

MR

:

MR

SPIO

1

가  
가  
:  
49  
21, 가 6  
SPIO  
- (Conventional Spin Echo; T2 -, proton-density  
Echo; TSE) CSE) (Turbo Spin  
T1 - (Fast low-  
angle shot, T1wFLASH), Fourier (half-Fourier-acquisition single-shot-TSE,  
HASTE), T2\*- (fast imaging with steady state  
precession, T2\*wFISP), T2 - (Breath-hold -TSE,  
T2wBHTSE)  
(Signal to Noise ratio,  
S/N) (Percentage of signal  
intensity loss, PSIL) (Contrast to Noise  
ratio, C/N) (Image artifact)  
(Lesion conspicuity)  
:  
S/N  
S/N  
PSIL T2\*wFISP 가  
(P < 0.05). T2 CSE T2\*wFISP PSIL  
T2 TSE (P < 0.05). C/N T2\*wFISP  
가 (P < 0.05), T2-TSE HASTE T2\*wFISP C/N  
T2\*wFISP  
(P < 0.05). (sensitivity)  
T1wFLASH 가  
T2\*wFISP T2wTSE 가  
: SPIO  
T2\*wFISP 가  
TSE T1 FLASH 가

1  
2  
3

1999 11 12 2000 3 13

				SPIO	MR
				MR 1.5T (Magnetom Vision; Siemens, Erlangen, Germany)	
(1-2).	가	(phased array multi-coil)			
				가	
				T2 -	
PIO)	가 (superparamagnetic iron oxide, (reticuloendothelial system) MR (Kupffer) T2	(3-4).	S-	proton - (T2-weighted and proton density-weighted spin echo, T2wSE ,PDwSE) T2 - proton - (T2-weighted and proton density-weighted turbo spin echo, T2wTSE ,PDwTSE )	
				(6-	; 1)
13).	SPIO	가	(Spin echo, SE)- repetition time [ TR ]/echo time [ TE ] = 3200-5500/80/20, flip angle [ FA ]= 90 °, a signal acquisition, acquisition time [ TA ]= 9min 42sec, 2) (Turbo spine echo, TSE)- TR/TE / = 3300-5500/85/14, echo train length = 5, FA=180 °, TA=4min16sec, two signal acquisition, a 192 × 256 matrix.		
				가 가 , (6-13).	
				SPIO	1) T1 (Fast low-angle shot, T1wFLASH)-TR/TE = 140/12, FA=80 °, TA=16sec, a signal acquisition, a 219 × 319 matrix, 2) T2* (fast imaging with steady state precession, T2*wFISP)-TR/TE = 180/12, FA=30 °, TA=19sec, a signal acquisition, a 120 × 256 matrix, 3) Fourier (half-Fourier-acquisition single-shot-TSE, HASTE) - TR/TE = /64, FA=150 °, TA=17sec, a signal acquisition, a 219 × 350 matrix, 4) T2 (T2-weighted Breath-hold-turbo spin echo, T2wBHTSE) - TR/TE = 3200/138, echo train length=29, FA=180 °, TA=17sec, a signal acquisition, a 263 × 350 matrix
(14-19).	가 - SPIO		MR		
				SPIO (Feridex; Advanced Magnetics, Cambridge, U.S.A.)	
				5ml	11.2 mg (iron)
				5%	100 ml
				10 μmol/kg	30
				1998 5 1999 7 80	
				SPIO 27 49	
				10 2 ml/min	4 ml/min
				. 5	
				14 , 20 ( -FP) 가	
				2-4 CT , CT, CT, CT, (Quantitative Analysis) 8가 SPIO ,	
				가 (region of interest, ROI )	(phase en-
				30 2.72cm 0.5-7.5cm	coding direction)

Parameter	Definition	Calculation	Unit
1. S/N: (Signal to Noise ratio, S/N)	(Signal to Noise ratio, S/N)	$\frac{\text{Signal}}{\text{Noise}}$	dB
2. PSIL: (Percentage of Signal Interference Loss, PSIL)	(Percentage of Signal Interference Loss, PSIL)	$\frac{\text{Signal} - \text{Interference}}{\text{Signal}} \times (-100)$	dB
3. C/N: (Contrast to Noise ratio, C/N)	(Contrast to Noise ratio, C/N)	$\frac{\text{Contrast}}{\text{Noise}}$	dB

