

Fig. 1. Three-dimensional CT portography using standardized MIP technique in eight planes.
A. Coronal plane at the spleno-portal confluence
B. Lordotic coronal plane at the spleno-portal confluence
C. Lordotic coronal RAO 30, plane at the spleno-portal confluence
D. Lordotic coronal LAO 30, plane at the spleno-portal confluence
E. Lordotic coronal plane at the left renal vein
F. Axial plane at the lower esophagus level
G. Axial plane at the gastric fundus level
H. Axial plane at the splenic hilum level

3, 3, 1 가 (Fig. 2, 3).
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 2 가 (Fig. 4).
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 (1, 4, 8).

Table 1. Portosystemic Collaterals on Three-dimensional CT Portography in 25 Patients

	Non-Standardized MIP	Standardized MIP
Left gastric vein dilatation	25(13* /12 [†])	25(13* /12 [†])
Esophageal varix	18	18
Paraesophageal varix	13	13
Gastric varix	4	4
Splenic varix	5 [‡]	4
Paraumbilical vein dilatation	4	4
Gastro-renal shunt	3	3
Spleno-renal shunt	3	3
Gastro-spleno-renal shunt	1	1
Mesenteric collaterals	4 [‡]	0
Retroperitoneal collaterals	3 [‡]	0
Omental collaterals	2 [‡]	0
Total	85	75

* originated in portal vein; † originated in splenic vein
 ‡ different result between non-standardized MIP images and standardized MIP images

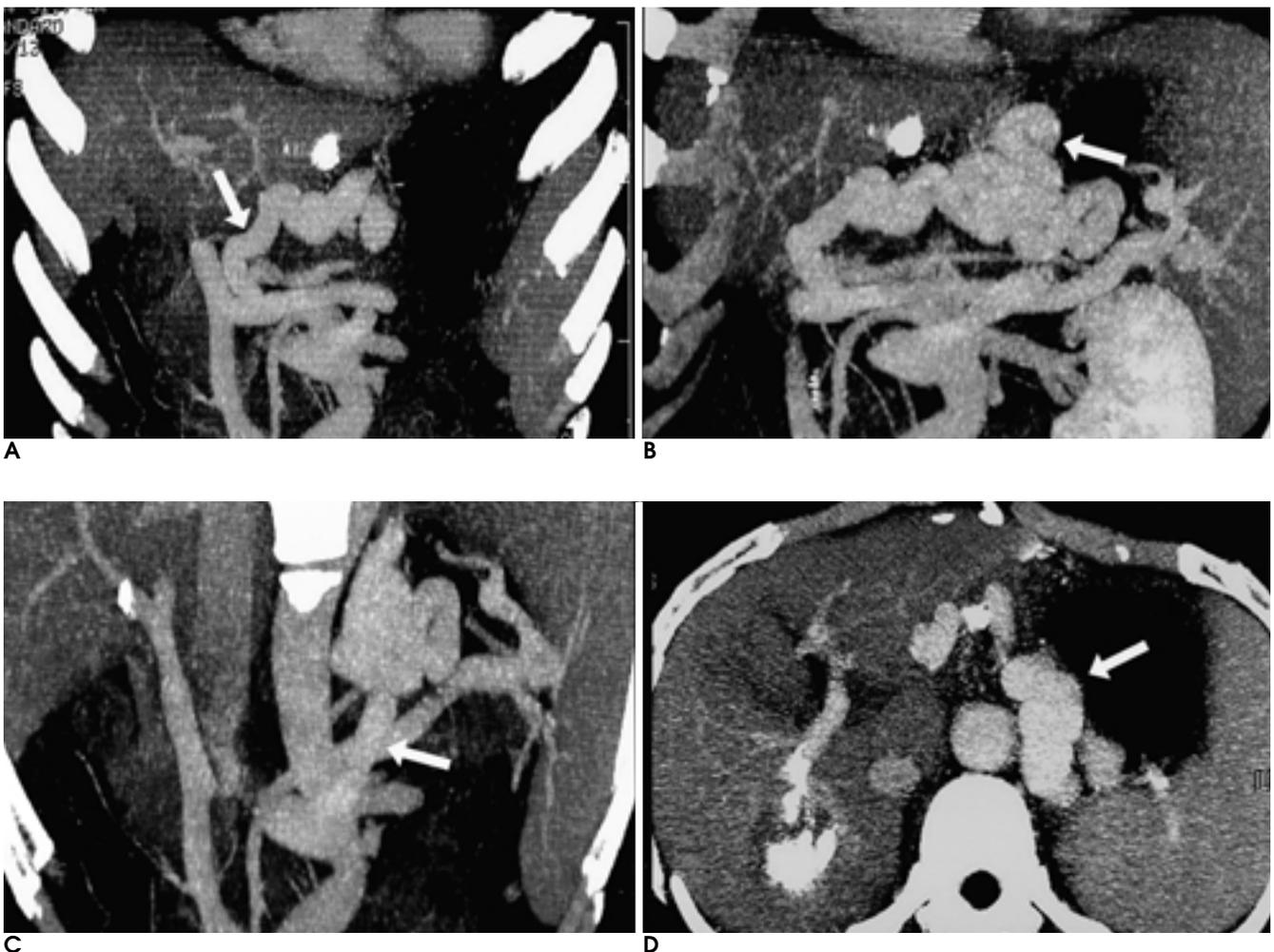


Fig. 2. Three-dimensional CT portography using standardized MIP technique in 59-year-old man with hepatocellular carcinoma.
A. Dilated left gastric vein (arrow) is originated from splenic vein.
B and D. Gastric varix is well visualized at gastric fundus (arrow).
C. Gastro-renal shunt (arrow) is seen.

