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($p < 0.01$),
($p < 0.01$)
(mode) (Table 1). 가
1 cm (- value; 0.41 - 0.86) (Table 2).
4 μ m Hematoxylin - Eosin 16 11 (68.8%) , 5 (31.2%)
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(Fig. 1).
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(Wilcoxon signed rank test),
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Table 2. Interobserver Agreement in Sharpness and Contrast at Normal and Lesional Areas

		Conventional US	Compound US
Normal	Sharpness	0.59	0.82
	Contrast	0.54	0.77
Lesional	Sharpness	0.49	0.41
	Contrast	0.86	0.50

* Above numbers represent kappa values. A k -value of 0.41 to 0.60 is considered as moderate, 0.61 to 0.80 as substantial and 0.81 to 1.00 as almost perfect.

Table 1. Sharpness and Contrast on Images Obtained by Conventional and Compound Techniques at Normal and Lesional Areas

		Normal area ($n = 16$)		Lesions ($n = 16$)	
		Sharpness	Contrast	Sharpness	Contrast
Observer 1	SonoCT > Conventional US	8	9	9	9
	SonoCT = Conventional US	8	7	7	7
	p -value	0.005	0.003	0.003	0.003
Observer 2	SonoCT > Conventional US	6	9	10	11
	SonoCT = Conventional US	10	7	6	5
	p -value	0.014	0.003	0.003	0.001

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3 . 가 1 , 2

Table 3. High-Resolution Compound US Findings and Histopathologic Results in the determination of Invasion Depth in Gastric Carcinoma

US Findings	Histopathologic Results				
	Mucosa (n=3)	Submucosa (n=4)	MP (n=3)	Subserosa or Serosa (n=3)	Extraserosal invasion (n=3)
Mucosa	0	0	0	0	0
Submucosa	1	4	0	0	0
MP	2	0	3	1	0
Subserosa or Serosa	0	0	0	2	0
Extraserosal invasion	0	0	0	0	3

* Abbreviation : MP - muscularis propria

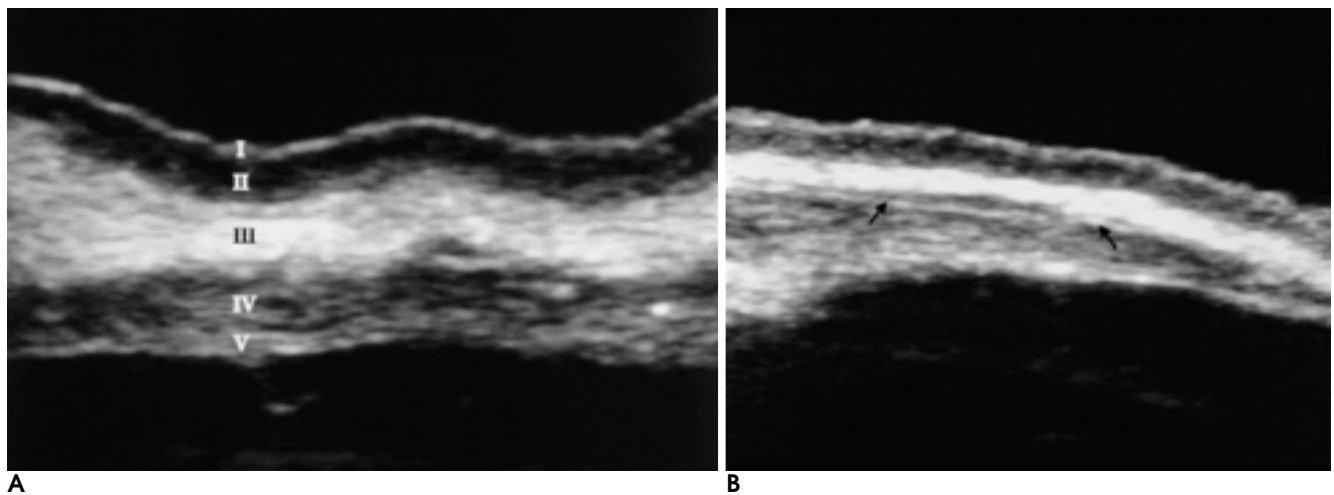


Fig. 1. Ultrasonograms showing five (A) or six (B) layers of normal gastric walls, obtained by compound imaging technique. (A) Five layers consist of thin echogenic interface (I), hypoechoic mucosa (II), thick hyperechoic submucosa (III), hypoechoic muscularis propria (IV) and hyperechoic subserosa or serosa (V). (B) Note the echogenic line within muscularis propria layer (arrows), which indicates intermuscular connective tissue .