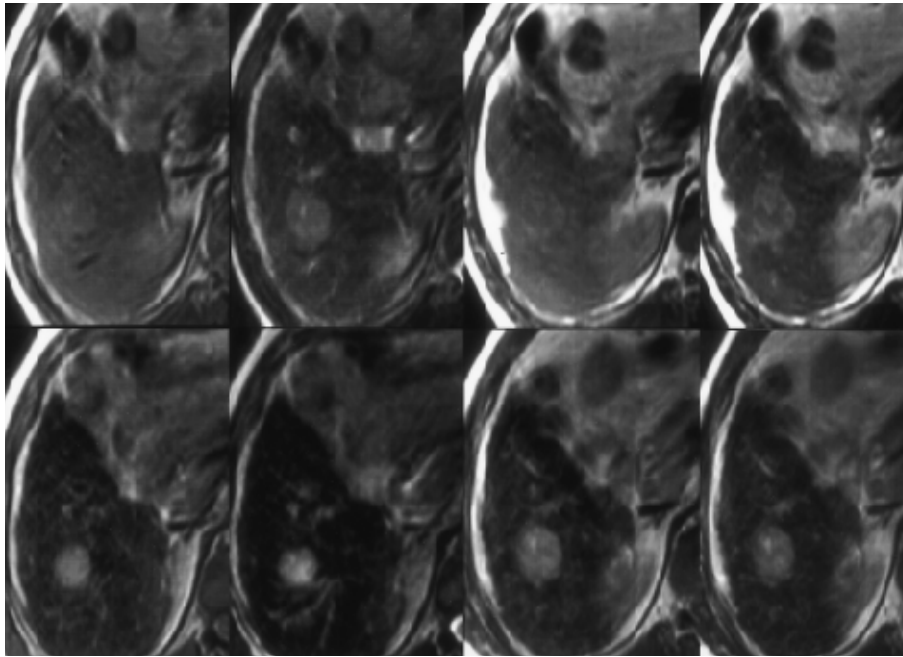
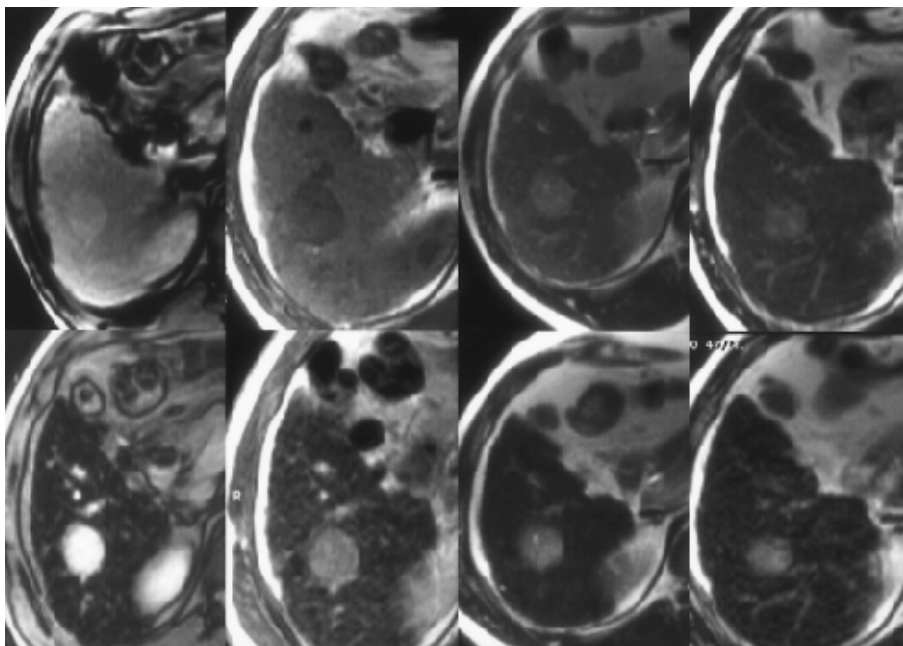


Fig. 1. 65-year-old man with a hepatocellular carcinoma in segment 5.

