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Comparison of Hepatocyte-specific T1 Agent (Gd-EOB-DTPA) with Ferucarbotran-Enhanced MRI for Detection of Hepatic Tumor on H-ras 12V transgenic mice

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PURPOSE: To compare the gadolinium ethoxybenzyl diethylenetriamine pentaacetic acid (Gd-EOB-DTPA) enhanced MRI with ferucarbotran-enhanced MRI for detection hepatic tumor on H-ras12V transgenic mice.

MATERIALS AND METHODS: Hepatocellular carcinoma lines were established to create an insertion of the H-ras12V transgene under the control of the albumin enhancer/promoter. Six H-ras12V transgenic mice with 123 hepatic tumors underwent Gd-EOB-DTPA enhanced MRI and ferucarbotran-enhanced MRI before hepatic resection. MR imaging was performed with a 4.7-T scanner (Phamascan; Bruker)

with a mouse body coil. The diagnosis of hepatic tumor was confirmed by means of pathologic examination. Two experienced radiologists independently reviewed the MR images on a segment-by-segment basis. The sensitivity, contrast, and conspicuity of the MR contrast agents were evaluated. The accuracy of these techniques for the detection of hepatic tumor was assessed by conducting a receiver operating characteristic (ROC) analysis.

RESULTS: Tumor-to-liver contrast ratio of the T1W imaging was significantly higher than ferucarbotran-enhanced T2W imaging (p < 0.05). The lesion conspicuities of Gd-EOB-DTPA enhanced T1W imaging were better and the image artifacts of ferucarbotran-enhanced T2W imaging were more prominent. The detectability of Gd-EOB-DTPA enhanced T1W images were superior to those of the ferucarbotran-enhanced T2W images. For the detection of very small hepatic tumors of less than 2 mm, the sensitivities of Gd-EOB-DTPA enhanced T1W images was much higher than those of ferucarbotran-enhanced T2W images (p < 0.0001).

CONCLUSION: Gd-EOB-DTPA-enhanced T1W images have a higher sensitivity, contrast, and conspicuity than those of ferucarbotran-enhanced MRI in detection hepatic tumor on H-ras12V transgenic mice.