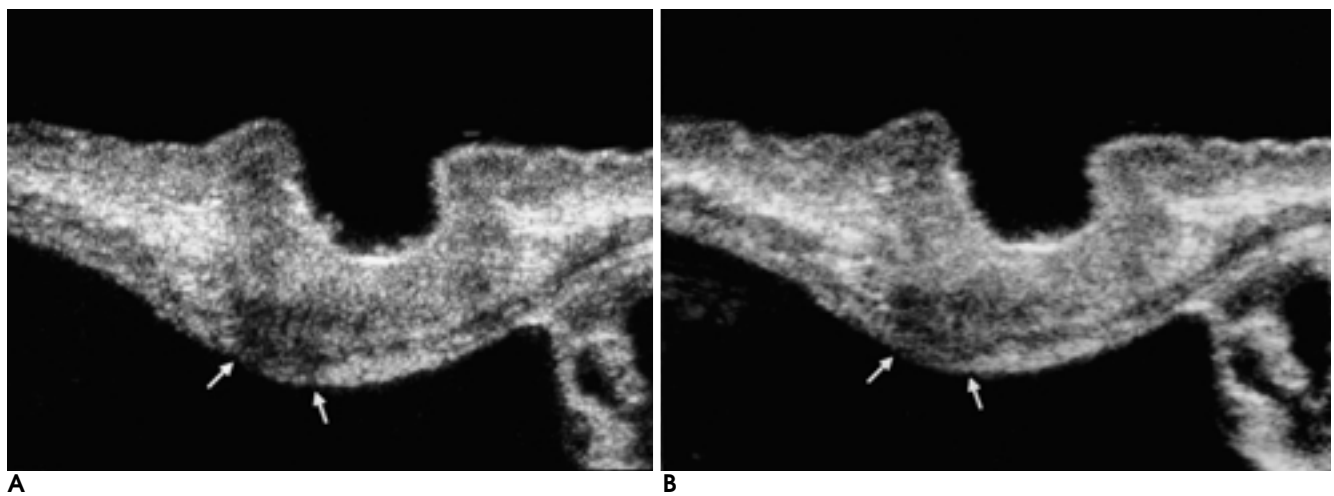


Fig. 2. Gastric carcinoma pathologically proven to invade muscularis propria. (A) Conventional image shows an ulcerative mass with low echogenicity in subserosa or serosa (arrows), suggestive of serosal invasion. (B) Compound image shows relatively intact subserosa or serosa (arrows) and invasion depth was determined muscularis propria.

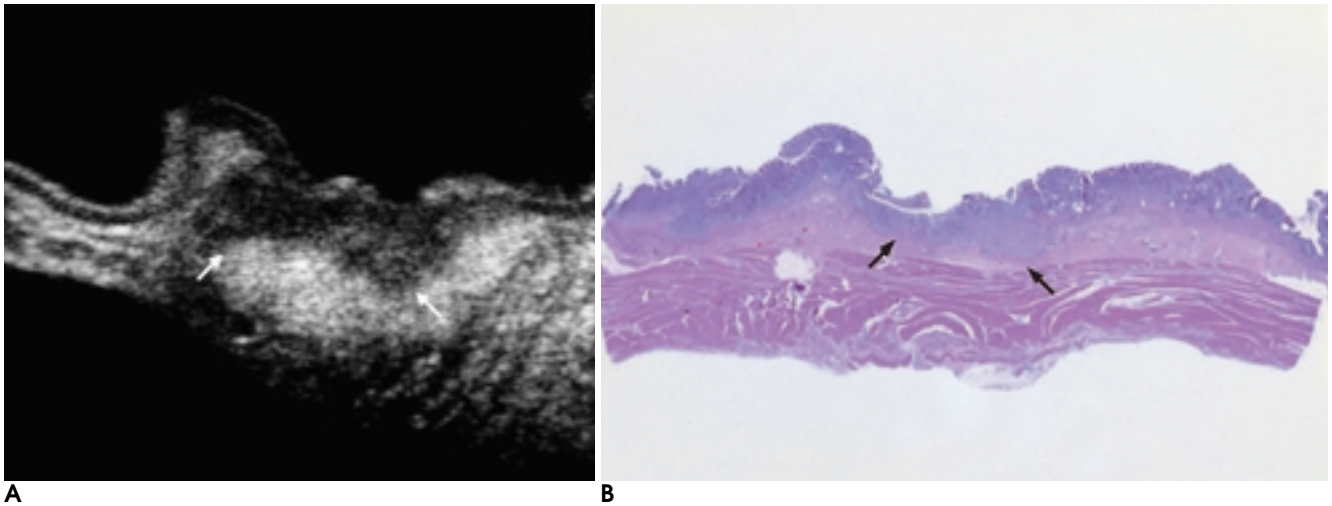


Fig. 3. Early gastric carcinoma, superficial depressed type. **(A)** Compound US image shows irregular hypoechoic lesion in submucosa (arrows). **(B)** Photomicrograph reveals carcinoma limited to the mucosal layer. Note peritumoral inflammatory cell infiltration and fibrosis (arrows) in submucosal layer (H & E stain, original magnification, $\times 100$).