A. Pre- (top) and postcontrast (bottom) MR images with non-breath-hold MR technique. First column: PDwSE image. Second column: T2wSE image. Third column: PDwTSE image. Fourth column: T2wTSE image.

B. Pre- (top) and postcontrast (bottom) MR images with breath-hold MR technique. First column: T2\*wFISP image. Second column: T1wFLASH image. Third column: HASTE image. Fourth column: T2wbHTSE image.

There is a decrease in signal intensity of the liver with a resulting increase in liver to lesion contrast on the postcontrast images. The degree of decrease in liver signal intensity is more apparent in T2wSE image (second column in A) of non-breath-hold images and in T2\*wFISP image (first column in B) of breath-hold images.



SPIO                      MR

8가                      MR

가  
(Lesion conspicuity)

(Image artifact)

가 가(unacceptable, 1),                      (poor, 2),  
(fair, 3),                      (good, 4)                      (excellent, 5)

Wilcoxon signed ranks test  
(p < 0.05).

3cm                      , 3cm

5cm, 5cm

가 가

paired student t-test  
(p < 0.05).

Table 1. Quantitative Analysis: Effect of SPIO Enhancement on S/Ns in 27 Patients with Hepatocellular Carcinoma

MR Pulse Sequence	Tumor S/N	Liver S/N <sup>†</sup>
T2wSE		
precontrast	7.08 ± 4.73	4.42 ± 2.52
postcontrast	7.42 ± 5.36	1.90 ± 0.84
PDwSE		
precontrast	10.21 ± 7.41	9.00 ± 5.31
postcontrast	12.03 ± 6.12	6.37 ± 3.44
T2wTSE		
precontrast	8.63 ± 4.26	6.00 ± 2.57
postcontrast	9.28 ± 5.37	3.45 ± 1.99
PDwTSE		
precontrast	15.57 ± 14.46	13.46 ± 10.26
postcontrast	14.13 ± 8.63	8.51 ± 4.67
T1wFLASH		
precontrast	11.90 ± 4.76	14.29 ± 5.40
postcontrast	12.81 ± 5.81	9.33 ± 3.88
HASTE		
precontrast	13.78 ± 5.70	10.27 ± 3.71
postcontrast	13.03 ± 4.79	6.44 ± 2.77
T2*wFISP		
precontrast	13.02 ± 5.90	11.66 ± 5.30
postcontrast	16.19 ± 7.86*	3.66 ± 2.34
T2wBHTSE		
precontrast	7.14 ± 2.65	4.48 ± 1.40
postcontrast	6.01 ± 3.23	2.15 ± 0.77

Note - Numbers are mean ± standard deviation.

\* - Mean tumor S/N of postcontrast image was higher (p < .05) than that of precontrast image in T2\*wFISP sequence.

In other sequence images, There are no significant differences (p > .05) in tumor S/Ns between pre- and postcontrast images.

† - Every mean S/Ns of postcontrast image was lower (p < .05) than those of precontrast image of liver.

SPIO

S/N

(Table 1, Fig. 1).

SPIO

S/N

S/N

가

27 PSIL

T2\*wFISP

66.7% 가

T2wSE T2wTSE

54.7% 43.7% PSIL

Table 2. Quantitative Analysis: Percentage of Signal Loss Intensity of Liver Parenchyme in 27 Liver Cirrhosis Patients

MR Pulse Sequence	PSIL *	Rank
Non-Breath hold sequence		
T2wSE	54.71 ± 17.28	2 <sup>†</sup>
PDwSE	30.97 ± 18.16	6
T2wTSE	43.66 ± 18.05	3 <sup>†</sup>
PDwTSE	29.05 ± 15.94	7
Breath hold sequence		
T1wFLASH	19.44 ± 18.88	8
HASTE	35.52 ± 19.31	5
T2*wFISP	66.69 ± 16.26	1 <sup>†</sup>
T2wBHTSE	42.34 ± 13.08	4

Note - Numbers are mean ± standard deviation.

