



基于迭代算法的双源CT双能量单能谱成像技术在腹部血管的成像研究

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【摘要】目的:探讨基于原始数据迭代算法(Sonogram Affirmed Iterative Reconstruction, SAFIRE)的二代双源CT单能成像技术在腹部血管(门静脉)的成像质量评价。**方法:**对符合临床要求行上腹部增强CT扫描,且门静脉期行双能扫描的40例病患纳入研究。采用双能量单能谱软件得出门静脉主干对比信噪比(Contrast to Noise Ratio,CNR)能量变化曲线,得出最佳单能量点的单能图像。将扫描得到的门脉期图像数据进行3组不同函数的回顾重建:A组为最佳单能量+滤波反投影(FBP);B组为最佳单能量+迭代SAFIRE-3级;C组为双能两球管(80 kV和140 kV)扫描完成后,自动加权生成的管电压为120 kV的门脉图像作为常规对照组,即120 kV+FBP。在工作站上分别完成门静脉血管重建的最大密度投影,容积再现(Volume Rendering, VR)和多平面重建,并在门脉分支中心层面测量门静脉主干,肝实质结构的CT值和图像噪声值,并计算CNR值。由两位高年资放射科医生对门脉图像进行评价评分。**结果:**A、B、C三组的门脉CT值分别为(192.31±37.88) HU、(189.89±37.42) HU和(152.54±27.58) HU;CNR值分别为5.83±1.28、8.16±1.96和2.57±1.27。A、B两组门脉图像质量明显高于C组,有统计学差异($P<0.01$)。**结论:**双源双能CT在门脉成像中,单能量成像与常规成像方式相比,能够大大提高图像质量,可以应用于临床。

【关键词】门静脉;单能量成像;血管造影术;体层摄影术;迭代重建

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Monochromatic imaging technique of dual-source dual-energy computed tomography based on iterative reconstruction for abdominal angiography

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Abstract: Objective To explore the image quality of monochromatic imaging technique of second-generation dual-source computed tomography (CT) based on sonogram affirmed iterative reconstruction (SAFIRE) for abdominal vessel, portal vein. Methods Forty patients who underwent the upper-abdominal enhanced CT scan and dual-energy scan in the portal venous phase were selected. The dual-energy monochromatic software was applied to get the energy curve of contrast to noise ratio (CNR) of main portal vein, and obtain the monochromatic image with optimal monochromatic point. The obtained image data in the portal venous phase was retrospectively reconstructed by three different methods, optimal monochromatic+ filter back projection (FBP) in group A, optimal monochromatic+ iterative SAFIRE-3 in group B, dual-energy tubes of 80 kV and 140 kV in group C. After scanning, automatically weighted portal venous images with tube voltage of 120 kV, the images of 120 kV+ FBP, were taken as the routine group. The maximum intensity projection (MIP), volume rendering (VR) and multiplanar reformation (MPR) of portal venous vascular reconstruction were conducted on a workstation. At the central layer of portal venous branch, the CT value of main portal vein and liver parenchyma, and the noise standard deviation were measured; the CNR was calculated. The portal venous images were evaluated by two experienced radiologists. Results The portal venous CT values were respectively (192.31±37.88) HU, (189.89±37.42) HU,

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(152.54 ± 27.58) HU in group A, B, C. And the CNR were respectively 5.83 ± 1.28 , 8.16 ± 1.96 , 2.57 ± 1.27 in group A, B, C. The image quality of group A and B were significantly higher than that of group C, with statistical differences ($P < 0.01$). Conclusion Compared with the conventional imaging in the dual-source dual-energy CT for portal venous imaging, the monochromatic imaging, which can be used in the clinic, shows better image quality.

Key words: portal vein; monochromatic imaging; angiography; tomography; iterative reconstruction

