

CT

1

,

.

2

.

.

.

.

3

: ,
CT ,
:
가 1, 2, 3 mm
z- (z=0 °), (z=45 °), (z=90 °) 1, 2, 3 mm
1, 2 1, 3, 5 mm
972 가 가
: z- 1
mm 가
5 mm/5 mm / 가 3 mm/6 mm
1 mm SSD 가
z-
: z-

(CT) 가가 가 (4-6).

(CT angiography) CT 가 가
CT z-
가 z-
(collimation width) (pitch) 가
z- (z-axis resolutuoin) 가
(1, 2). Multislice CT(or
Multidetector CT) CT
가 (3, 4), CT

CT

(Fig.

1). 1 mm, 2 mm 3 mm

MIP

SSD

3000/1100, 250/160

가 250

가

Hounsfield Unit(HU) 가

(Ultravist 370; Schering, Berlin, Germany)

가

가 50 HU 가

1 mm

가 CT z-

(z=0) 1 mm, 3 mm

5 mm 1:1 1:2

가 / (table increment),

1/1, 1/2, 3/3, 3/6, 5/5, 5/10(mm/mm)

2 mm, 3 mm

. z-

z-

(z=45), (z=90)

1 mm, 2 mm, 3 mm

6 가

CT Somatom Plus - S(Siemens Medical System, Siemens, Erlangen, Germany)

120 kVp, 165 mA

180((lin -

ear interpolation) , (algorithm)

1 mm, 2 mm 3 mm

(Shaded surface display, SSD)

(Maximum intensity projection, MIP)

SPSS for Windows

Mann -

Whitney U

±

5%

Table 1. Subjective Grading for Quality of Three-dimensional Images

Score	Criteria
5	Paired two tubes are separated completely with smooth margin
4	Paired two tubes are separated, but their surfaces are irregular
3	Paired two tubes stick partially and their surfaces are irregular
2	Paired two tubes seem to be stuck with groove between them
1	Paired two tubes stick completely or any one is not visible

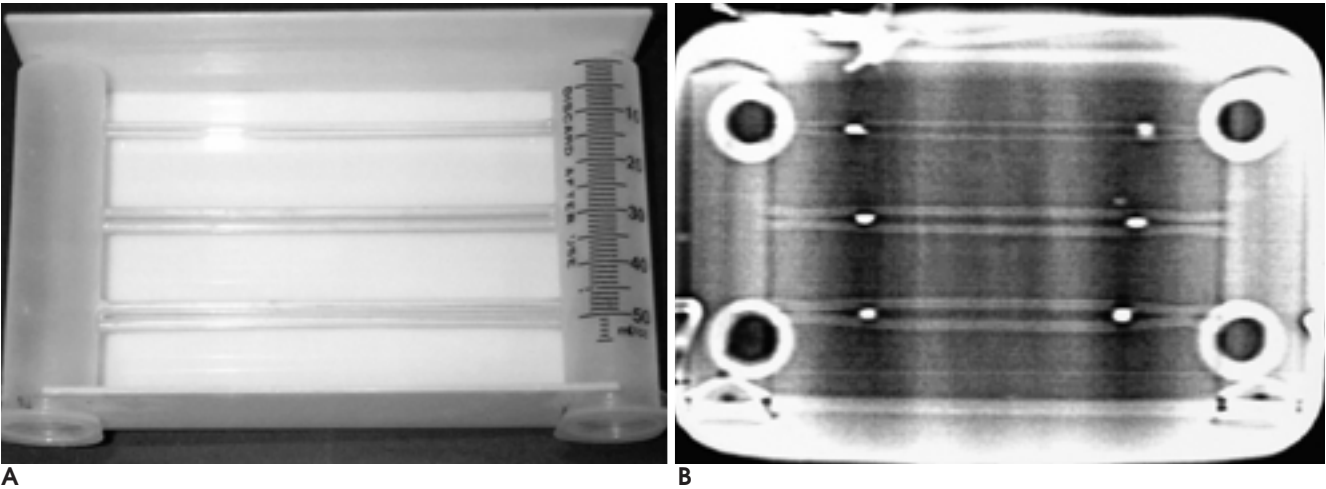


Fig. 1. Vascular phantom

A. Photograph of vascular phantom viewed from superior aspect. It is constructed with three parallel tube-pairs of luminal diameters of 1,2, and 3 mm.