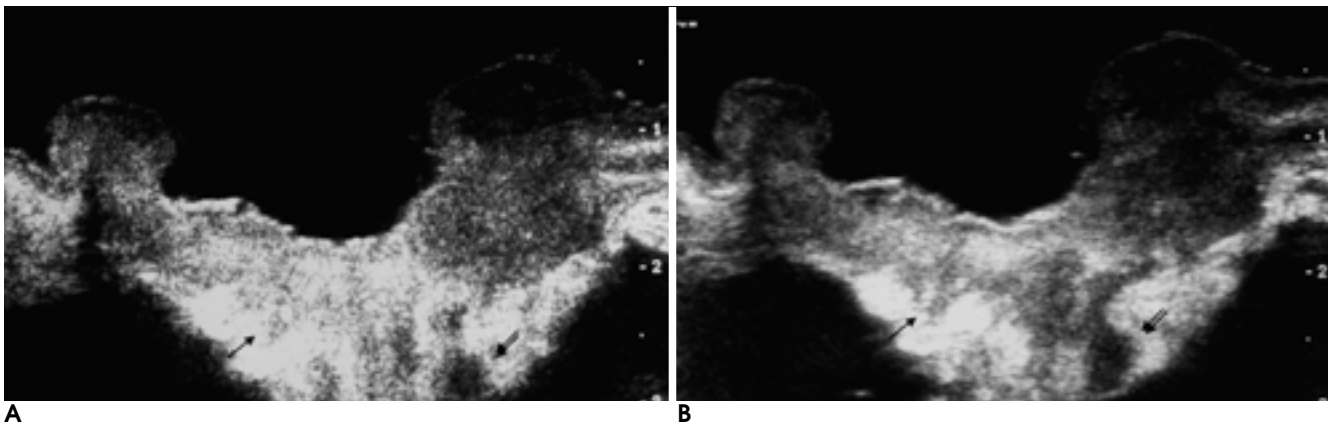
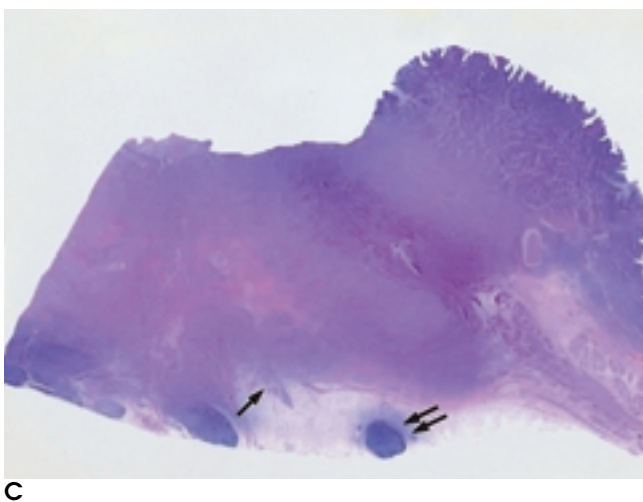


Fig. 4. Advanced gastric cancer with extraserosal invasion. Conventional **(A)** and compound **(B)** images show low echoic area (arrow on each image) extending into extraserosal fat. Note clear delineation of tumor boundary and better contrast on compound image, compared with conventional image. **(C)** Photomicrograph reveals cancer involvement in extraserosal fat (arrow). Correspondent area to the focus (double arrows on each US image) which seems to penetrate serosa on US images is revealed free of cancer in serosa and extraserosal fat. Note a lymph follicle adjacent to serosa (double arrows) (H & E stain, original magnification, $\times 100$).



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Assessment of Mural Invasion Depth of Gastric Carcinoma with High-Resolution Compound Sonographic Imaging in Vitro¹

Seong Hoon Park, M.D., Eun-A Kim, M.D., Kwon-Ha Yoon, M.D., Ki Jung Yun, M.D.²,
Jeong Ho Kim, M.D., Jong Jin Won, M.D.

¹Department of Radiology, Wonkwang University School of Medicine

²Department of Pathology, Wonkwang University School of Medicine

Purpose: To evaluate whether the accuracy of invasion depth assessment in gastric carcinoma in vitro can be improved with high-resolution spatial compound sonographic imaging.

Materials and Methods: In sixteen fresh gastric specimens obtained from patients with preoperatively biopsy-proven gastric carcinoma, normal and lesional areas were scanned using conventional and compound imaging technique with a 15-MHz linear transducer. Two radiologists independently compared the sharpness and the contrast of images obtained with two different modes and determined the layers invaded by cancer with consensus. The invasion depths by images were compared with histopathologic results.

Results: The sharpness and the contrast in normal and lesional areas were significantly higher in compound imaging ($p < 0.01$) than those in conventional imaging and interobserver agreement was over moderate, with k -value of 0.41 to 0.86. But the accuracy in invasion depth assessment was 68.8% (11/16) on conventional imaging and 75% (12/16) on compound imaging and not different significantly between two modes ($p > 0.05$).

Conclusion: High-resolution spatial compound sonographic imaging has improved image quality, compared with conventional imaging, but the accuracy of invasion depth assessment in gastric carcinoma was not significantly different.

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Address reprint requests to : Kwon-Ha Yoon, M.D., Department of Radiology, Wonkwang University School of Medicine,
344-2 Sinyong-dong, Iksan, Jeonbuk 570-711, Korea.
Tel. 82-63-850-1516 Fax. 82-63-851-4749 E-mail: yoonkh@wmc.wonkwang.ac.kr