前言

随着图像空间分辨率和时间分辨率不断提高以及近年来双能量CT的问世,CT成像技术应用领域显著扩宽。双能量CT与过去单能量CT相比,最大的特点在于单次扫描后不仅能获得常规的解剖学信息,还能获得组织器官功能和成分信息,对于临床治疗方案的选择有指导性意义^[1]。双源CT的单能谱成像技术能够提取组织衰减信息,用于疾病定性诊断^[2-3]。新一代双源CT可以在不增加辐射剂量的情况下,将传统X射线混合能量图像重建成40~190 keV连续的151组虚拟单能图像^[4],通过软件计算出最佳对比显示的单能图像。多层螺旋CT门静脉成像是评估门静脉的主要手段和方法,现今肝胆外科对肝段划分采用的是国际上广泛应用的Couinaud法,根据门静脉鞘的分布和肝静脉的走行,将肝脏分为左右半肝、四部和八段。门静脉系统是肝脏分页分段的重要标志,CT门静脉成像可以很好地显示门静脉的解剖结构及其病变关系,为临床治疗提供依据^[5]。肝门静脉CT血管成像技术的关键在于门脉与背景的高对比度和图像足够小的噪声,作者曾经利用低电压和迭代技术对门静脉成像进行了可行性研究^[6],获得了良好CTA门脉图像,但是仅限于BMI指数在正常范围(BMI<25)内,对于肥胖患者,由于图像噪声过大而无法使用该扫描方式。本文旨在评价基于SAFIRE(Sonogram Affirmed Iterative Reconstruction)迭代算法下的最佳单能成像在门静脉CTA中的应用。

1 材料与方法

1.1 一般资料

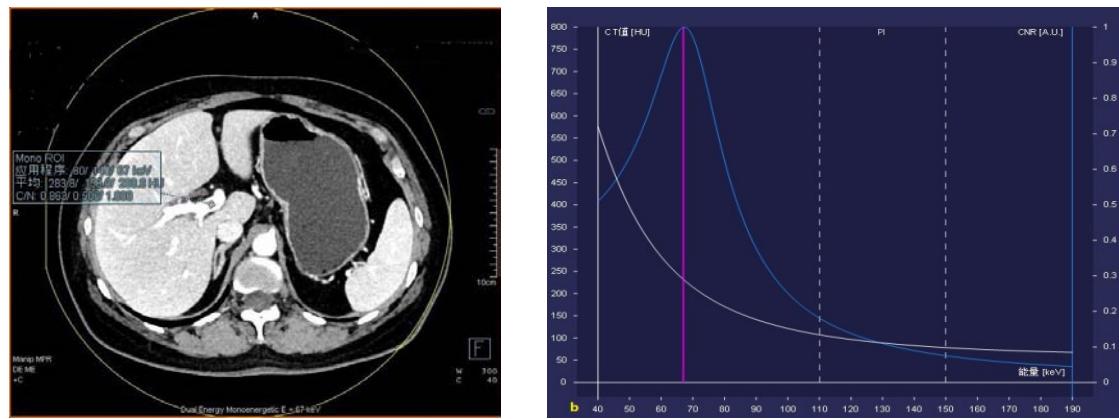
收集第七人民医院2015年4~10月共40例临床需要行上腹部增强CT扫描,且行双能量扫描的患者纳入本组研究。男19例,女21例,年龄(53 ± 13.65)岁。BMI $19.52 \sim 31.28 \text{ kg/m}^2$,平均(21.46 ± 4.31)kg/m²。其中肝囊肿5例,肝血管瘤19例,肝硬化6例,肝癌5例,胰腺炎3例,肾错构瘤1例,胆结石1例。排除标准:严重心、肝、肾衰竭,扫描后有严重运动伪影及碘造影剂过敏患者。

1.2 检查设备与方法

检查前禁食6 h,扫描前30 min口服温开水500~1000 mL充盈胃及十二指肠,并训练呼吸。所有患者均在SIEMENS Somatom Definition Flash DSCT上行上腹部增强多期扫描。先行上腹部平扫,患者取仰卧位,头足方向,扫描范围从膈顶到髂嵴。使用MALLINCKRODT高压注射器,经肘正中静脉入路,注射碘海醇(370 mgI/mL)90 mL,流速4 mL/s,对比剂注射完毕后以同样速率注射生理盐水40 mL。采用BOLUS TRACKING技术,以扫描的最上层面的腹主动脉为感兴趣区间(Range of Interesting, ROI),阈值150 HU触发动脉期扫描,延时6 s扫描。平扫期和动脉期管电压为100 kV,参考电流150 mAs,采用CARE 4D电流智能调节技术。触发后20 s行门脉期双能扫描,A球管为140 kV,50 mAs,B球管为80 kV,200 mAs。各期其余条件都相同,扫描层厚5 mm,螺距0.7,转速0.5 s/r,准直器64 mm×0.6 mm。