\* - PSIL means percentage of signal loss intensity of liver.

= [(SI enhanced - SI unenhanced) / SI unenhanced] × 100

† - The PSIL of T2\*wFISP image is the highest of others images.

\* - These two images have higher PSIL than other images significantly (p < .05) except T2\*wFISP.

Table 3. Quantitative Analysis: Lesion-to-Liver Contrast-to-Noise Ratio of Hepatocellular Carcinoma

MR Pulse Sequence	Precontrast Image		Postcontrast Image	
	C/N	Rank	C/N	Rank
Non-Breath hold sequence				
T2wSE	2.65 ± 3.11	3	5.51 ± 4.96	6
PDwSE	1.21 ± 2.59	7	5.65 ± 4.94	5
T2wTSE	2.62 ± 2.29	4	5.82 ± 4.20	3
PDwTSE	2.10 ± 5.11	5	5.82 ± 4.52	4
Breath hold sequence				
T1wFLASH	2.40 ± 3.78	8	3.38 ± 2.79	8
HASTE	3.51 ± 3.18	1	6.59 ± 3.66	2
T2*wFISP	1.36 ± 2.67	6	12.53 ± 6.61	1*
T2wBHTSE	2.66 ± 1.96	2	3.85 ± 2.83	7

Note - Datas are given as mean ± standard deviation.

\* - The C/N of T2\*wFISP image is highest of other images (p < .05).

( $p < 0.05$ ) (Table 2, Fig. 1). T2\*wFISP T2wTSE 가 T2wBHTSE T2wSE, . 3cm T2\*wFISP T2wSE, 가 C/N (p < 0.05), HASTE T2wTSE 가 (94%). T2wSE, C/N 가 (Table 3). T1w-FLASH PDwTSE PDwSE . 가 , 가 (p < 0.05). T2\*wFISP (Table 4, Fig. 2). 가 가 (1-2). T1wFLASH 가 3 cm (Table 5). T2\*wFISP SPIO (reticuloendothelial system ) SPIO (3-4).