B. Scanogram of the phantom. The inter-tubal distances are set to 2 mm. Vascular phantom was filled with mixture of contrast media and water to obtain an attenuation coefficient of 250 Hounsfield units.

z- (3; 0°, 45°, 90°), (3; 1 mm, 2 mm, 3 mm), (3; 1 mm, 2 mm, 3 mm), (3; 1 mm, 3 mm, 5 mm), (2; 1, 2), (3; 1 mm, 2 mm, 3 mm), (2; MIP, SSD) 972

z- 가 0°, z- 2 mm 3 mm

가 5 (Fig. 2). 1 mm

z- 0° (stair - step artifact) (Fig. 3). 가 1 mm

2 mm 3 mm 1

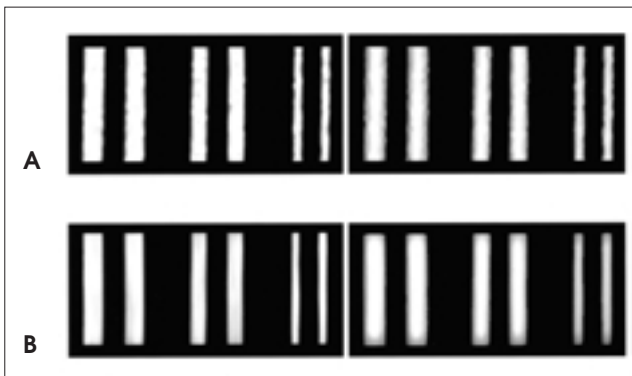


Fig. 2. Three-dimensional images of phantom vessels (1, 2, and 3 mm sized) parallel to z-axis of which the inter-tubal distances are set to 3 mm.

All the three-dimensional images show good quality irrespective of tube diameters, scan parameters, reconstruction intervals and three-dimensional techniques.

A(upper pane); three-dimensional images obtained with collimation width of 1 mm, table increment of 1 mm, and reconstruction interval of 1 mm

B(lower pane); three-dimensional images obtained with collimation width of 5 mm, table increment of 10 mm, and reconstruction interval of 3 mm

Left three columns; MIP images, Right three columns; SSD images

mm

z- 45° 90° 1 mm, 1 mm

가 1 mm 가 1.1 ± 1.4 2 mm (, 2.4 ± 1.4) 3 mm (, 3.1 ± 1.3) 가 (Fig. 4). 가 1 mm 1.0 - 1.3

1 mm, 2 mm, 3 mm 가 2.4 ± 1.4, 2.8 ± 1.4, 3.1 ± 1.3 가 2 mm 3 mm

(,)

Table 2

1 mm, 3 mm, 5 mm 가 3.9 ± 1.1, 2.8 ± 1.1, 1.5 ± 0.8 가 가 1 (, 3.0 ± 1.4)가 가 2 (

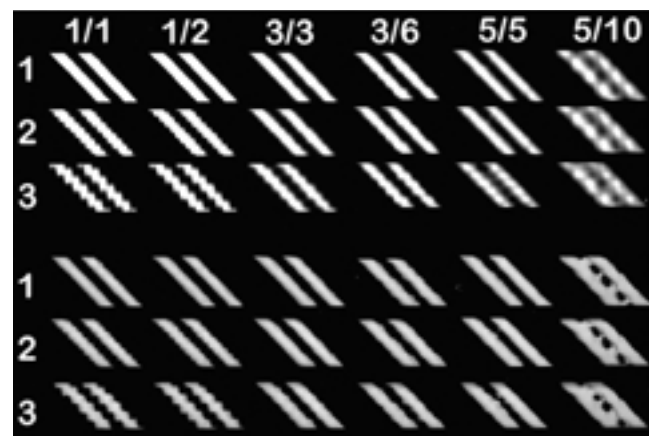


Fig. 3. Three-dimensional images of 3 mm tube-pairs oriented at 45° obliquity relative to z-axis of which the inter-tubal distances are set to 3 mm.

Numbers of six columns represent collimation width/table increment (mm/mm) and numbers of rows represent reconstruction interval (mm). Upper three rows are MIP images and lower three rows are SSD images. Stair-step artifacts are recognized at most tubes, especially when reconstruction interval is larger than table increment.

CT

, 2.5 ± 1.4)

/

1/1, 1/2, 3/3, 3/6, 5/5, 5/10 (mm/mm)
(Figs. 3, 5).

1/1 1/2
가 (Table 2).

3/6 (, 2.5 ± 1.1) 5/5 (,
 1.9 ± 1.0)
($p=0.001$). z -
pitch 2 3 mm 3 mm
(Fig. 5 6).

(,)
가

(Fig. 3, 5). 1 mm, 2 mm, 3 mm
가 3.3 ± 1.6 , 2.8 ± 1.3 , 2.1 ± 1.0
가 , z -
($z=90^\circ$) 3 mm
(Fig. 5
3 6), 1 mm
가 .

Table 2. Image Quality Scores according to Scan Parameters

Pitch	Collimation width			Overall
	1 mm	3 mm	5 mm	
1	4.0 ± 1.2	3.2 ± 1.1	1.9 ± 1.0	3.0 ± 1.4
2	3.7 ± 1.0	2.5 ± 1.1	1.2 ± 0.4	2.5 ± 1.4
Overall	3.9 ± 1.1	2.8 ± 1.1	1.5 ± 0.8	

