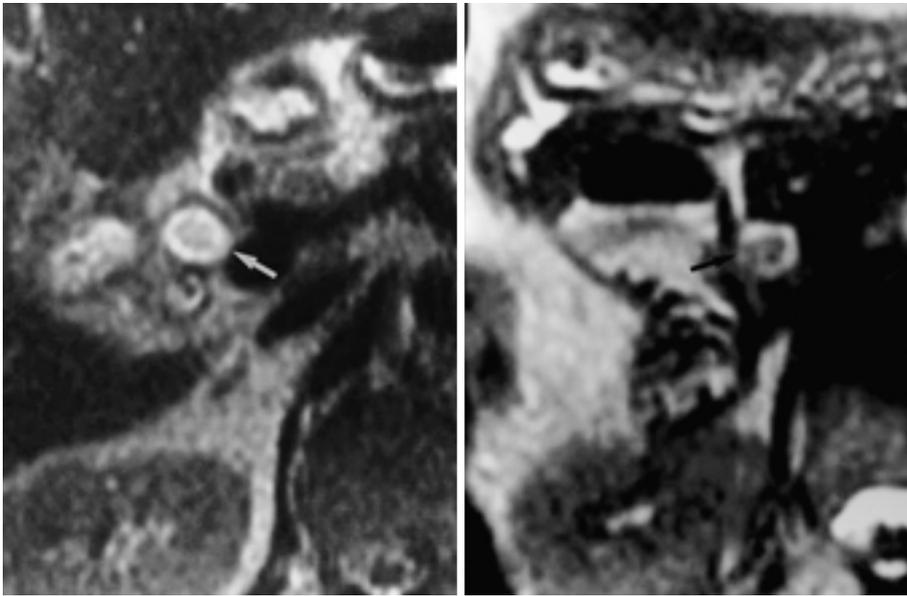


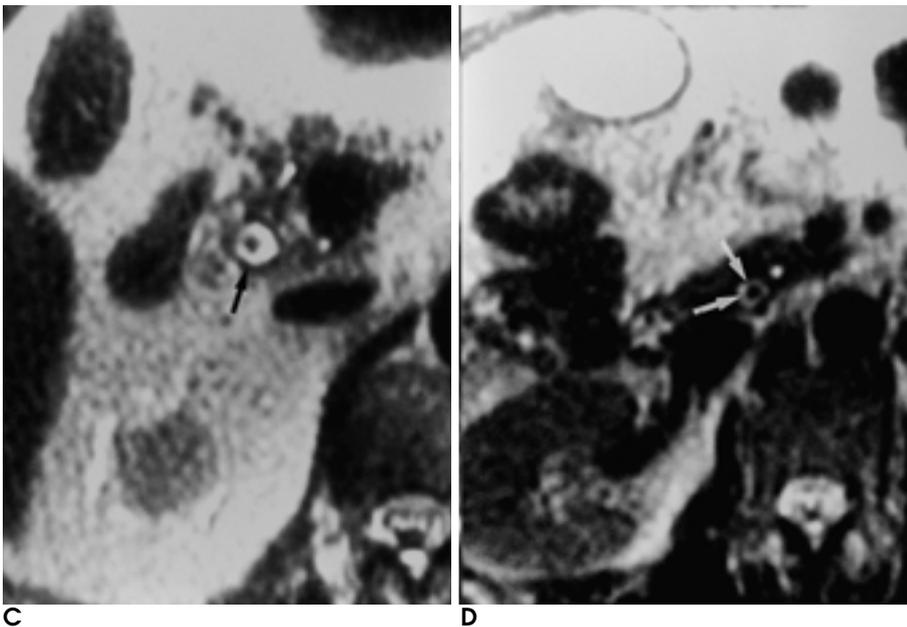


가 . General Electric Medical System, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, U.S.A.) (single shot fast spin echo: SSFSE ) T2 (source image), (3-D projection image) 3-5 mm 40 , 3-5 mm 20 5 cm . TR/TE 8000ms/ 95.7 - 191ms, 31068ms/1388ms, (FOV) (26 - 40) x (24 - 40) 24 x 24 , echo train length(ETL)

2000 1 2001 7 MRCP 160 16 ERCP 가 21 , 17 106 106 54 15 12 18 76 1.5 T



**Fig. 1.** Flow artifacts of the common bile duct.  
**A.** Axial source image shows signal intensity (arrow) higher than that of renal cortical signal, group I.  
**B.** Axial source image shows same intensity (arrow) as that of right renal cortex, group II.  
**C.** Same intensity (arrow) as hepatic parenchyme is group III.  
**D.** Axial image reveals same intensity lesion (arrows) as vessel, group IV.



