

3 가
 22:1, 51:1, 95:1
 KB 7358 KB
 NT (Microsoft, Redmond, WA, U.S.A.)
 IBM
 200MHz, 128 MB
 32 - Q30 (Q30), 32
 - Q70 (Q70), 32 - Q120
 (Q120), 96
 . 2 (2048 x 2560
 Dataray Corp., Denvor, U.S.A.)

(A, B) 가
 100
 ft-lambert
 가
 가
 2 가
 2 가
 3 가



Fig. 1. Metastasis in the scapula
 Destructive bony lesion is seen at the lateral border of the scapula. Compressed image with Q factor 30 (B) reveals no perceptible difference comparing with uncompressed image (A). Compressed images with Q factor 70 and 120 (C and D) show relatively poor definition of the lesion. Linear opacities such as rib margins are blurred, and soft tissue densities are inhomogeneous in C and D.

(Table 2, 3). Q30 2 3 가 Q120 2
 1 가
 가 가
 .3 가 Q30 3 가
 가 Q70 가
 가 Q70
 가 Q70
 가 96

Table 3. Soft Tissue Homogeneity

	Reader 1					Reader 2					Reader 3				
	-2	-1	0	1	2*	-2	-1	0	1	2	-2	-1	0	1	2
UC: Q30 CM	1	4	20	7	0	5	11	8	3	5	1	1	22	8	0
UC: Q70 CM	0	0	8	11	13	0	3	3	6	20	0	0	6	14	12
UC: Q120 CM	0	0	3	4	25	1	0	0	2	29	0	0	1	3	28

UC: uncompressed image

CM: compressed image

* same as in table 1.

Table 4. Frequency of Selections as a Better One in Each Pair of Uncompressed and Compressed Images. (binomial distribution test)

	Reader 1			Reader 2			Reader 3			All readers		
UC: Q30 CM	21:	11	(.112)	12:	20	(.216)	21:	11	(.112)	54:	42	(.262)
UC: Q70 CM	30:	2	(.000)	27:	5	(.000)	30:	2	(.000)	87:	9	(.000)
UC: Q120 CM	30:	2	(.000)	31:	1	(.000)	32:	0	(.000)	93:	3	(.000)

UC: uncompressed image

CM: compressed image



Fig. 2. Aneurysmal bone cyst in the distal femur.

There is no identifiable difference between uncompressed (A) and compressed image with Q factor 30 (B). On compressed image with Q factor 120 (D), border of the lesion is more indistinct than on A and B, internal trabeculations are fuzzy, and soft tissues are inhomogeneous. To lesser degree, compressed image with Q factor 70 (C) also shows these patterns of image degradation.

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Computed Radiography in Skeletal Imaging: Visual Assessment of Compressed Image Quality¹

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Purpose : To evaluate the effect of lossy image compression on skeletal images and to determine the compression ratio which does not lead to difficulties when images are interpreted for diagnostic purposes.

Materials and Methods : Thirty-two computed radiographs (CR) of osteolytic bone tumors were obtained from Picture Archiving and Communication System. They were compressed to three different levels (Q factor 30, 70, 120) using the JPEG (Joint Photographic Expert Group) technique. Ninety-six pairs of uncompressed and compressed images were randomly ordered and then serially displayed on two high-resolution monitors. During a side-by-side review, three radiologists independently compared each pair of uncompressed and compressed images, and these were rated once using a five-category ordinal scale for tumor-related findings, linear structures, and soft tissues. The reviewers were then obliged to decide which image in each pair was of better quality, and finally, they were asked to evaluate the influence of image compression on diagnostic accuracy.

Results : The reviewers found no significant difference in image quality between uncompressed and compressed images with a Q factor 30. Compressed images with a Q factor of 70 or 120, however, revealed clinically relevant degradation. Among 96 observations of compressed images, 15 with a Q factor of 70 and 35 with a Q factor of 120 were considered inadequate for clinical purposes.

Conclusion : If the JPEG technique is used, compressed CR skeletal images with a Q factor of 30 are acceptable for clinical application. Compressed images with a Q factor of 70 or 120 may, however, cause diagnostic difficulty and thus cannot be used for clinical purposes.

Index words : Images, quality
Images, processing
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