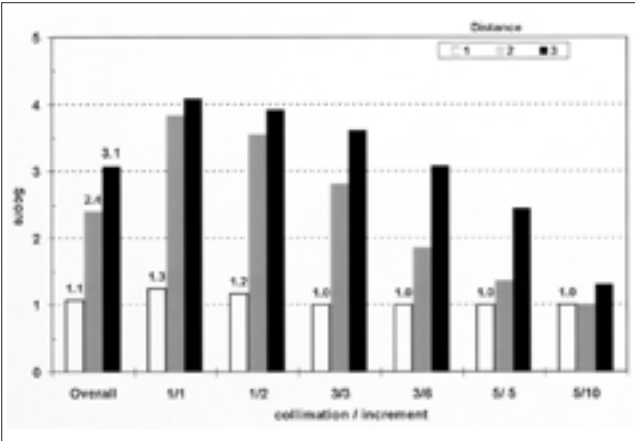


Fig. 4. Image quality score vs. inter-tubal distances and scan parameters.
As inter-tubal distance increases, image quality score tends to increase for overall and each scan parameter. Image quality score of the 1 mm inter-tubal distance is markedly lower than the others, and it shows a little change irrespective of scan parameters.

SSD MIP
(2.7 ± 1.4 vs. 2.8 ± 1.4),
가 . 1 mm 3 mm
CT ,
가 가
MIP
SSD .
(7 - 11)
CT
가 .
z -
(
가 .
z -
가 .

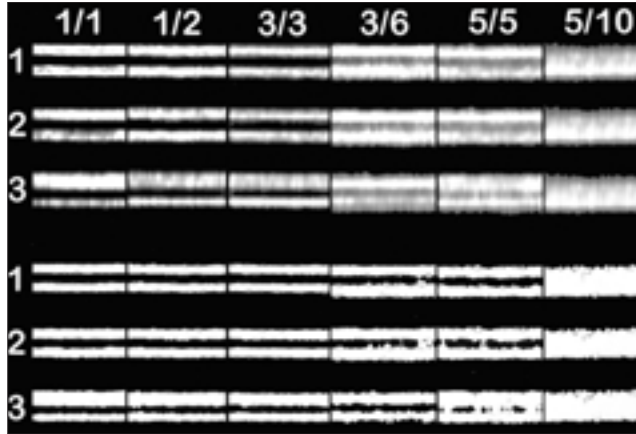


Fig. 5. Three-dimensional images of 3 mm tube-pairs perpendicular to z-axis ($z=90^\circ$) of which the inter-tubal distances are set to 3 mm.
Numbers of six columns represent collimation width/table increment (mm/mm) and numbers of rows represent reconstruction interval (mm). Upper three rows are MIP images and lower three rows are SSD images. As collimation width, pitch and reconstruction interval increase, image quality tends to get worse. On three-dimensional images reconstructed with axial images of 3 mm interval (third and sixth rows), sizes of paired vessels are not equal.

CT 가 (section sensitivity profile) 가 가 , 가 (1, 2, 12, 13). 1 mm 가 . Rubin MIP SSD 가 MIP (10, 17). 가 가 , SSD 가 z- 가 (2, 12). 가 MIP 가 z- . 180 z- 2 가 30% 가 (12). 가 (11, 18). z- (14, 15). 가 3 mm/6 가 5 mm/5 mm mm 3 mm/6 mm 5 mm/5 Multislice CT 가 CT mm Multislice CT 가 z- 가 z- (partial volume averaging) . 1 mm 1 mm (14, 16). CT z- 3 mm , 1 mm 가 (accessory 가 renal artery) 가 SSD 가

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Influence of Anatomical, Scanning, and Reconstructing Parameters on Image Quality of CT Angiography: Vascular Phantom Study¹

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Purpose: To investigate the image quality of CT angiograms obtained with various anatomical, scanning, and reconstruction parameters using a phantom with small vessels, and to determine the technique appropriate to a specific vascular anatomy.

Materials and Methods: The vascular phantom consisted of three pairs of parallel tubes with a luminal size of 1, 2, and 3 mm. Using the phantom, CT scans were obtained at three inter-tubal distances (1, 2, and 3 mm), three angles of inclination relative to the z-axis (0°, 45°, and 90°), three collimation widths (1, 3, and 5 mm) and two pitch factors (1 and 2). Using axial images obtained at 1-, 2-, and 3-mm reconstruction intervals, two types of three-dimensional images were rendered, and the quality of 972 such images was subjectively graded in terms of edge definition and artifact by three radiologists.

Results: All vessels parallel to the z-axis showed good image quality irrespective of other factors. A pair of vessels separated by 1 mm appeared to be stuck to each other. As collimation width and reconstruction interval increased, image quality decreased significantly and artifact increased. The quality of images obtained at 3 mm collimation and with a 6 mm increment was significantly better where collimation and increment were both 5 mm ($p=0.001$). Vessels 1 mm in size suffered artifactual degradation, especially in the case of SSD images. Most obliquely oriented vessels showed stair-step artifact, which tended to be severe when the reconstruction interval was large.

Conclusion: In small vessels perpendicular to or inclined relative to the z-axis, a smaller collimation width and reconstruction interval lessens image degradation. When wider scan coverage is intended, a larger pitch rather than a larger collimation width is recommended. To lessen the artifacts occurring where vessels are obliquely oriented, the reconstruction interval should be reduced.

Index words : Computed tomography (CT), physics
Computed tomography (CT), angiography
Images, quality
Phantoms

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