

1

: (bolus-tagging method) (peak arterial enhancement time) , .  
 : 4 3 FISP (contrast-enhanced 3D FISP MR angiography) 81 . 33  
 Gd-DTPA (gadolinium-diethylenetriamine pentaacetic acid) 1ml  
 (bolus-tagging method) 1 1 30 turbo-FLASH (time-to-signal intensity curve) , (optimal scan delay time) 48

0.2mM/kg Gd-DTPA (automatic power injector) , 10 3  
 가 (visibility) 4  
 : 32 (97%), 40 (83%)  
 (p>.05). 가 가 30 (91%),  
 33 (69%) (p=.0197). 가  
 31 (94%), 36 (75%) (p=.2367).  
 가 (r=.443, p=.0098),  
 (p>.05).  
 : 가  
 가

Gd-DTPA (gadolinium-diethylenetriamine pentaacetic acid) , (blood-to-background contrast) 가  
 , (1,2).  
 , 가 , ,  
 가 가 ,  
 T1 (3,4).  
 가

Gd-DTPA 1 ml  
 bolus-tagging method)

(bo-

1 )

(Bolus-tagging method)

가

Gd-DTPA 1 ml

20 ml

4 ml

(ROI = region of interest)

1

1 30

turbo-FLASH (turbo-fast low-

angle shot)

TR/TE, 5.8 msec/2.4 msec; flip angle, 8°; field of view, 350 mm; matrix size 128×256; slice thickness, 10 mm; acquisition time, 31 sec

4 3 FISP (fast imaging with steady-state precession) 81

1998 1 2

3 FISP

33

(Fig. 1).

21-82 ( : 51 ) 7 ,  
 7 , 4 , 4 , 6 ,

2 , 3 ( , , ,  
 1 )

1997 11 12 3 FISP

48

29 , 19 ,  
 26-84 ( : 60 )

10 , 24 , 4 , 4 , 3 ,

7 ( , , , , ,

$$Td = Tp - 1/4 Ta$$

Td: optimal scan delay time

Tp: arterial peak enhancement time

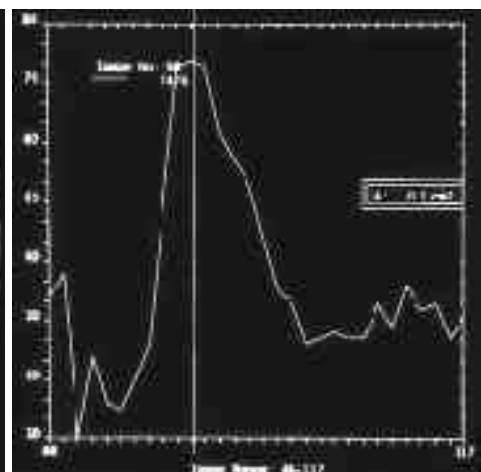
Ta: acquisition time

1.5-T (Magnetom Vision; Siemens, Erlangen, Germany) (phased-array body coil) (gradient-echo)

3 FISP TR/TE, 4.2 msec/1.7 msec; flip angle, 25°; field of view, 350×400 mm; matrix size 125×256; slab thickness, 96 mm; acquisition time, 31 sec



A



B

Fig.1 An example of contrast-enhanced 3D FISP abdominal MR angiography.

A. An image with bolus-tagging method. The region of interest (ROI) is positioned in the aorta. Sequential 30 images are acquired after administration of 1ml Gd-DTPA with 20 ml saline flush.

B. The time-to-signal intensity curve with bolus-tagging method. Signal intensity is displayed graphically as a function of time to determine the peak arterial enhancement time. Optimal scan delay time is calculated using the equation that mentioned in the text.

tion time, 16 sec

1 kg 0.2 mM Gd-DTPA

4 ml

kal-Wallis test

가 modified Krus-

Pearson's correlation

10

20

MIP (maximum intensity projection)

3

1 (Table 1).  
(Grade 2)32 (97 %) (Fig. 2A), 48 40  
(83%) (p>.05)

