml saline. A scanning mask was obtained prior to contrast medium injection. The 3-dimensional vibration-axial scanning was performed simultaneously with the injection of the contrast medium (parameters: TR 4.3/TE 2.1, Matrix 512x512, NEX 0.7) for eight phases. Subsequently, 3-dimensional vibration-sagittal scanning was performed (parameters: TR 4.3/TE 1.8, Matrix 512x512, NEX 0.7). Liquefied and necrotic areas were avoided and, in the region of interest (ROI) of apparent diffusion coefficient (ADC), the solid part was identified and measured 3 times. The area of the ROI was ≥2 mm².

All data were processed offline on an AW Volume shared by 2 workstations (GE Healthcare Life Sciences) and independently interpreted by two senior MRI experts (Department of Radiology, Division of MRI, the Second Hospital of Shandong University) blinded to the final pathological results. The morphological features of the lesions were analyzed according to BI-RADS lexicon of the ACR (13).

The measurement parameters included early-stage enhancement ratio (EER), peak-of-enhancement ratio (PER), time peak (T peak) and time-signal intensity curve (TIC). The formula for EER calculation was: EER=S₁-S₄/S₄×100%; S₁ is the signal intensity obtained 1 min after contrast medium injection and S₄ is the signal intensity obtained prior to injection. The formula for PER calculation was: PER=S₄ peak/S₄/S₄×100%; S₄ peak represented the peak signal intensity obtained prior to or following contrast medium injection; S₄ represented the signal intensity obtained prior to injection. T peak represented the time between contrast medium injection and the highest signal intensity. TIC was classified into 3 types (14): Persistently enhancing (type I), plateau (type II) and washout (type III).

Statistical analysis. All data were analyzed using SPSS software (version 17.0; SPSS, Inc., Chicago, IL, USA). Measurement data were presented as the mean ± standard deviation. Quantitative data are presented as percentages. The difference between MDE and breast cancer was compared using Chi-square test and analysis of the sensitivity, specificity, accuracy, positive and negative predictive value. P<0.05 was considered to indicate a statistically significant difference.

Results

Clinical features. A total of 35 cases of MDE and 105 cases of breast cancer were diagnosed by pathology. All patients were female. Clinical features differed between the MDE and breast cancer groups (Table 1). The mean age was 33.58±8.81 (range, 23-55) years for patients with MDE and was 44.97±11.04 (range, 17-78) years for patients with breast cancer. For the 35 patients with MDE, the duration of symptoms prior to diagnosis ranged from 4 days to 2 years.
Local masses with and without tenderness in the breast were the major clinical manifestations and were identified in 31 (88.6%) patients. Tenderness without masses was identified in 4 (11.4%) patients. Skin swelling was observed in 8 (22.9%) patients, 7 (20%) patients exhibited skin ulceration with sinus formation, 10 (28.6%) patients exhibited nipple inversion (bilateral in 1 patient) and 12 (34.3%) patients experienced nipple discharge. A number of patients experienced multiple symptoms. A total of 31 (88.6%) patients were married with a history of childbirth and 4 (11.4%) patients had no history of marriage or childbirth. Normal menstruation was observed in 33 (94.3%) patients and 2 (5.7%) patients were menopausal. No patients had a history of smoking, hepatitis, diabetes, tuberculosis or a family history of breast cancer.

For the 105 patients with breast cancer, the duration of symptoms prior to diagnosis ranged from 2 days to 6 months. Local masses with and without tenderness in the breast were the major clinical manifestations, observed in 99 (94.3%) patients. Tenderness without masses was identified in 6 (5.7%) patients. Skin swelling was observed in 4 (3.8%) patients, 10 (9.5%) patients exhibited skin ulceration with sinus formation (bilateral in 1 patient) and 12 (34.3%) patients experienced nipple discharge. A total of 31 (88.6%) patients were married and only 1 patient had no history of marriage. Normal menstruation was observed in 75 (71.4%) patients and 30 (28.6%) patients were menopausal. No patients had a history of smoking. A total of 4 patients had a history of hepatitis, 4 patients had diabetes and 10 patients had a family history of breast cancer.