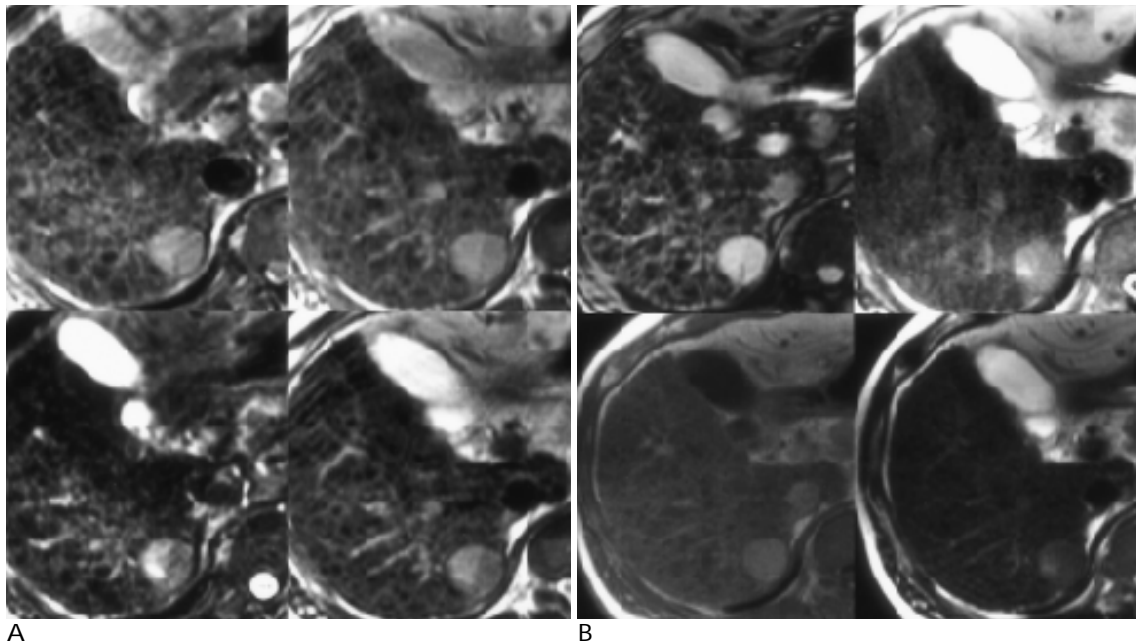


Fig. 2. Postcontrast images of 45-year-old man with a hepatocellular carcinoma in segment 6. This patient had severe degree of liver cirrhosis (child class C)

A. Non-breath-hold images with SE and TSE MR technique.

Top left: PDwSE image. Bottom left: T2wSE image. Top right: PDwTSE image. Bottom right: T2wTSE image.

B. Breath-hold images. Top left: T2\*wFISP image. Bottom left: T1wFLASH image. Top right: HASTE image. Bottom right: T2wBHTSE image.

A tumor in segment 6 is depicted more conspicuous in four non-breath-hold images (A) and breath-hold T2\*wFISP image (top left in B) than other non-breath-hold images. The lesion-to-liver contrast is worst in the T2wBHTSE image (bottom right in B). The normal hepatic anatomy is not seen as well on the HASTE image (top right in B) because of increased inherent blurring.

Table 4. Qualitative Analysis: Lesion Conspicuity and Image Artifact of Various Sequences

MR Pulse Sequence	Lesion Conspicuity	Image Artifact
Non-Breath hold sequences		
T2wSE		
precontrast	3.3 ± 1.0	3.1 ± 0.9
postcontrast	4.1 ± 1.1*	3.4 ± 0.7
PDwSE		
precontrast	2.7 ± 1.5	2.9 ± 0.9
postcontrast	4.4 ± 0.8*	3.4 ± 0.7
T2wTSE		
precontrast	3.5 ± 1.1	3.0 ± 0.9
postcontrast	4.6 ± 0.7*	3.5 ± 0.8
PDwTSE		
precontrast	2.7 ± 1.0	3.0 ± 0.8
postcontrast	4.4 ± 0.7*	3.6 ± 0.7
Breath hold sequences		
T1wFLASH		
precontrast	2.6 ± 1.2	4.6 ± 0.7
postcontrast	3.4 ± 1.3	4.6 ± 0.5 <sup>+</sup>
HASTE		
precontrast	2.3 ± 0.9	4.6 ± 0.6
postcontrast	2.7 ± 1.5	4.3 ± 0.5 <sup>+</sup>
T2*wFISP		
precontrast	2.8 ± 1.3	4.2 ± 0.6
postcontrast	4.6 ± 0.9*	4.6 ± 0.5 <sup>+</sup>
T2wBHTSE		
precontrast	2.9 ± 0.9	4.2 ± 0.6
postcontrast	3.4 ± 1.3	4.6 ± 0.5

Note - Datas are presented as mean ± standard deviation.

\* - significant difference with postcontrast image of other sequences ( $p < .05$ ).

<sup>+</sup> - Breath hold sequences has lower image artifact than non Breath hold sequences ( $p < .05$ ).

Table 5. Number of Lesions Detected with Various Pulse Sequences Determined by the Size of the Lesion