가 3 (Grade 0=invisible arterial image), 1

(Grade 0=invisible arterial image), 1

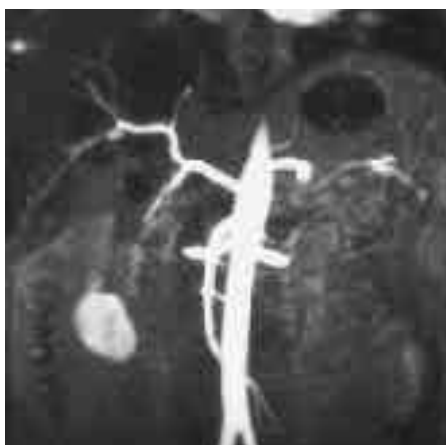
가 (Grade 1=venous overlay in arterial phase), 2  
(Grade 2=arterial image only)(Grade 0) 1  
(2%).  
(Grade 1) 1 (2%), 7 (15%)  
(Fig. 2B).가 2 (Table 1).  
가 3 4 가  
(Fig. 3A), 30 (91%),33 (69%)  
(p=.0197). 가 2 (Fig. 3B), 3 13 가 4 가  
(Fig. 4A), 31 (94%), 36가 (Grade 1=not visible), 2  
가 (Grade 2=visible but not diagnostic), 3  
가 (Grade 3=visible and diagnostic), 4  
(Grade 4=good visibility and diagnostic)

Table 1. Arterial Image Successfulness between Two Groups

	Study Group (n= 33)	Control Group (n= 48)
Grade*		
0	0	1
1	1	7
2	32	40

Study group: with bolus-tagging method ; Control group: without bolus-tagging method

\*Grade 0= invisible arterial image ; Grade 1= venous overlay in arterial phase ; and Grade 2= artery image only.



A



B

Fig. 2. Examples of arterial image successfulness in the arterial phase.

A. See the excellent arterial image when using the bolus-tagging method, which is the example of grade 2. No venous overlay is seen.

B. Venous overlay with arterial image (white arrows) on the first phase. See the portal vein (black arrows) that is simultaneously demonstrated in the arterial phase (grade 1) because of improper scan delay time. The bolus-tagging method was not performed.

(75 %) 가 (p = .2367), 9-25 15.9  
 (Fig. 4B), 2 11 가 2 가  
 (r = .326, p = .079) (r = .443, p = .0098),  
 (r = .150, p = .428)  
 (Fig. 5).

Table 2. Vascular Visibility of Artery and Vein

	Artery		Vein	
	Study Group	Control Group	Study Group	Control Group
Grade <sup>†</sup>				
1	0	2	0	1
2	3	13	2	11
3	9	18	15	15
4	21	15	16	21

<sup>†</sup> Grade 1= not visible, Grade 2= visible but not diagnostic; Grade 3= visible and diagnostic; and Grade 4= good visibility and diagnostic.

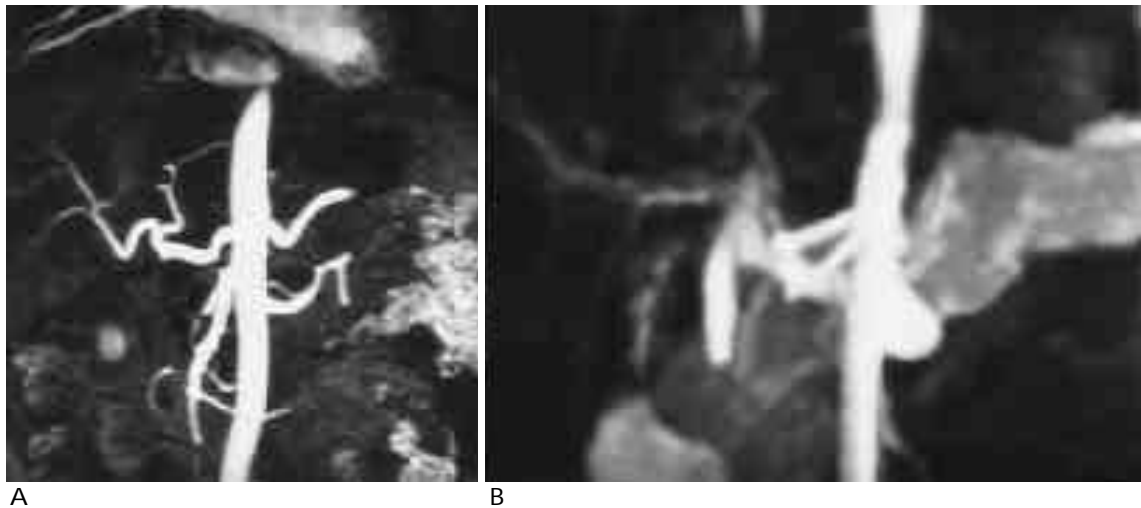


Fig. 3. Arterial visibility in the arterial phase.