The mean age of patients with breast cancer was increased compared with that of patients with MDE. However, there were no observable differences of local mass with or without tenderness between the two groups by chi-square test (P=0.259).

Analysis of MDE and breast cancer with US. US was performed to compare the difference between MDE and breast cancer. The morphological features of MDE and breast cancer were analyzed and summarized in Table II. Of the 35 cases of MDE, 19 (54.3%) presented with a clear border (Fig. 1A) and weak blood signals (Fig. 1B) and 16 (45.7%) with an obscured border. Morphology was regular in 22 cases (62.9%) and irregular in 13 (37.1%). There was no aspect ratio >1 or calcification. The 105 cases of breast cancer exhibited an aspect ratio >1 with or without posterior attenuation in 31 cases (29.5%), obscure boundary (including spicule sign, sharp corner sign and crab claws sign) in 97 cases (92.4%), clear border in 8 (7.6%) cases, irregular morphology in 100 cases (95.2%), regular morphology in 5 (4.8%) cases, and microcalcification/clustered calcification in 48 (45.7%) cases. The difference in morphological features on US between MDE and breast cancer was significant (P<0.05).

Among the 35 MDE cases, 28 were classified as CDFI 0-1 grading and 7 as CDFI 2-3 grading (Table III). Among breast cancer cases, 74/105 were classified as CDFI 0-1 grading and 31/105 were classified as CDFI 2-3 grading. There was no statistical difference observed between the two groups in CDFI grading by chi-square test ($\chi^2=1.20$, P=0.273).

In 35 cases of MDE, resistance index (RI) was 0.52-0.86 (mean, 0.59±0.042), including 26 cases of RI ≤0.7 and 9 cases >0.7. In 105 cases of breast cancer, RI was 0.48-0.89 (mean, 0.68±0.086), including 51 cases of RI ≤0.7 and 54 cases >0.7. There was a statistically significant difference between the two groups in RI by chi-square test ($\chi^2=7.013$, P=0.008, P<0.05).
In 35 MDE cases, 33 had a UE score of 1-3 and 2 had a score of 4 and 5. The mean UE score for a patient with MDE was 2.31±0.83. In 105 breast cancer cases, 15 had a UE score of 1-3 and 90 had a score of 4 and 5. The mean UE score for patients with breast cancer was 3.80±0.69. There was a statistical difference between the two groups of UE by chi-square test (P<0.001), which indicated that UE was useful to distinguish between MDE and breast cancer.

Analysis of MDE and breast cancer with MRI. MRI was performed to compare MDE and breast cancer. MDE and breast cancer exhibited heterogeneous high signal in STIR sequence and homogeneous or heterogeneous high, low, mixed signal in T1FSE sequence on plain scan with MRI. Diffusion weighted imaging sequencing identified heterogeneous high signal. The morphology of lesions was irregular with clear or unclear boundary. The features of plain scan of MRI and morphology were unspecific.

Of 35 cases, DCE-MRI of MDE revealed that 26 lesions exhibited thickened wall, resembling an enhanced ring, duct or clumps (Fig. 2); 5 lesions were enhanced in a patchy or nodular manner; and 4 lesions exhibited irregular enhancement. All lesions exhibited clear boundaries with surrounding tissues but not smooth edges. Of the 105 cases, 84 lesions exhibited enhancement (Fig. 3), presenting as peripheral in early phase and center in late phase (Fig. 4).

As presented in Table IV, the mean ADC was 1.3±0.19x10⁻³ mm²/sec for MDE and 1.03±0.32x10⁻³ mm²/sec for breast cancer. There were significant differences in ADC between the two groups (P<0.001).
For patients with MDE, the mean of EER, PER and $T_{\text{peak}}$ was $0.67\pm0.16$, $2.59\pm0.46$ and $248\pm37$ sec, respectively; for patients with breast cancer, the mean was $1.03\pm0.40$, $1.08\pm0.40$ and $169\pm63$ sec, respectively. There were significant differences in EER, PER and $T_{\text{peak}}$ between the two groups ($P<0.001$).