10 - 12, matrix  
ERCP

256 x 256  
, MRCP

가 (common bile duct)

MRCP

III

, II

, IV

가

가

가

가

t - test,

가

가

correlation

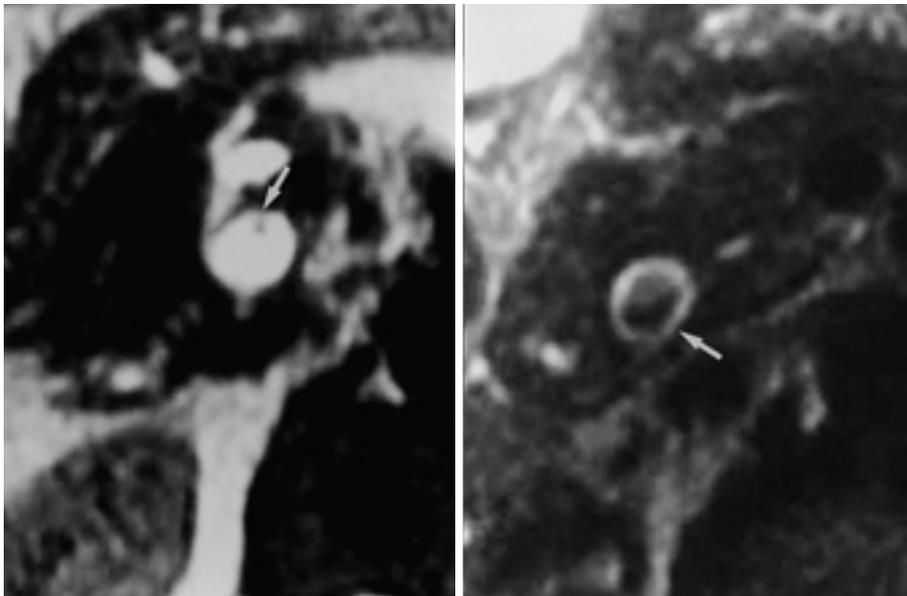
t - test

Spearman

p - value가 0.05

. MRCP

(intrahepatic bile duct), (cystic duct)



A

B

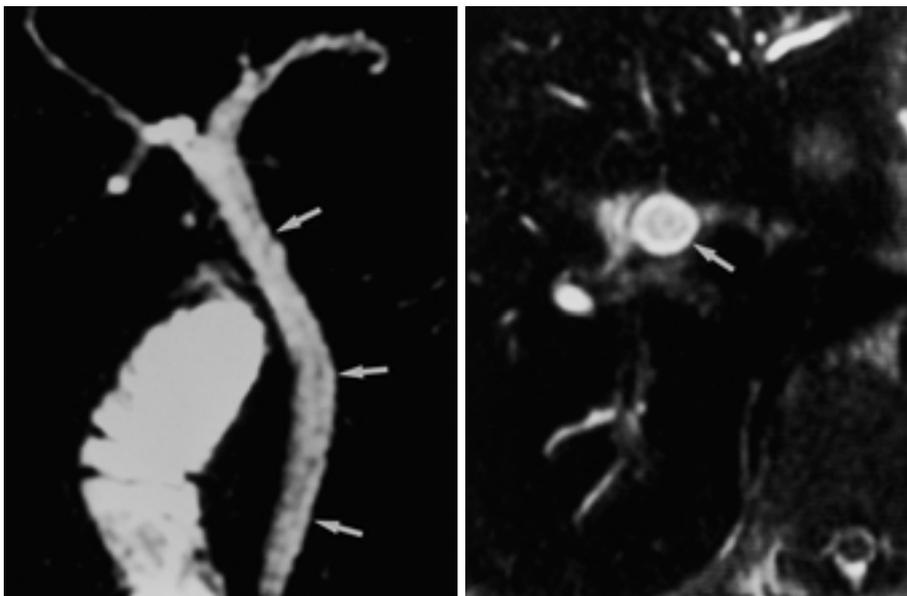
**Fig. 2.** Atypical pattern of flow artifacts in the common bile duct.