MR Pulse Sequence	Diameter of Lesions			
	< 3cm(n= 36)	3-5cm(n= 4)	5cm(n= 9)	Total(n= 49)
Non-Breath hold sequences				
T2wSE				
precontrast	23/36(64%)	3/4(75%)	9/9(100%)	35/49(71%)
postcontrast	30/36(83%)	3/4(75%)	9/9(100%)	42/49(86%)
PDwSE				
precontrast	20/36(56%)	3/4(75%)	6/9(67%)	29/49(59%)
postcontrast	32/36(89%)	4/4(100%)	9/9(100%)	45/49(92%)
T2wTSE				
precontrast	24/36(67%)	3/4(75%)	9/9(100%)	36/49(73%)
postcontrast	34/36(94%)*	4/4(100%)	9/9(100%)	47/49(96%) <sup>+</sup>
PDwTSE				
precontrast	23/36(64%)	3/4(75%)	6/9(67%)	32/49(65%)
postcontrast	33/36(92%)	4/4(100%)	9/9(100%)	46/49(94%)
Breath hold sequences				
T1wFLASH				
precontrast	26/36(72%)	3/4(75%)	8/9(87%)	37/49(76%)
postcontrast	26/36(72%)	3/4(75%)	9/9(100%)	38/49(78%)
HASTE				
precontrast	24/36(67%)	3/4(75%)	9/9(100%)	36/49(73%)
postcontrast	31/36(86%)	4/4(100%)	9/9(100%)	44/49(90%)
T2*wFISP				
precontrast	19/36(53%)	3/4(75%)	6/9(67%)	28/49(57%)
postcontrast	34/36(94%)*	4/4(100%)	9/9(100%)	47/49(96%) <sup>+</sup>
T2wBHTSE				
precontrast	26/36(72%)	3/4(75%)	7/9(78%)	36/49(73%)
postcontrast	31/36(86%)	3/4(75%)	9/9(100%)	43/49(88%)

Note - Datas are presented as detected lesions divided by total lesions. Numbers in parentheses are sensitivities in percentages.

Postcontrast images have higher detectability than precontrast images except in T1wFLASH ( $p < .05$ ).

\* - In lesions smaller than 3 cm , the sensitivity of postcontrast T2wTSE and T2\*wFISP images is higher than that of other postcontrast images.

But, there is significant difference only with SET2 and T1wFLASH images ( $p < .05$ ).

<sup>+</sup> - In total cases of lesion, postcontrast T2wTSE and T2\*wFISP show highest sensitivity. And significant difference exists only with breath hold T2TSE , SET2 and T1wFLASH images ( $p < .05$ ).

SPIO 80%가 (5).

SPIO

가

T2

가

가 , T2 SPIO

가 가

(6-13). S/N 가 S/N

SPIO가

가 가

가 (14-19). SPIO

T2- sequence

가 MR

SPIO 가 PSIL 4가 가

sequence SPIO 가

T2\* FISP T2\*wFISP 가

SPIO 가

가

refocusing (16).  
 pulse가  
 T2\* sequence  
 T1  
 Flip angle  
 , PSIL  
 SE가 TSE  
 TSE  
 180 re-  
 focusing pulse  
 (16).  
 SPIO가  
 T2wBHTSE  
 T1wFLASH  
 가  
 가  
 C/N  
 Gradient echo T2\* -weighted sequence  
 (TR/TE=300/15) 가  
 가  
 T2\*wfISP  
 . Bellin (14)  
 cho-train length  
 가  
 SPIO  
 가  
 TSE가 가  
 SPIO  
 , Stark (22)  
 0.6T  
 T1, T2 가  
 (14) 1.5T  
 가 가  
 Yamamoto (23) 1.5T  
 SE  
 가 TSE  
 가  
 FLASH (50/10, flip angle 40 degree )  
 가 가  
 (hypointense rim)가  
 SPIO 가 (24).  
 SPIO  
 가  
 가 가  
 3cm  
 T1wFLASH  
 가  
 SPIO  
 . Elizondo (25)  
 가  
 가  
 gradient echo  
 T2\*wfISP  
 , 4가  
 HASTE가 SPIO  
 T2\*wfISP  
 , T2\*wfISP  
 가  
 가

					SPIO	MR
가	3cm	FISP	T2wTSE	가	가	
가			가		가	
conspicuity			C/N		T1wFLASH,	T2wTSE
			le-		T1wFLASH, T2*wFISP,	T2w TSE
		T2*wFISP		가		
가		SPIO	T2			
가	가		T2*wFISP			
8가			가	C/N		
		spin echo				
	가	SPIO	MR			
			T2			
가			C/N			
TSE	SE		TSE			
SPIO			T2	TSE		
가			가			
			가			
				SPIO		
T2		가	T2			
Gradin (27)						
가		가				
Poeckler-Schoeniger (28)						
T1wFLASH	PSIL	lesion to liver contrast				
	가					
	가		SPIO	MR		
, SPIO	T1					
		SPIO	T2			
			T2			
			T1wFLASH			
가	Grangier (29)					
SPIO	T1wFLASH	T1				
		T1wFLASH				