There were 28 lesions of type I, 5 of type II and 2 of type III in TIC for MDE. There were 3 lesions of type I, 47 of type II and 55 of type III for breast cancer. There were significant differences of TIC stages between the two groups ($P<0.001$).

**Diagnostic efficiency of US, MRI and US with MRI.** To determine the diagnostic values, diagnostic efficiency of US, MRI and US with MRI were compared. As presented in Table V, for the 35 patients with MDE, 30 were finally diagnosed with MDE, 3 were finally diagnosed with intraductal papilloma (IDP) and 2 were finally diagnosed with breast cancer by US (Figs. 5 and 6). For patients with breast cancer, 99/105 patients were finally diagnosed with breast cancer by US. In total, 1 patient with invasive ductal carcinoma (IDC) was misdiagnosed with intraductal papilloma (Fig. 7) by US; 2 patients with invasive ductal carcinoma were misdiagnosed as MDE; and 3 patients with intraductal carcinoma were misdiagnosed as inflammatory lesion, tumor-like hyperplasia and hyperplastic nodules, respectively.

Of the 35 patients with MDE, 32 were finally diagnosed as MDE, 1 was diagnosed as IDP and 2 were diagnosed as breast cancer by MRI. For breast cancer patients, 99/105 patients were finally diagnosed as breast cancer by MRI. In total, 1 IDC patient was misdiagnosed with intraductal papilloma; 2 patients with invasive ductal carcinoma were misdiagnosed with MDE; and 1 patient with intraductal carcinoma was misdiagnosed with tumor-like hyperplasia.

Of the 35 patients with MDE, 33 were finally diagnosed with MDE, 1 was diagnosed with IDP and 1 was diagnosed with breast cancer by US and MRI. For patients with clinically suspected breast cancer, 102/105 patients were finally diagnosed with breast cancer by US and MRI. A single patient with IDC was misdiagnosed with intraductal papilloma. A pair of patients with invasive ductal carcinoma were misdiagnosed with MDE and fibroadenoma.

There were no differences in diagnostic efficiency among US, MRI and US with MRI ($P=0.103$, $P=0.263$ and $P=0.403$, respectively).
In previous years, the incidence rate of breast cancer has been increasing and there is a lack of effective preventive measures (15). In addition, it is difficult to cure, despite its high incidence (1). It has been demonstrated that the imaging features of MDE may be similar to those of breast cancer (2). It is therefore important to distinguish MDE from breast cancer (16).

The mean age of patients with MDE was 33.58±8.81 years in the present study, consistent with another report (17). However, the mean age of patients with breast cancer was 44.97±12.4 years, inconsistent with Jemal (18) who demonstrated that breast cancer frequently occurred in patients at the age of 50-69 years; however, Labib et al (19) demonstrated that the mean age was 46.3±12.4 years, similar to the present study.

The present study revealed that the morphology features, including aspect ratio, border, shape and microcalcification were significantly increased in breast cancer compared with MDE. Features including unclear border, irregular, spicular sign and microcalcification, were unspecific for breast cancer, consistent with the report by Yabuuchi et al (20). The features of MDE were of regular shape and clear border, similar to other benign tumors.

CDFI grading may not be used to distinguish breast cancer and MDE. The RI and elastography score are useful in the differential diagnosis between breast cancer and MDE (9). It is reported that CDFI grading of II or III may be specific in diagnosing the malignancy of breast cancer (21-23). Stanzani et al (24) reported that the sensitivity and specificity were 72 and 67% in benign and malignant RI, respectively (threshold value, 0.75). Although the RI of benignancy and malignancy may overlap and the threshold value differs among studies, it was useful to distinguish the benign and malignant tumors (24,25).