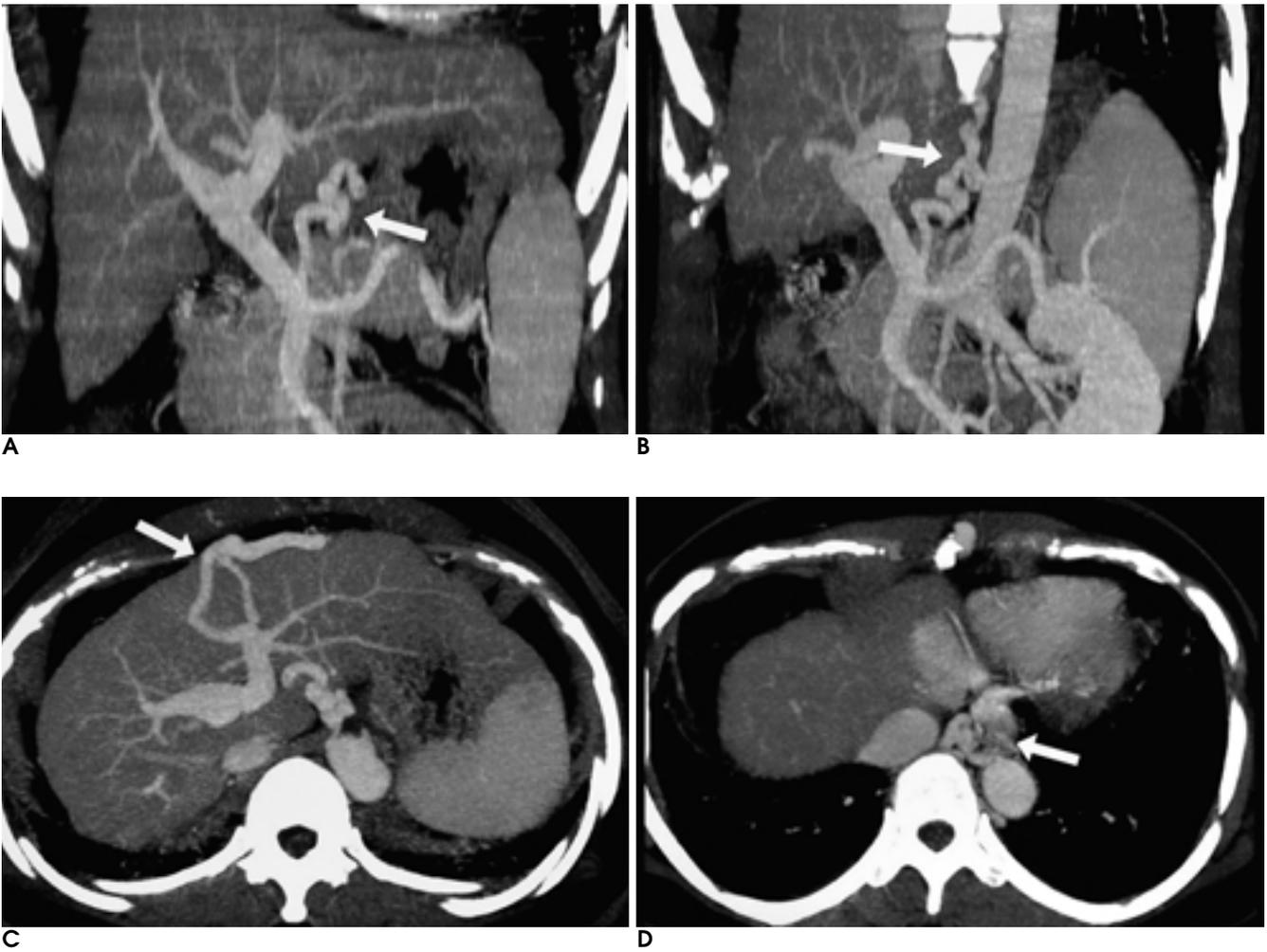


Fig. 3. Three-dimensional CT portography using standardized MIP technique in 63-year-old woman with liver cirrhosis.

- A.** Dilated left gastric vein is originated from proximal portal vein (arrow).
- B.** Esophageal varix (arrow) is well seen from left gastric vein.
- C.** Dilated paraumbilical vein (arrow) is seen from umbilical portion of left portal vein.
- D.** Tortuous dilated esophageal vein (arrow) is seen at esophageal wall.

