

## 3

1

2

2

:

,

:

60 ( : =30:30, 60.1 )

(30 , A )

(30 , B

)

5

1 mL

excellent, good, moderate, poor 4

4

:

(B )

30 excel -

lent good

23 (76.7%) 5 (16.7%)

(A )

30

13 (43.3%) 9 (30.0%)

가 ( $p<0.05$ ).

4

3

30 28 (93.3%)

20 (66.7%)

( $p<0.05$ ).A  $27.3 \pm 17.8$ , B  $67.1 \pm 16.1$ ( $p<0.05$ ).

:

가

가

(MR angiography, MRA)

MRA

(time of flight sequence:

TOF)

(phased contrast sequence: PC)

(duplex ultrasonography)가 가

(1, 2).

(cer -

가

가 가

vical segment)

(very slow blood flow)

(occlusion)

가

(3 - 6).

MRA가 Prince

가

가

(7 - 10).

(paramagnetic)

1

2

2000 5 31

2001 2 12

T1

MRA

(signal to noise ratio)

(flow artifact)

MRA

MRA 가

MRA 가

gadopentetate dimeglumine (Magnevist, Schering, Berlin, Germany) 0.2 mmol/kg 4 mL/sec

MRA

MRA

5 1 9

MRA

(14).

MRA

B

1 mL

20 mL 4 mL

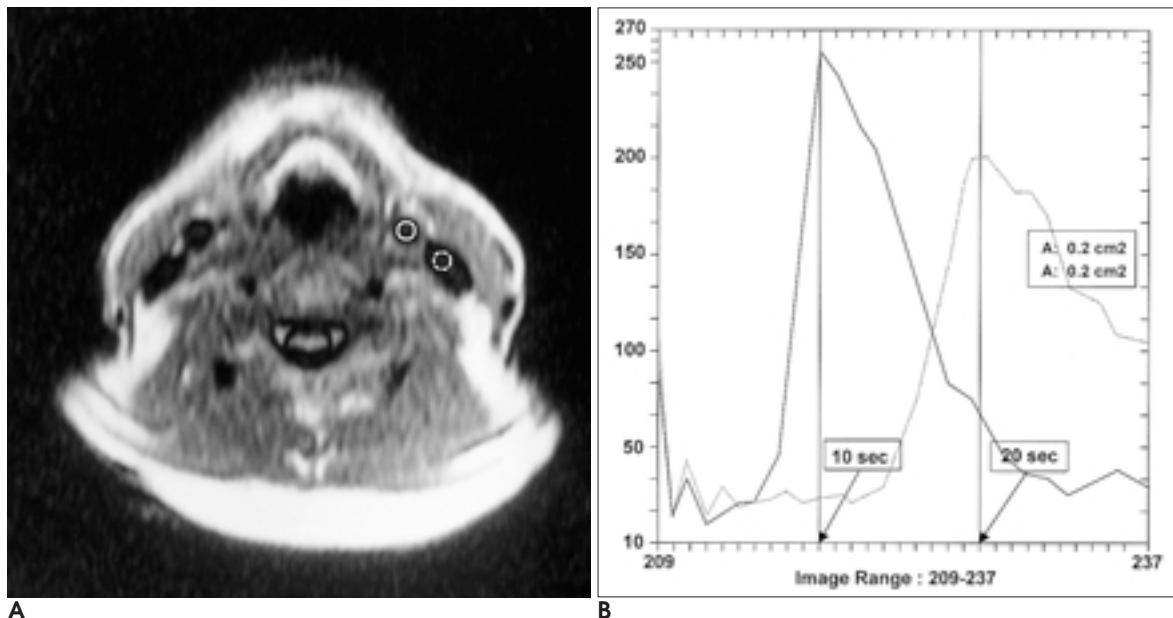
turbo-FLASH sequence (TR/TE/TI=8.5/4.0/100 ms, 10°, 10 mm)

1 60

60

(ROI=region of interest, area=0.2 cm<sup>2</sup>) cursor

(Fig. 1).