Gong et al (26) reported that UE may be as useful as traditional US, with sensitivity, specificity and accuracy of 92.65, 73.39 and 81.25%, respectively. Combined with UE and US, the specificity and accuracy could increase to 95.97 and 93.23%. Fischer et al (27) demonstrated that UE could be used to distinguish the breast cancer lesions with BI-RADS of 3-4, small diameter (<2 cm) and nontypical morphology. In the present study, it was revealed that UE was important to improve the specificity and accuracy of diagnosis, consistent with previous studies (6,28). Cho et al (29) also supported that UE was important in the differential diagnosis of benign and malignant tumors.

Caivano et al (30) demonstrated that the ADC value of benign and malignant were 2.06±0.19x10^{-3} mm^2/sec and 1.03±0.07x10^{-3} mm^2/sec, respectively. In the present study, the ADC was 1.3±0.19x10^{-3} mm^2/sec for MDE, decreased compared with that of the benign tumor and ADC was 1.03±0.32x10^{-3} mm^2/sec for breast cancer, within the range of that of the malignant tumors. Caivano et al (30) demonstrated that for benign tumors, the mean ADC value was 3.42±1.04x10^{-3} mm^2/sec for cysts, 1.57±0.78x10^{-3} mm^2/sec for fibroadenomas, 0.81±0.13x10^{-3} mm^2/sec for mammitis and 1.32±0.11x10^{-3} mm^2/sec for tumor without fluid, which was consistent with the present study (mean ADC, 1.3±0.19x10^{-3} mm^2/sec for MDE and 1.32±0.11x10^{-3} mm^2/sec for tumor). Luo et al (31) demonstrated that the sensitivity and specificity of ADC were 74.1 and 70.3% respectively, with a threshold value of 1.2x10^{-3} mm^2/sec. Yabuuchi et al (20) demonstrated that sensitivity, specificity, accuracy, positive and negative predictive value were 92, 86, 97, 71 and 91% respectively, with a threshold value of 1.1x10^{-3} mm^2/sec, which were important indicators for diagnosis and differential diagnosis. In the present study there was a significant difference in ADC between MDE and breast cancer groups (threshold value, 1.2x10^{-3} mm^2/sec), indicating the important function of ADC in the differential diagnosis.

A previous study demonstrated that the enhancement features of breast cancer were ring-like, with the rim of the lesion enhanced in the early phase, then moving to the center (32). The present study revealed that the enhancement in MDE (26/35) was ring-like or duct-like with thickening of the pipe wall, while the center was not enhanced in the delayed phase. Enhancement patterns were distinct between breast cancer and MDE; when the lesion was enhanced in a ring-like manner, the enhancement and timing of the lesion center should be observed.

Luo et al (31) demonstrated that the EER was increased and PER was decreased in malignant tumors compared with that in benign tumors. In the present study, EER was 1.03±0.40 in the breast cancer group and 0.67±0.16 in the MDE group, while PER was 1.08±0.40 in the breast cancer group and 2.59±0.46 in the MDE group, consistent with Luo’s data (31).
Yuan et al (33) reported that the earlier the peak time, the greater the likelihood of malignancy. If peak time was <180 sec, all the lesions may be malignant; if peak time was 180-270 sec, the malignancy rate was 85.7%; if peak time was >270 sec, all the lesions were benign. Sensitivity and specificity of peak time (cut-off value, 270 sec) were 95.83 and 92.30%, respectively. The mean $T_{\text{peak}}$ of breast cancer was 169±63 sec, consistent with the malignancy of <180 sec. The mean $T_{\text{peak}}$ of MDE was 248±37 sec, ranging between 180-270 sec, exhibiting benign enhancement in the early phase. Fernández-Guinea et al (34) demonstrated that the nodules that were <2 cm in diameter were enhanced homogeneously with obscure boundary, increased microvascular density and spicular sign compared with those that were smooth and clear. $T_{\text{peak}}$ time <2 min indicated the association of more vessels compared with $T_{\text{peak}}$ time >2 min. The lesions with PER <150% were larger compared with those with PER >150%. PER in the present study was consistent with the results of Fernández-Guinea et al (34). Peak intensity was associated with the degree of vessel formation. In Fernández-Guinea et al (34), the indexes had an advantage in recognizing the malignant lesions, including unclear boundary or spicular, uneven or ring-like enhancement, type III TIC with diagnosis rates of 75, 81.2 and 57.4%, respectively; in the present study, the rates were 92.4, 85.6 and 52.4%, respectively.