A. Hepatic, superior mesenteric and splenic arteries are well displayed when using bolus-tagging method, which is grade 4.  
 B. See the blurred hepatic artery with contrast enhancement. Vascular invasion was not diagnostic with this image (grade 2).

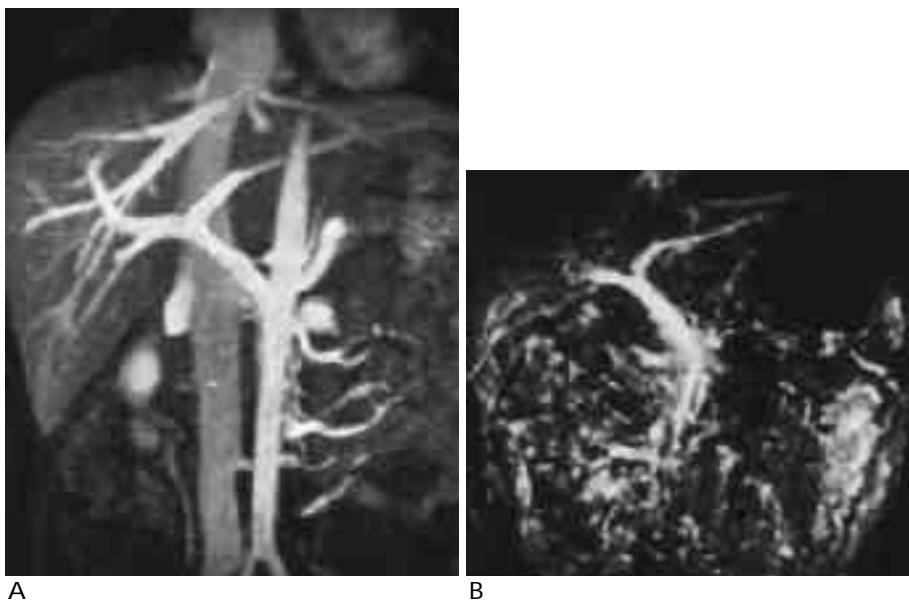


Fig. 4. Venous visibility in the venous phase.

A. The portal and splenic veins are seen very clearly (grade 4). The middle hepatic vein, which is located on the same two dimensional plane with portal vein, is demonstrated at the same time.

B. The splenic vein and second order branch of right portal vein are faintly seen (grade 2), although the first order branches are well enhanced.

