

# 가 VX2 MRI Superparamagnetic Iron Sequence<sup>1</sup>

2 . . . 3 . .

: 가 가 superparamagnetic iron oxide  
( SPIO) ( MRI)  
: VX2 12 가 , 9 가  
SPIO MRI T2  
(7 msec, 12 msec, 15 msec, 35 msec) T2\*  
가 ,  
4 가 .  
: T2 (35 msec) T2\*  
가 , T2 (12  
msec) T2\* 가  
(7 msec) T2\*  
(12 msec) (FLASH 84%; FISP 82%) T2 (79%)  
(76%) 가  
(86% - 97%) 가 ( $p > .05$ ).  
: SPIO MRI T2  
(12 msec) T2\* 가  
가 가 .

(6 - 8), SPIO MRI가  
가 CTAP (8 - 10) SPIO MRI가 가  
(1). Superparamagnetic iron oxide (SPIO) SPIO  
(Kupffer cell) T2 (8, 11 - 13)  
(2 - 4), 가 가

가 (5). ,  
가 CT arterial portography ( CTAP)가 가 (14 - 19).  
가

<sup>1</sup> MRI SPIO VX2  
<sup>2</sup> MRI  
<sup>3</sup> 2002 3 6 2002 8 21 가



가

가 ( $p > .05$ ) (Table 2).

12 mm (10 - 40 mm; , 13.2 mm)  
 12  
 T2 (TR/TE/ETL, 4500/98/5)  
 (35 msec) FLASH T2\* 가

가 가  
 (12 msec) , FLASH T2\*  
 (TR/TE/FA, 180/12/30.), T2  
 (TR/TE/ETL, 4500/98/5), FISP T2\* (TR/TE/ FA,  
 180/12/30.) 가 ( $p > .05$ ) (Table 3).

가 ( $p > .05$ ) (Table 1).

가 , FLASH T2\*  
 (TR/TE/FA, 180/7/30.), FISP T2\* (TR/TE/ FA,  
 180/7/30.) 7 msec T2\*

**Table 1.** VX2 carcinoma - Liver Contrast-to-Noise Ratios (C/Ns) for SPIO-Enhanced MR Images with Various Pulse Sequences

Sequence	Tumor - Liver C/N	Rank
TSE T2	30.4 ± 15.8	1
FLASH (TE 35, FA 30.)	27.0 ± 17.6	2
TSE PD	20.6 ± 11.6	3
FISP (TE 12)	19.0 ± 9.1	4
FLASH (TE 15, FA 30.)	18.4 ± 11.9	5
FLASH (TE 12, FA 30.)	15.4 ± 9.7	6
FISP (TE 7)	14.6 ± 11.9	7
FLASH (TE 7, FA 30.)	10.8 ± 7.9	8
FLASH (TE 12, FA 80.)	4.2 ± 11.5	9

Note. Values are given as means ± SDs. There were significant ( $p < .05$ ) differences in tumor - liver C/N in the following comparisons (numbers indicate rank): the sequence ranked 1 vs. 3 - 9 and the sequence ranked 2 vs. 4 - 9, but no significant difference is noted: the sequence ranked 1 vs. ranked 2.

**Table 2.** Relative Ranks of Lesion Conspicuity for SPIO-Enhanced MR Images with Various Pulse Sequences

Sequence	Lesion Conspicuity(Rank)
FLASH (TE 12, FA 30.)	1
TSE T2	2
FISP (TE 12)	2
TSE PD	4
FLASH (TE 15, FA 30.)	5
FISP (TE 7)	6
FLASH (TE 35, FA 30.)	7
FLASH (TE 7, FA 30.)	8
FLASH (TE 12, FA 80.)	9

Note. There were significant ( $p < .05$ ) differences in the following comparisons (numbers indicate the rank): the sequences ranked 1 - 2 vs. 5 - 9 and the sequence ranked 4 vs. 6 - 9.

MRI  
 38 (3 - 40 mm; , 8.9 mm) . 5 mm 가  
 10 , 5 mm 10 mm 가 19 , 9 가 10 mm  
 . MRI

- 가  
 1 - 4  
 . 가  
 (12 msec) ,  
 FLASH T2\* (TR/TE/FA, 180/12/30.) (84%)  
 FISP T2\* (TR/TE/FA, 180/12/30.) (82%)  
 T2 (79%)  
 (76%)가 가  
 가 ( $p > .05$ ). 5 mm , 10 mm  
 ,  
 가  
 5 mm 가  
 (10 - 40%). ,  
 (Table 4).  
 T2  
 (97%) 35 msec FLASH T2\*  
 (95%) 7 - 12 msec T2\*  
 (86 - 89%) 9  
 ( $p > .05$ ) (Table 5).