**A.** Axial source image demonstrates atypical location of flow artifact (arrow) which is seen in 12 o'clock direction.

**B.** Note lamellated dark signal intensity (arrow) in dependant portion (6 o'clock direction).

**C.** Projectional image reveals linear low signal intensity (arrows) in central area of bile duct which was dot like low signal lesion in consecutive axial images.

**D.** Axial source image shows target like multi-lamellated variable signal intensity lesion (arrow).



C

D

106 (76.4%)  
 MRCP  
 I (Fig. 1A) 45 (42.5%), II (Fig. 1B) 15 (14.2%), III (Fig. 1C) 18 (17.0%), IV (Fig. 1D) 3 (2.8%)  
 (Table 1).  
 III  
 IV 21 (19.8%)

(Fig. 2A),  
 (dependant portion)  
 (Fig. 2B).

**Table 1.** Grade of Flow Artifact Signal Intensity on MRCP (n = 106)

Signal intensity	Numbers of Cases	Percentage
Group I	45	42.5%
Group II	15	14.2%
Group III	18	17.0%
Group IV	3	2.8%

Group I: higher signal intensity than renal cortical density  
 Group II: signal intensity same as renal cortical density  
 Group III: signal intensity same as hepatic density  
 Group IV: signal intensity same as vascular density

**Table 2.** Location of Flow Artifact on MRCP (n = 106)

Location	Numbers of Cases	Percentage
CBD	84	78.3%
CHD	74	70.0%
IHD	31	29.2%
Cystic duct	8	7.5%

CBD, CHD and IHD mean common bile duct, common hepatic duct and intrahepatic duct, respectively.

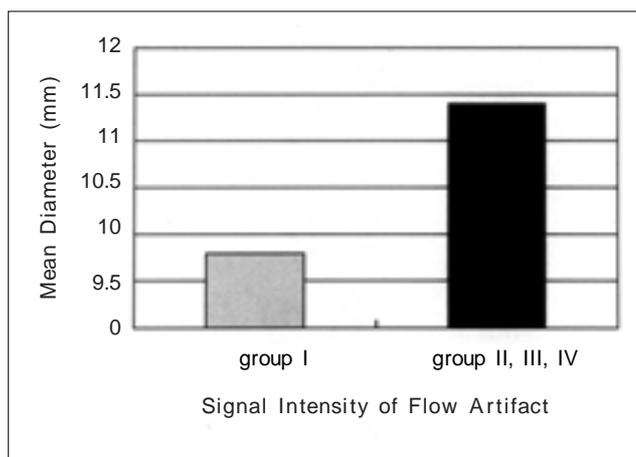
**Table 3.** Correlation between Flow Artifact and Extrahepatic Duct Diameter (n = 106)

Flow Artifact	Numbers of Cases	Diameter
Absence	25 (23.6%)	7.1 mm
Presence	81 (76.4%)	11.3 mm

(p=0.00362)

(Fig. 2C),  
 (Fig. 2D).  
 84 (78.3%),  
 74 (70.0%), 31 (29.2%),  
 가 8 (7.5%) (Table 2).  
 7.1 mm  
 11.3 mm  
 (t - test)  
 (p=0.00362) 가  
 (Table 3).  
 (Spearman correlation), I  
 (II, III, IV )  
 (t - test) (p=0.00391)  
 (Fig. 3).

21 (19.8%)  
 9 (8.5%), 2



**Fig. 3.** Correlation between mean diameter of extrahepatic duct and signal intensity of flow artifact. As mean diameter of EHD increases, signal intensity of flow artifact decreases.