It has been reported (31) that the majority of benign lesions belonged to type I TIC and malignant lesions presented type II and III, which was consistent with the results of the present study. In the MDE group, 28/35 (80%) cases were type I and 7/35 (20%) cases were type II and III; in the breast cancer group, 3/105 cases (2.9%) were type I and 102/105 (97.1%) were type II and III. Brookes et al (35) reported that intraductal papilloma was enhanced peripherally and then the center was enhanced. The majority of the intraductal papillomas were type II and III, similar to invasive ductal carcinoma (36), thus it was difficult to distinguish. Yuan et al (33) demonstrated that TIC pattern and $T_{\text{peak}}$ were the most valuable factors for differential diagnosis.

Analyzing multiple parameters identified that US and MRI together may decrease the rate of misdiagnosis. There were 4 cases misdiagnosed as IDP, including 3 cases of MDE and 1...
case of breast cancer. This was due to the IDP features being similar to those of MDE (type II), presenting with cyst-and-solid mass. US revealed a circle or oval solid echo with dotted or branched blood signals in dilated duct with a clear border and regular form (Fig. 8A and B). The majority of cases of MDE were located beneath the mammary areola, together with nipple retraction, sinus tract and fistula. The majority of IDP cases may attack the breast duct at level II or III. The predilection site may assist the diagnosis.

MRI identified the dotted, cord-like or small piece of low signal nodular (Fig. 8C and D) scattered following the duct and a spicule sign was seldom observed. The mean ADC value of IDP was between the value of normal breast and breast cancer. Woodhams et al (37) demonstrated that the mean ADC of IDP was 1.32±0.15×10⁻³ mm²/sec. In the MDE group, the ADC of MDE (1.3±0.19×10⁻³ mm²/sec) were similar. Brookes et al (35) revealed that IDP was benign with a rich blood supply that may be enhanced in the early phase with an enhancement rate decreased compared with breast cancer. The majority of TIC was type II and the minority were type III, similar to breast cancer (Fig. 8E). The underlying reasons may be as follows: i) IDP typically locates in the lactiferous sinus of the big latex duct near the nipple, which is supplied with rich blood; ii) blood is piled up in the latex duct; and iii) increased sensitivity and decreased specificity of MRI (37), consistent with the present study. IDP, MDE and breast cancer may all present as type II of TIC, therefore, TIC may not be used for differential diagnosis without other indicators.

The present study did not identify any significant differences in the diagnostic efficiency of MDE and breast cancer with US, MRI and US with MRI, which suggested that these three methods were equally efficient. Although multiple quantitative parameters and morphology alterations in US with MRI may still misdiagnose MDE and breast cancer, combining US and MRI may decrease the misdiagnosis rate. Therefore, further studies may use US and MRI in the diagnosis of MDE and breast cancer.

Acknowledgements

The present study was supported by The Shandong Provincial Science and Technology Development Program (grant...
no. 2014GSF118139) and the Shandong Major Development Program (grant no. 2016GSF201130).

References

1. Rahal RM, de Freitas-Júnior R, Carlos da Cunha L, Moreira MA, Rosa VD and Conde DM: Mammary duct ectasia: An overview. Breast J 17: 694-695, 2011.