**Table 3.** Relative Ranks of Imaging Artefact for SPIO-Enhanced MR Images with Various Pulse Sequences

Sequence	Imaging Artifact(Rank)
FLASH (TE 7, FA 30.)	1
FISP (TE 7)	2
FISP (TE 12)	3
FLASH (TE 12, FA 30.)	4
FLASH (TE 15, FA 30.)	5
TSE PD	6
TSE T2	7
FLASH (TE 12, FA 80.)	8
FLASH (TE 35, FA 30.)	9

Note. There were significant ( $p < .05$ ) differences in the following comparisons (numbers indicate the rank): the sequence ranked 1 - 2 vs. 3 - 9 and sequences ranked 3 - 5 vs. 6 - 9.

**Table 4.** Sensitivity of VX2 Carcinomas for SPIO-Enhanced MR Images with Various Pulse Sequences

Sequence	Number of True Positive Nodules Detected at MRI			Sensitivity (%)			Rank (Overall)
	Overall	< 5 mm	< 10 mm	Overall	< 5 mm	< 10 mm	
FLASH (TE 12, FA 30°)	32	7	24	84	70	83	1
FISP (TE 12)	31	6	22	82	60	76	2
TSE T2	30	8	21	79	80	72	3
TSE PD	29	8	21	76	80	72	4
FLASH (TE 15, FA 30°)	27	4	19	71	40	66	5
FLASH(TE 7, FA 30°)	25	3	16	66	30	55	6
FISP (TE 7)	24	3	15	63	30	52	7
FLASH(TE 12, FA 80°)	20	1	12	53	10	41	8
FLASH(TE 35, FA 30°)	19	3	13	50	30	45	9

Note. The total number of VX2 carcinomas in the pathologic specimen was 38; those smaller than or equal to 10 mm were 29 and those smaller than or equal to 5 mm were 10.

There were significant ( $p < .05$ ) differences of overall detection sensitivity in the following comparisons (numbers indicate rank): the sequences ranked 1 - 3 vs. 5 - 9 and the sequence ranked 4 vs. 6 - 9.

**Table 5.** Positive Predictive Value of VX2 Carcinomas for SPIO-Enhanced MR Images with Various Pulse Sequences

Sequence	Number True Positive Nodules	False Positive Nodules	Positive Predictive Value (%)
TSE T2	29	1	97
FLASH (TE 35, FA 30°)	19	1	95
TSE PD	30	2	94
FLASH (TE 15, FA 30°)	27	2	93
FISP (TE 12)	31	3	91
FISP (TE 7)	24	3	89
FLASH (TE 12, FA 30°)	32	4	89
FLASH (TE 12, FA 80°)	20	3	87
FLASH (TE 7, FA 30°)	25	4	86

Note. There was no statistically significant difference between the values of each sequence ( $p > .05$ ).

T2\* 가 (Fig. 2).  
가  
10 mm  
5 mm MR (partial volume averaging effect)

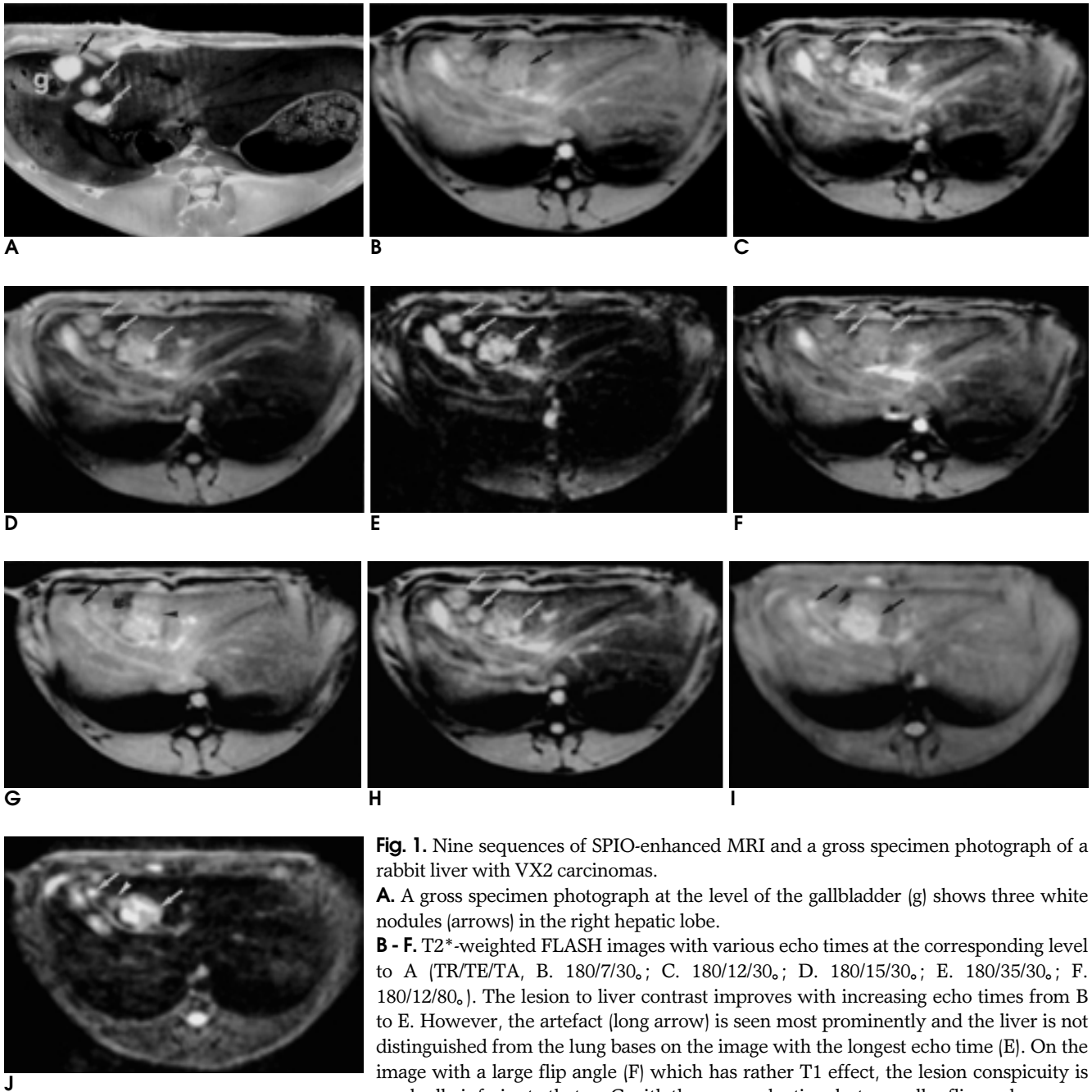
SPIO  
80%가  
6%가 (20).  
가  
T2 T2 (2 - 4).  
가 (5).  
가 (size threshold) 가 (75 - 96%) (15, 21, 22).  
50 - 84%  
가