**Table 4.** Location of Vascular Compression on Biliary System on MRCP (n = 106)

Location	Numbers of Cases	Percentage
CHD	9	8.5%
LHD	9	8.5%
CBD	2	1.9%
RHD	1	0.9%
Total	21	19.8%

CHD, LHD, CBD and RHD mean common hepatic duct, left intrahepatic duct, common bile duct and right intrahepatic duct, respectively.

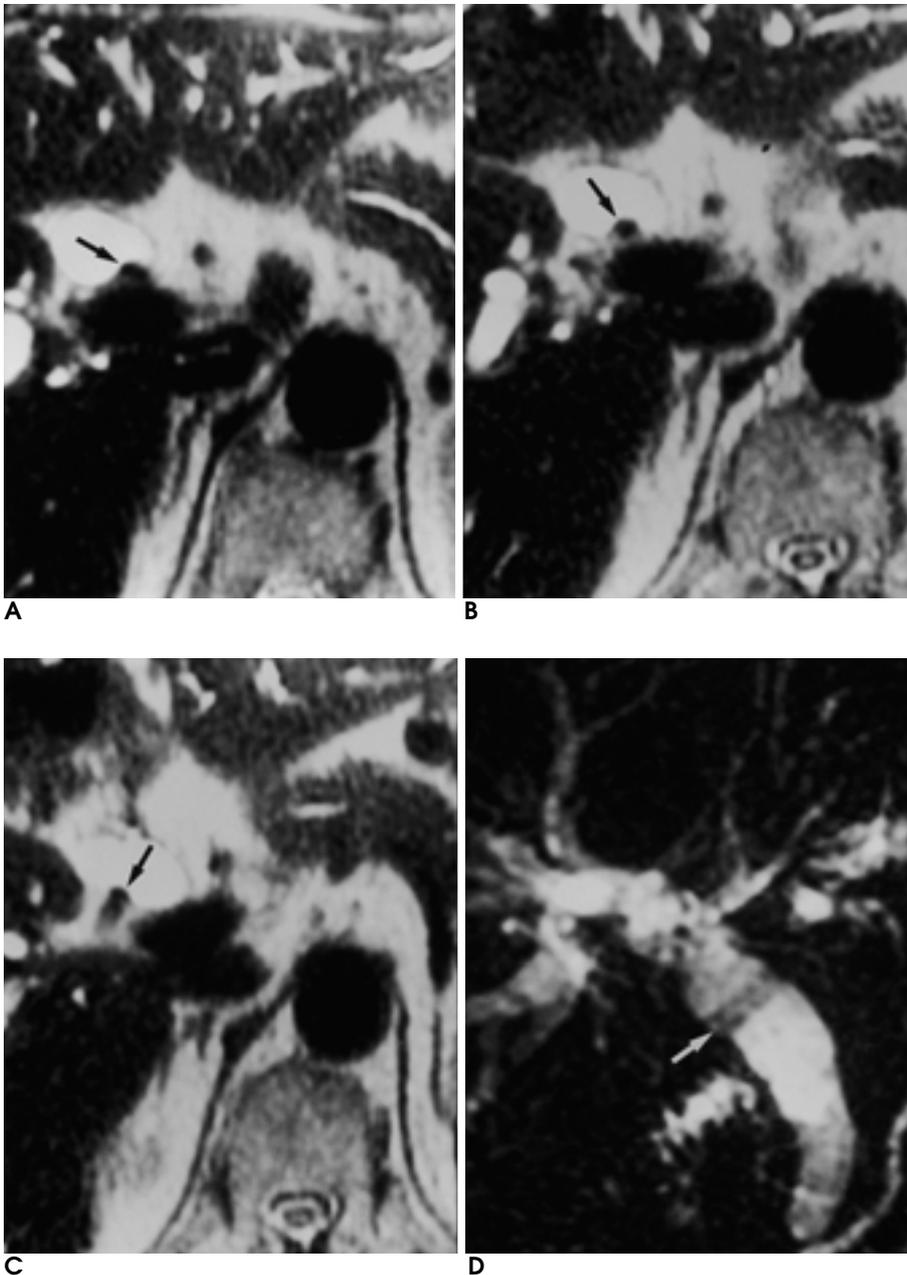
(1.9%), 1 (0.9%) (Table 4). (1, 2). MRCP  
 13 (12.5%) 가  
 (Fig. 4), 6 (5.7%), 가 (6, 7),  
 2 (1.9%) (Table 5). 가

MRCP  
 가  
 가 MRCP  
 (4, 5), ERCP

**Table 5.** Vessels of Vascular Compression in Biliary System (n = 106)

Causative vessel	Numbers of Cases	Percentage
RHA	13	12.5%
LHA	6	5.7%
GDA	2	1.9%

RHA, LHA and GDA mean right hepatic artery, left hepatic artery and gastroduodenal artery, respectively.