2. Kim BS, Lee JH, Kim WJ, Kim DC, Shin S, Kwon HJ, Park JS and Park YM: Periductal mastitis mimicking breast cancer in a male breast. Clin Imaging 37: 574-576, 2013.

3. Duchesne N, O'Connor S and Bilmes S: Ultrasound appearance of chronic mammary duct ectasia. Can Assoc Radiol J 56: 297-300, 2005.

4. Masciadri N and Ferranti C: Benign breast lesions: Ultrasound. J Ultrasound 14: 55-65, 2011.

5. Yamauchi H, Woodward WA, Valero V, Alvarez RH, Lucci A, Buchholz TA, Iwamoto T, Krishnamurthy S, Yang W, Reuben JM, et al: Inflammatory breast cancer: What we know and what we need to learn. Oncologist 17: 891-899, 2012.

6. Al Juhaishi SM, Rahmat K, Abdul Halim N, Aziz S, Radhika S, Gan GC, Vijayananthan A, Westerhubt CJ, Mohd-Shah MN, Jaszle S, et al: Semi-quantitative and qualitative assessment of breast ultrasound elastography in differentiating between malignant and benign lesions. Ultrasound Med Biol 39: 568-578, 2013.

7. Suppiah S, Rahmat K, Rozalli FI and Azlan CA: RC: Improved diagnostic accuracy in differentiating malignant and benign lesions using single-voxel proton MRS of the breast at 3 T MRI. A reply. Clin Radiol 69: e10:e11, 2014.

8. Min Q, Shao K, Zhai L, Liu W, Zhu C, Yuan L and Yang J: Differential diagnosis of benign and malignant breast masses using diffusion-weighted magnetic resonance imaging. World J Surg Oncol 13: 32, 2015.

9. Zhang F, Yu D, Guo M, Wang Q, Yu Z, Zhou F, Zhao M, Xue F and Shao G: Ultrasound elastography and magnetic resonance examination examinations are effective for the accurate diagnosis of mammary duct ectasia. Int J Clin Exp Med 8: 8506-8515, 2015.

10. Hsu HH, Yu JC, Hsu GC, Chang WC, Yu CP, Tung HJ, Tzao C and Huang GS: Ultrasonogenic alterations associated with the dilatation of mammary ducts: Feature analysis and BI-RADS assessment. Eur Radiol 20: 293-302, 2010.

11. Ih0 A, Ueno E, Tohno E, Kamma H, Takahashi H, Shima T, Yamakawa M and Matsumura T: Breast disease: Clinical application of US elastography for diagnosis. Radiology 239: 341-350, 2006.

12. Goddi A, Bonardi M and Alessi S: Breast elastography: A literature review. J Ultrasound 15: 192-198, 2012.

13. Radiology ACo: Breast imaging reporting and data system (BI-RADS), 4th edition. Reston, VA: American College of Radiology ACo: Breast imaging reporting and data system (BI-RADS), 4th edition. Reston, VA: American College of Radiology ACo.

14. El Khoulis RH, Macura KJ, Jacobs MA, Khalil TH, Kamel IR, Dwyer A and Bluemke DA: Dynamic contrast-enhanced MRI of the breast: Quantitative method for kinetic curve type assessment. AJR Am J Roentgenol 193: W295-W300, 2009.

15. Howell A, Anderson AS, Clarke RB, Duffy SW, Evans DG, Garcia-Closas M, Gescher AJ, Key TJ, Saxton JM and Harvie MN: Risk determination and prevention of breast cancer. Breast Cancer Res 16: 446, 2014.

16. Holley SO, Appleton CM, Farria DM, Reichert VC, Warrick J, Antuono F, Gioioso M, Rabasco P, Del Cura JL, Elizagaray E, Zabala R, Legórburu A and Grande D: Relationship between morphological and kinetic patterns of enhancement of the dynamic breast magnetic resonance imaging and clinicopathological and biological factors in invasive breast cancer. BMC Cancer 10: 8, 2010.