1.3 图像重建及评价

扫描完成后,自动生成140、80 kV和平均加权120 kV门脉图像,对所有门脉图像进行不同条件回顾性重建,层厚1 mm,间隔1 mm,滤波函数为I31f。将图像先导入SIEMENS Monoenergetic后处理软件,选用70 keV能量点的能量图像测量门静脉主干和肝实质的CT值和噪声SD值,肝实质的测量应选择远离或避开肝脏血管,ROI测量大小在20 mm²左右。测量值选定后,软件会自动计算和显示出其余150能量点的CNR值曲线,并可以确定最佳单能量点所对应的keV值和门脉图像(图1)。将图像数据重建分为3组:A组为最佳单能量+FBP;B组为最佳单能量+SAFIRE-3级迭代;C组为平均加权120 kV作为常规对照组。分别对3组图像进行三维重建显示,以门脉最佳显示层面(门脉主干,脾静脉,肠系膜上静脉显示最长的层面)为显示位置,显示包括最大密度投影(Maximum Intensity Projection, MIP)、容积再现(Volume Rendering, VR)和多平面重建(Multiplanar Reformation, MPR),横断面以门脉左右分支的中心层面为测量层面,分别测量门脉主干(PV)和肝实质的CT值和噪声SD值,并计算门脉强化值和对比噪



a: CT value of optimal monochrommatic portal vein (PV)

b: Optimal monochrommatic energy spectrum

图1 最佳门脉单能图

Fig.1 Optimal monochrommatic PV image

声比(Contrast to Noise Ratio ,CNR)值。门脉强化值 $=\text{CT}_{\text{门脉}}-\text{CT}_{\text{肝实质}}$, $\text{CNR}=(\text{CT}_{\text{门脉}}-\text{CT}_{\text{肝}})/\text{SD}_{\text{肝}}$ 。

两位资深放射科医生对3组门脉的MIP和VR CTA图像共同评价,分为优、良、中、差4个等级。以门脉主干为第一分支:优秀(清晰显示5级以上分支,门脉与周围组织对比度良好);良好(略有伪影和噪声仍能显示4级以上分支,门脉与周围组织对比度一般);中(有一定伪影和噪声,仍能显示3级以上分支,满足基本临床诊断);差(噪声伪影大,无法显示3级以上分支,无法进行诊断)。

1.4 统计学分析

计量资料采用均数 \pm 标准差表示。对3组图像PV的CT值、肝实质CT值及图像噪声SD值和CNR值用完全随机设计方差分析法(One-way ANOVA),组间比较采用LSD法。对重建VR和MIP图像分级进行t检验并对两位医师的评价一致性进行Kappa检验。 $P<0.05$ 代表差异有显著意义。

2 结果

2.1 横断面客观比较

软件自动测算40例患者的最佳单能量平均值为 (69.53 ± 2.45) keV。由横断面3组图像客观测量统计结果可知,A、B、C 3组门脉CT值和强化值以及CNR值比较,有显著性统计学差异($P<0.01$),其中最佳单能量A、B两组的门脉强化值和CNR值远远高于C组。最佳单能量两组比较,其中结合SAFIRE-3迭代的B组门脉图像噪声值更小,CNR比FBP重建的A组图像更高,可见B组图像质量更高,见表1。

2.2 门脉VR和MIP图像主观评价

3组图像VR和MIP医师主观评价见表2。组所有图像均满足诊断要求,各组VR图像的优良率分别为97.5%、100%和52.5%,MIP图像的优良率为100%、100%和77.5%。A、B两组重建图像质量较C组有统计学差异($P<0.01$),A、B两组图像MIP门脉分级远远高于C组($P<0.01$)。两位医师评价一致性较高,KAPPA值为0.793。详见图2。

表1 3组图像门脉和肝实质的CT值、噪声SD值和CNR值比较(HU, $\bar{x}\pm s$)Tab.1 Comparison of CT value, noise SD value, CNR of PV and liver parenchyma (HU, Mean \pm SD)

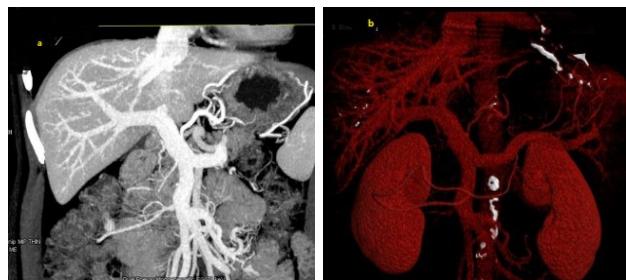
Group	CT value of PV	SD value of PV	CT value of liver parenchyma	SD value of liver parenchyma	CT value of PV enhancement	CNR
A	192.31 \pm 37.88	28.97 \pm 34.88	114.95 \pm 30.59	13.29 \pm 3.44	77.35 \pm 24.93	5.83 \pm 1.28
B	189.89 \pm 37.42	23.95 \pm 38.07	117.85 \pm 24.87	8.96 \pm 2.66	72.03 \pm 23.81	8.16 \pm 1.96
C	152.54 \pm 27.58	17.79 \pm 5.78	116.14 \pm 27.43	15.71 \pm 6.71	36.36 \pm 16.93	2.57 \pm 1.27
F value	27.03	19.63	27.07	23.77	26.84	26.71
P value	<0.01	>0.05	>0.05	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01