**Fig. 4.** Artifact from vascular compression.

**A - C.** Axial source images demonstrate small round dark signal intensity (arrows) mimicking biliary stone, which are continuously observed in upper and lower level of the images.

**D.** Projectional image reveals band like low signal intensity (arrow) in the common bile duct corresponding to compression by vessel.

:

MRCP (max - ERCP (3).  
 (max - intensity - projection) 가 MRCP  
 (8), (12), MRCP  
 Fourier 가 ,  
 (half Fourier single shot spin echo technique) . Watanabe  
 가 가  
 Irie MRCP Fourier (7).  
 1 mm 가 Watanabe 8.5% 가  
 MRCP 가  
 (9). Reinold 2  
 mm 가 5.7% 가  
 MRCP (4, 10), 1998 David 2 mm  
 MRCP 가  
 (6) 가  
 MRCP image) (non fat suppressed source  
 가 가  
 (susceptibility artifact) (3), (13, 14).  
 MRCP (signal void) (Hemobilia) T1  
 (1, 11), MR 가 (7, 15, 16).  
 (swirling flow) 가 MRCP  
 1997 Hintze 가  
 (1). Fourier Fourier (17).  
 (single - shot) 가  
 turbo spin technique) MRCP 가  
 David 가 (18).  
 가 (6).  
 7.1 mm, 11.3 mm 가  
 David MRCP 76.4% 가  
 가 가 가 가  
 (time of flight MR angiogra - 19.8%  
 phy) (flow sensitive MRCP)

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## The Pitfalls of the Magnetic Resonance Cholangio-Pancreatography the Diagnosis of Biliary Stones<sup>1</sup>

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**Purpose:** To determine the incidence of flow artifact and vascular compression, phenomena that mimic biliary stone disease at magnetic resonance cholangio pancreatography (MRCP).

**Materials and Methods:** In 160 patients who underwent MRCP, the presence and location of flow artifact were determined. The signal intensity of flow artifacts was classified as either higher than renal cortical density (group I), the same as renal cortical density (group II), the same as hepatic density (group III), or the same as vascular density (group IV). Correlation between flow artifact and the largest diameter of the extrahepatic duct (EHD) was statistically evaluated, and the location of vascular compression in the biliary system and causative vessels was also determined.

**Results:** At MRCP, flow artifacts were observed in 81 patients (76.4%). Forty-five (42.5%) were classified as group I, 15 (14.2%) as group II, 18 (17.0%) as group III, and three (2.8%) as group IV. They were located in the common bile duct (78.3%), common hepatic duct (70.0%), or intrahepatic duct (29.2%) or at the cystic duct insertion site (7.5%). In patients in whom a flow artifact was not apparent, the diameter of the EHD was 7.1mm; in those with an artifact, this diameter was 11.3 mm. The mean diameter of the EHD was greater in groups II, III and IV (11.4 mm) than in group I (9.8 mm). Vascular compression was demonstrated in 21 patients (19.8%), occurring in the common hepatic duct in 8.5%, the left intrahepatic duct in 8.5%, the common bile duct in 1.9%, and the right intrahepatic duct in 0.9%. Causative vessels were the right hepatic artery (12.5%), left hepatic artery (5.7%), and branches of the gastroduodenal artery (1.9%).

**Conclusion:** As the extrahepatic duct is wide, a flow artifact appears and signal intensity decreases. In particular, flow artifacts with a signal intensity of grade III or IV, occurring in 19.8% of patients, mimicked biliary stones at MRCP. The presence of a flow artifact and vascular compression, which mimic biliary stone, therefore be carefully interpreted.

**Index words :** Magnetic resonance (MR), artifact

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