17. Yuan HM, Yu JQ, Chu ZG and Peng LQ: Distinguishing benign from malignant masses at breast US: Combined US elastography and color doppler US-influence on radiologist accuracy. Radiology 262: 80-90, 2012.

18. Hassan HHH, Zahran MMH, Hassan HE, Abdel-Hamid AEM and Falady GAS: Diffusion magnetic resonance imaging of breast lesions: Initial experience at Alexandria University. Alex J Med 49: 265-272, 2013.

19. Cho N, Yang M, Lyou CY, Park JS, Choi HY and Moon WK: Distinguishing benign from malignant masses at breast US: Combined US elastography and color doppler US-influence on radiologist accuracy. Radiology 262: 80-90, 2012.

20. Yao J, Chen D, Xu Z and Zeng H: The diffusion weighted imaging (DWI) and dynamic contrast enhanced MRI in differentiating breast tumours. Sheng Wu Yi Xue Gong Cheng Xue Za Zhi 30: 1219-1223, 2013 (In Chinese).

21. Xue Za Zhi 30: 1219-1223, 2013 (In Chinese).

22. González-Reyes S, Merino AM, Hernández LC, López-Muñiz A, Fuentes A, Fernández-Guinea O, Andicoechea A, González LO, Macarini L, et al: Diffusion weighted imaging and apparent diffusion coefficient in 3 tesla magnetic resonance imaging of breast lesions. Cancer Invest 33: 159-164, 2015.

23. Cho N, Yang M, Lyou CY, Park JS, Choi HY and Moon WK: Distinguishing benign from malignant masses at breast US: Combined US elastography and color doppler US-influence on radiologist accuracy. Radiology 262: 80-90, 2012.

24. Caivan R, Villonio A, D’Antuono F, Giotos M, Rabasco P, Iannelli G, Zandolino A, Lotumolo A, Dinardo G, Macarini L, et al: Diffusion weighted imaging and apparent diffusion coefficient in 3 tesla magnetic resonance imaging of breast lesions. Cancer Invest 33: 159-164, 2015.

25. Luo Y, Yu J, Chen D, Xu Z and Zeng H: The diffusion weighted imaging (DWI) and dynamic contrast enhanced MRI in differentiating breast tumours. Sheng Wu Yi Xue Gong Cheng Xue Za Zhi 30: 1219-1223, 2013 (In Chinese).

26. Yeh ED, Stanetz PJ, Edmister WB, Talele A, Monticciolo D and Kopans DB: Invasive lobular carcinoma: Spectrum of enhancement and morphology on magnetic resonance imaging. Breast 30: 13-18, 2003.

27. Yuan HM, Yu JQ, Chu ZG and Peng LQ: Distinguishing benign and malignant lesions with time-signal intensity curve of dynamic contrast-enhanced breast MRI scanning. Sichuan Da Xue Xue Bao Yi Yi Xue Ban 42: 556-559, 2011 (In Chinese).

28. Fernández-Guinea O, Andicoechea A, González LO, González-Reyes S, Merino AM, Hernández LC, López-Muñiz A, García-Pravia P and Vizoso FJ: Relationship between morphological features and kinetic patterns of enhancement of the dynamic breast magnetic resonance imaging and clinicopathological and biological factors in invasive breast cancer. BMC Cancer 10: 8, 2010.

29. Brookes MJ and Bourke AG: Radiological appearances of papillary breast lesions. Clin Radiol 63: 1275-1277, 2008.

30. Zhu Y, Zhang S, Liu P, Lu H, Xu Y and Yang WT: Solitary intraductal papillomas of the breast: MRI features and differentiation from small invasive ductal carcinomas. AJR Am J Roentgenol 199: 936-942, 2012.

31. Woodhams R, Matsunaga K, Kan S, Hata H, Ozaki M, Iwabuchi K, Kuranami M, Watanabe M and Hayakawa K: ADC mapping of benign and malignant breast tumors. Magn Reson Med Sci 4: 35-42, 2005.