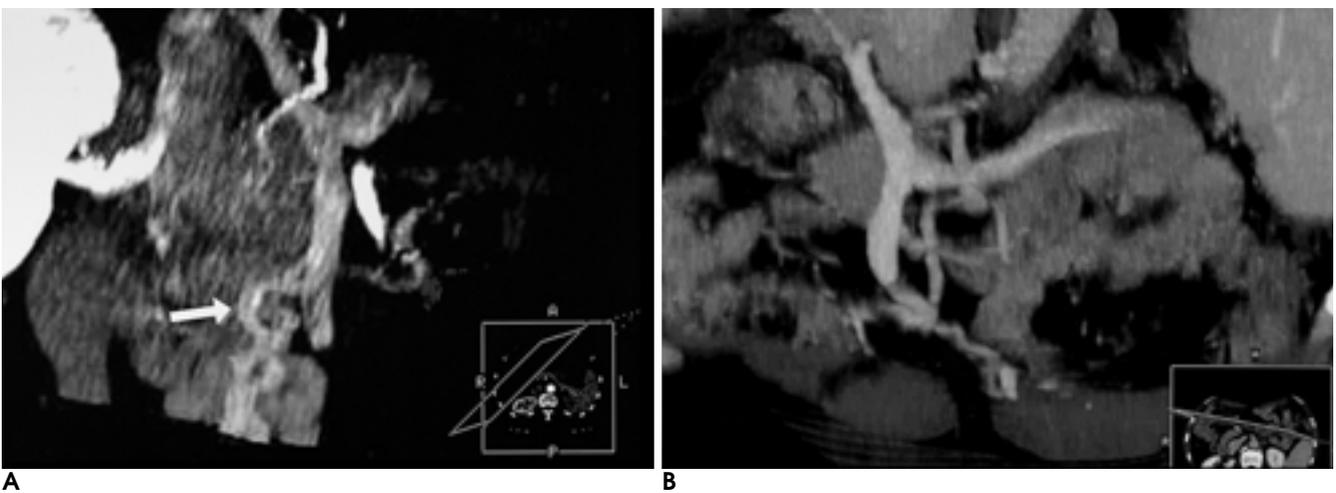


Fig. 4. Three-dimensional CT portography in 62-year-old man with retroperitoneal collaterals.

- A.** Non-standardized MIP images shows retroperitoneal collaterals (arrow).
- B.** Standardized MIP images do not show retroperitoneal collaterals on lordotic coronal image.

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Standardization of MIP Technique in Three-dimensional CT Portography: Usefulness in Evaluation of Portosystemic Collaterals in Cirrhotic Patients¹

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Purpose: To assess the usefulness of three-dimensional CT portography using a standardized maximum intensity projection (MIP) technique for the evaluation of portosystemic collaterals in cirrhotic patients.

Materials and Methods: In 25 cirrhotic patients with portosystemic collaterals, three-phase CT using a multidetector-row helical CT scanner was performed to evaluate liver disease. Late arterial-phase images were transferred to an Advantage Windows 3.1 workstation (Gener Electric). Axial images were reconstructed by means of three-dimensional CT portography, using both a standardized and a non-standardized MIP technique, and the respective reconstruction times were determined. Three-dimensional CT portography with the standardized technique involved eight planes, namely the spleno-portal confluence axis (coronal, lordotic coronal, lordotic coronal RAO 30°, and lordotic coronal LAO 30°), the left renal vein axis (lordotic coronal), and axial MIP images (lower esophagus level, gastric fundus level and splenic hilum). The eight MIP images obtained in each case were interpreted by two radiologists, who reached a consensus in their evaluation.

The portosystemic collaterals evaluated were as follows: left gastric vein dilatation; esophageal, paraesophageal, gastric, and splenic varix; paraumbilical vein dilatation; gastro-renal, spleno-renal, and gastro-spleno-renal shunt; mesenteric, retroperitoneal, and omental collaterals.

Results: The average reconstruction time using the non-standardized MIP technique was 11 minutes 23 seconds, and with the standardized technique, the time was 6 minutes 5 seconds. Three-dimensional CT portography with the standardized technique demonstrated left gastric vein dilatation ($n=25$), esophageal varix ($n=18$), paraesophageal varix ($n=13$), gastric varix ($n=4$), splenic varix ($n=4$), paraumbilical vein dilatation ($n=4$), gastro-renal shunt ($n=3$), spleno-renal shunt ($n=3$), and gastro-spleno-renal shunt ($n=1$).

Using three-dimensional CT portography and the non-standardized MIP technique, the portosystemic collaterals demonstrated were similar to those demonstrated using the standardized technique. Additionally, however, the former revealed features not revealed by the latter, namely splenic varix ($n=1$), mesenteric collaterals ($n=4$), retroperitoneal collaterals ($n=3$), and omental collaterals ($n=2$).

Conclusion: In patients with liver disease, three-dimensional CT portography using a standardized of MIP technique helps evaluate portosystemic collaterals, reduces interobserver bias, and saves reconstruction time.

Index words : Portography

Liver, cirrhosis

Computed tomography (CT), maximum intensity projection

Shunts, portosystemic

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