**Fig. 1.** Test examination with 1mL bolus of gadopentetate dimeglumine and TurboFLASH sequence(8.5/4.0/100, 10° flip angle).  
**A.** A typical timing image was obtained to calculate the appropriate delay time between the start of contrast agent injection and the start of MR angiographic imaging. The cursor of ROI(region of interest, area = 0.2 cm<sup>2</sup>) was located in carotid bulb and jugular vein for plotting of change of the signal intensity to the time.  
**B.** Signal intensity-versus-time curve for calculating transit time of contrast agent. In this case, the peak contrast enhancement of carotid artery was occurred at 10sec with a 10sec cranial circulation time (X axis denotes the image number of timing examination and Y axis denotes the signal intensity in arbitrary units, solid line; carotid artery, broken line; jugular vein).

(transit time)

MRA

$$\text{Imaging delay time} = \text{transit time} + \text{infusion time}/2 - (\text{imaging time}/2)$$

1.5T (Magnetom Vision, Siemens AG, Erlangen, Germany) CP Neck Array

FLASH (TR/TE=3.2/1.1 msec, 35°, 90°) (Matrix) 96×160, 195×260 mm, 80 mm) 1 9 3  
90° 15° 13  
(Maximal intensity projection: MIP) 가



**Fig. 2.** The grading of the image quality of three-dimensional contrast-enhanced carotid MRA. Four gradings were performed according to homogeneity of signal intensity, uniform distribution and brightness. A. Excellent, B. Good, C. Moderate, D. Poor.

MRA

가

가

4

(excellent)

‘good’

가

‘moderate’

‘poor’

(Fig. 2).

Grade

VI I

‘Grade VI’

‘Grade III’

‘Grade II’

‘Grade I’

(Fig. 3).

2가

(ROI= region of interest, area=0.2

cm<sup>2</sup>)

(contrast to noise ratio)

$$\text{CNR(Contrast to Noise)} = (SI_A - SI_V) / BN_{SD}$$

SI<sub>A</sub> = Signal Intensity of carotid a. in carotid bulb

SI<sub>B</sub> = Signal Intensity of internal jugular v.

BN<sub>SD</sub> = Back ground noise standard deviation

good  
III가

excellent  
Grade IV

test, *p* value 0.05

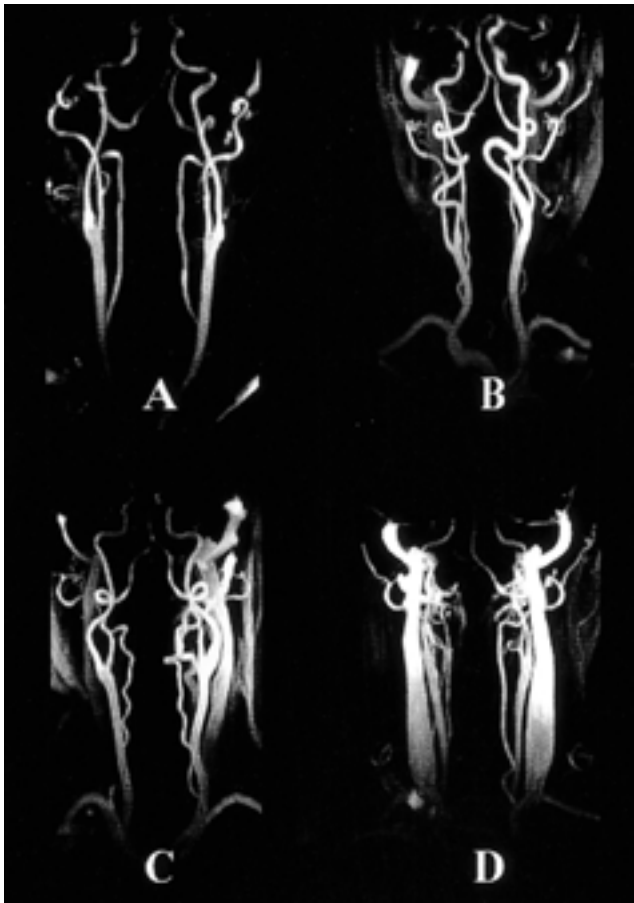
Chi - square

Student t - test

MRA 60 7 (Group A: 3, Group

B: 4)

5 - 7



**Fig. 3.** The grading of the discrimination of the arterial phase from the venous phase on three dimensional contrast enhanced carotid MRA.