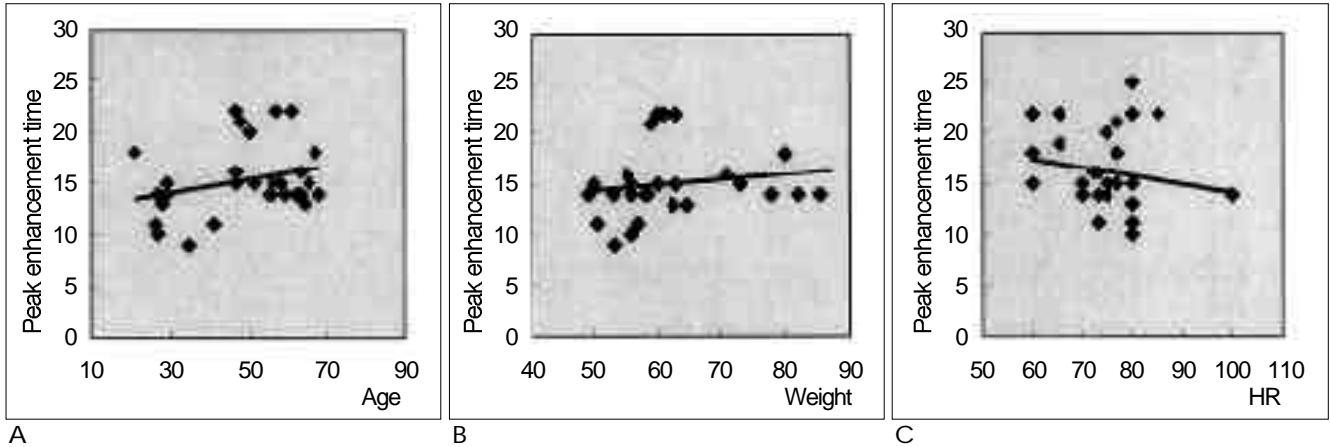


Fig. 5. Relation between peak arterial enhancement time and age, weight or heart rate.

A. Peak arterial enhancement time prolonged significantly as increasing the age ( $r = .443$ ,  $p = .0098$ ).

B, C. No correlation was seen between peak arterial enhancement time with weight ( $p > .05$ ) or heart rate ( $p > .05$ ).

가 , 가 , Hany  
(7) 4 ml 2  
가  
(5). 가 99.7% ,  
T1  
(6,7). 가  
Gd-DTPA Earls (4)  
MIP 3 15 ml 가 1 ml  
가 , 가 ( $p < .001$ ).  
(3,4). 가 가 ( 4-5 )  
(k-space)  
가 (8-10). (11), 가  
(threshold) 가  
(Smartprep) (12) 가 가  
(3-4,11-12).  
Gd-DTPA 1 ml 1 가 가  
30 가  
10 가  
MIP 3  
가  
( $p > .05$ ),  
가 ( $p = .2367$ ) 가  
( $p = .0197$ )

가

가

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## Value of a Bolus-Tagging Method on Contrast-Enhanced Abdominal MR Angiography

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**Purpose :** To assess the value of the bolus-tagging method for improving the image quality of contrast-enhanced MR abdominal angiography, and to evaluate the relationship between peak arterial enhancement time and patients' age, weight and heart rate.

**Materials and Methods :** Contrast-enhanced 3D FISP abdominal MR angiography was performed in 81 patients during a four-month period. The bolus-tagging method was used in a study group comprising 33 patients, and to this end, 1 ml of Gd-DTPA (gadolinium-diethylenetriamine penta-acetic acid) was administered. thirty sequential images (1 image/sec) were then obtained using turbo-FLASH sequencing. After determining peak arterial enhancement time from the time-to-signal intensity curve, optimal scan delay time can be calculated according to the formula used in our patient series. The 48 patients in whom the bolus-tagging method was not used comprised the control group; in the study group scanning commenced at the optimal scan delay time (and at 10 seconds in the control group) after the administration of 0.2 mM/kg Gd-DTPA using an automatic power injector. Using a three-point scale we evaluated and compared between the two groups the success with which arterial images were obtained. In addition, vascular visibility -an indication of the quality of arteries and veins-was determined using a four-point scale. In the study group, the relationship between peak arterial enhancement time and patients' age, weight heart rate was also assessed.

**Results :** Pure arterial images were successfully obtained in 32 patients (97%) in the study group and in 40 (83%) in the control group. This difference was not statistically significant ( $p > .05$ ). With regard to vascular visibility, diagnostic arterial images were seen in 30 patients (91%) in the study group and in 33 patients (69%) in the control group; arterial visibility was significantly better in the study group ( $p = .0197$ ). On the other hand, the diagnostic venous images were seen in 31 patients (94%) in the study group and in 36 (75%) in the control group; there was no significant difference between the two groups ( $p = .2367$ ). Peak arterial enhancement time increased significantly with age ( $r = .443$ ,  $p = .0098$ ); no correlation, however was seen between peak arterial enhancement time and weight ( $p > .05$ ) or heart rate ( $p > .05$ ).

**Conclusion :** Used with contrast-enhanced 3-D FISP MR abdominal angiography, the bolus-tagging method provides better arterial visibility. Peak arterial enhancement time increased significantly with age.

**Index words :** Gadolinium

Magnetic resonance (MR), contrast enhancement

Magnetic resonance (MR), vascular studies

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