Group A was processed by optimal monochromatic+ FBP; group B was processed by optimal monochromatic+ SAFIRE-3; group C was routine group. CT: Computed tomography; SD: Standard deviation; CNR: Contrast to noise ratio

表2 3组VR和MIP重建图像评价
Tab.2 Evaluation of VR and MIP images

Group	VR				MIP				PV grading
	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	
A	28	11	1	0	30	10	0	0	4.41±0.74
B	32	8	0	0	38	2	0	0	4.93±0.71
C	15	6	19	0	19	12	9	0	3.79±0.69

VR: Volume rendering; MIP: Maximum intensity projection



a: MIP image of PV in group A b: VR image of PV in group A



c: MIP image of PV in group B d: VR image of PV in group B



e: MIP image of PV in group C f: VR image of PV in group C

图2 3组门脉MIP和VR图比较

Fig.2 Comparison of MIP and VR images of PV

The vessel contrast and CNR of optimal monochromatic groups, group A and B, were better than those of routine group, group C.

3 讨论

常规腹部CT增强多期扫描可以很好地评价肝内门静脉高压情况和由此引发的多侧枝循环的观察^[7]。这种无创性的CTA在腹部检查中已经可以取代DSA^[8]。增强扫描后,门静脉的强化差值(即门静

脉强化值与肝实质CT值之差)是保证门静脉CTA成像质量的关键。常规扫描(管电压120 kV)所得到的门静脉图像往往由于门脉与周围组织的对比度低,显示不理想。

作者也曾借鉴过去文献,使用低电压增加血管的强化程度^[9-10],从而增加门脉与周围组织的对比度,获得了良好的血管强化值。然而低电压导致扫描的光子能量下降,图像噪声大幅度增加,在不增加管电流的情况下,虽然结合迭代重建算法可以有效降低噪声,对于过于肥胖的患者(BMI>25),图像噪声仍然无法达到清晰诊断的标准(图3)。



图3 男性患者,48岁,BMI=30,80 kV+iDose4迭代技术门静脉MIP图像显示不清

Fig.3 Indistinct display of MIP image reconstructed by 80 kV+iDose4 iterative technique for male patient aged 48 years, with BMI=30

BMI: Body mass index

双源双能CT单能量成像技术针对特点组织或病变,可以选取相对于某一背景的最佳观察图像^[11]。最佳单能量keV值可以使图像在对比度和噪声之间找到一个很好的平衡,目标组织(门静脉)和背景组织(肝实质)可以达到衰减较大而噪声较小,达到最佳CNR值。曾有报道显示门静脉-肝实质的CNR曲线的CT最佳单能量显示能量水平集中在40~75 keV的低能量区域^[12-13],在低能量X射线可能会使图

像噪声加大,因此本文在最佳单能量基础上结合迭代重建技术,进一步降低图像噪声,解决了作者先前研究无法应用于肥胖患者的瓶颈(图4)。由上述结果可得,3组图像中最佳单能组门脉血管对比度和图像CNR值较高。

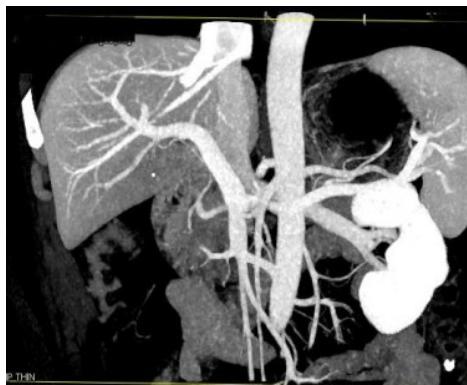


图4 男性患者,52岁,BMI=31,最佳单能量+SAFIRE迭代技术门静脉MIP图像清晰显示

Fig.4 Clear display of MIP image reconstructed by optimal monochromatice+ SAFIRE iterative technique for male patient aged 52 years, with BMI=31

综上所述,基于迭代算法的最佳单能量门静脉成像与常规增强图像相比,门脉图像的对比度和CNR都有很大的提高,图像质量也有明显提升,可以作为常规检查方法应用于临床。

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