- A. Grade IV; Visualization of carotid artery, only.  
 B. Grade III; Visualization of carotid artery and subtle jugular venous enhancement.  
 C. Grade II; Visualization of carotid artery and prominent jugular venous enhancement.  
 D. Grade I; Obscuring of carotid artery by marked jugular venous enhancement.

**Table 1.** Image Quality of Carotid Artery on Ultrafast Contrast-Enhanced MR Angiography

	Excellent	Good	Moderate	Poor
Group A* (n = 30)	13(43.3%)	9(30.0%)	5(16.6%)	3(10.0%)
Group B† (n = 30)	23(76.7%)	5(16.7%)	2(6.6%)	0(0%)

\*, Group using fixed delay time

†, Group using delay time of test bolus examination

**Table 2.** Image Discrimination of Carotid Artery from Jugular Vein on Ultrafast Contrast-Enhanced MR Angiography

	IV	III	II	I
Group A* (n = 30)	14(46.7%)	6(20.0%)	6(20.0%)	4(13.3%)
Group B† (n = 30)	27(90.0%)	1(3.3%)	2(6.6%)	0(0%)

\*, Group using fixed delay time

†, Group using delay time of test bolus examination

( $p < 0.05$ )

$\pm 17.8$  (  $\pm$  ) 27.3  
 $67.1 \pm 16.1$

( $p < 0.05$ ).

2 3 , 3D  
 MRA 가  
 (3 - 6). (vascular contrast)  
 (11).  
 (turbulence), in - plane satu -  
 ration (slow - flow saturation)  
 MRA 가  
 MRA  
 가 가 (7 - 11).  
 T1 MRA  
 in - plane satura -  
 tion 3  
 3 MRA 3 5

barrier) (blood brain  
MRA 가 (12). 0 12 4.2 , 30 3  
performance gradient가 3 -  
5 30 , ,  
MRA가 가 .  
3 MRA 가 가 .  
MRA (13).  
3 MRA .  
3 MRA  
(imaging center)  
(14, 15).  
3 MRA 가 (19).  
10 ,  
(16).  
가 (14).  
5 - 10 ,  
time resolved data set .  
MRA 5 가  
time resolved data set ,  
가 가  
가 가  
MRA ,  
가 , 가 3  
MRA가 가  
가 가  
가 가  
가 가  
가 가  
(17).  
MRA  
Earls  
(18). 3  
MRA 가  
3 MRA  
3 ,  
MRA

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## The Usefulness of Test Bolus Examination in Three-Dimensional Contrast-Enhanced MR Angiography of the Carotid Artery<sup>1</sup>

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**Purpose:** To compare the usefulness of test bolus examination in three-dimensional contrast enhanced MR angiography of the carotid artery with that of the fixed delay time method.

**Materials and Methods:** Sixty consecutive patients (mean age, 60.1 years) in whom carotid arterial disease was suspected and who were examined during a 17-month period were divided into two equal groups. For group A, a fixed delay time of 5 secs was used, while for group B, the delay time of the test bolus examination was calculated from the signal intensity versus time curve of the carotid artery, obtained after the test injection of 1 ml contrast material into the right brachial vein. Overall image quality, discrimination between the arterial and the venous phase, and the contrast-to-noise ratio(CNR) of the carotid artery were compared between the two groups. Overall image quality was classified as excellent, good, moderate or poor, and discrimination between the two phases was graded IV-I according to the degree of jugular venous enhancement.

**Results:** In group A, overall image quality of the carotid artery was classified as excellent or good in 13 (43.3%) and 9 (30.0%) cases, respectively, while in group B the corresponding figures were 23 (76.7%) and 5 (16.7%). The differences between the two groups were statistically significant ( $p < 0.05$ ). In terms of discrimination between the arterial and venous phase, 20 (66.7%) of the 30 cases in group A were assigned grade IV or III, while 28 (93.3%) of the 30 in group B were assigned these same grades ( $p < 0.05$ ). The CNR of the carotid artery was higher in group B( $67.1 \pm 16.1$ ) than in group A( $27.3 \pm 17.8$ ), with statistical significance( $p < 0.05$ ).

**Conclusion:** For examination of the carotid artery, contrast enhanced MR angiography using a test bolus is superior to the fixed delay time method.

**Index words :** Carotid arteries

Magnetic resonance (MR), vascular studies

Magnetic resonance (MR), contrast enhancement

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