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## SPIO-enhanced MR Imaging for HCC Detection in Cirrhotic Patient : Comparison of Various Techniques for Optimal Sequence Selection<sup>1</sup>

In-Hwan Kim, M.D., Jeong-Min Lee, M.D., Hyo-Sung Kwak, M.D., Chong-Soo Kim, M.D.,  
Tae Kon Kim, M.D.<sup>2</sup>, Soo Tiek Lee, M.D.<sup>2</sup>, Hee Chul Yu, M.D.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Diagnostic Radiology, Chonbuk National University Hospital

<sup>2</sup>Department of Internal Medicine, Chonbuk National University Medical School

<sup>3</sup>Department of General Surgery, Chonbuk National University Medical School

**Purpose:** To compare the efficacy of breathhold and non-breathhold sequences in the detection of hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) in cirrhotic patients using superparamagnetic iron oxide (SPIO)-enhanced MR imaging, and to determine the optimal sequence combination.

**Materials and Methods:** By means of unenhanced and iron-oxide-enhanced MRI, 29 patients with 49 nodular HCCs were evaluated for the presence of HCC nodules. Twenty-one were male and eight were female, and their ages ranged from 38 to 71 (mean, 56) years. Eight different MR sequences were used, including four non-breath-hold sequences and four breath-hold, and images were obtained before and after the administration of SPIO particles. Non-breath-hold sequences included T2-, proton density-weighted SE, and TSE imaging, while breath-hold sequences comprised T1-weighted fast low-angle shot (T1wFLASH), half-Fourier acquisition single shot turbo spine echo (HASTE), T2-weighted fast imaging with steady-state free precession (T2\*wFISP) and T2-weighted breath-hold TSE (T2wBHTSE). Image analysis involved both quantitative and qualitative analysis. The quantitative parameters calculated were signal-to-noise (S/N) ratios for livers and tumors, contrast to noise (C/N) ratios for tumors seen on precontrast and postcontrast images, and percentage of signal intensity loss (PSIL) after SPIO injection. Images were analysed qualitatively in terms of image artifacts and lesion conspicuity, and prior to calculating sensitivity, the numbers of lesions detected using various pulse sequences were counted.

**Results:** SPIO had a marked effect on liver S/N ratio but a minimal effect on tumor S/N ratio. PSIL was best in T2\*wFISP images, while T2wSE images showed the second-best results ( $p < 0.05$ ). Tumor-to-liver C/N values were also highest with T2\*wFISP, while T2wTSE and HASTE images were next. Qualitative study showed that non-breath hold images and FISP were better than breath hold images in terms of lesion conspicuity. The latter, however, were much better than non-breath-hold images with regard to image artifacts ( $p < 0.05$ ). Sensitivity after the injection of contrast material increased in every image sequence except T1wFLASH, and, in particular, postcontrast FISP and T2wTSE showed the best results ( $p > 0.05$ ).

**Conclusion:** SPIO-enhanced MR imaging effectively detected hepatocellular carcinoma in cirrhotic livers. In terms of lesion detection and improvement of the lesion to liver C/N ratio, the FISP sequence was at least as good as non-breath-hold sequences, but if the T2 suppression effect of SPIO is to be obtained, other breath-hold sequences are not appropriate. To help lesion characterization, we suggest that T1w-FLASH and non-breath-hold T2w-TSE imaging are added to the optimal SPIO-enhanced MR imaging sequence.

### Index words : Iron

Liver, MR

Liver, neoplasms

Magnetic resonance (MR), contrast enhancement

Magnetic resonance (MR), comparative studies

Address reprint requests to : Jeong-Min Lee, M.D., Department of Diagnostic Radiology, Chonbuk National University Hospital  
634-18, Keumam-Dong, Chonju-shi, Chon Buk 561-712, Korea.  
Tel. 82-652-250-1152 Fax. 82-652-272-0481