1 cm

3/4 가 (29/38)

가

SPIO



**Fig. 1.** Nine sequences of SPIO-enhanced MRI and a gross specimen photograph of a rabbit liver with VX2 carcinomas.

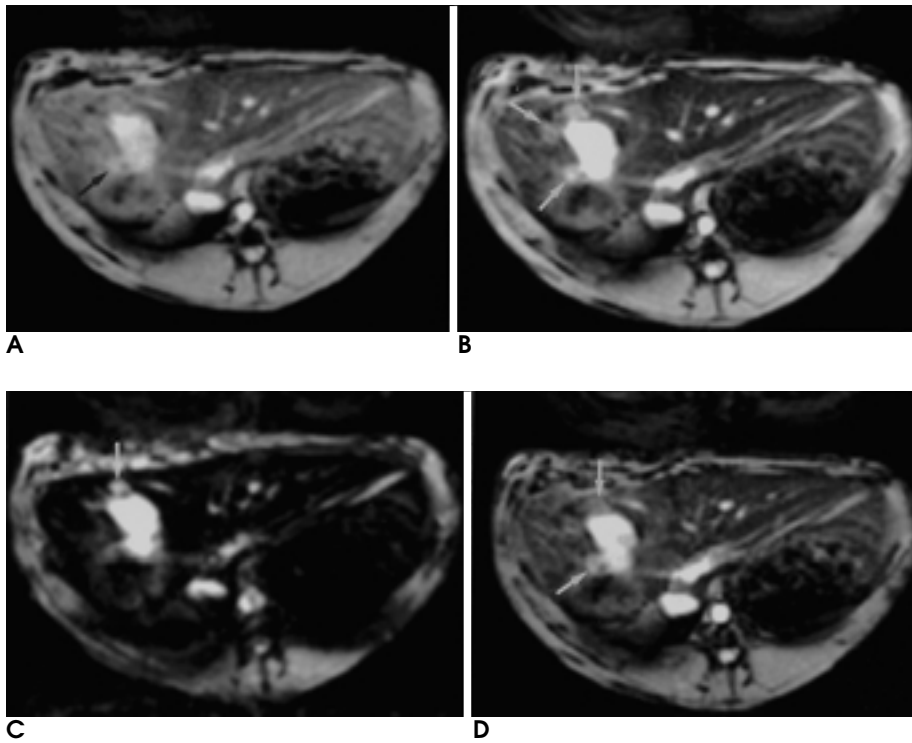
**A.** A gross specimen photograph at the level of the gallbladder (g) shows three white nodules (arrows) in the right hepatic lobe.

**B - F.** T2\*-weighted FLASH images with various echo times at the corresponding level to A (TR/TE/TA, B. 180/7/30°; C. 180/12/30°; D. 180/15/30°; E. 180/35/30°; F. 180/12/80°). The lesion to liver contrast improves with increasing echo times from B to E. However, the artefact (long arrow) is seen most prominently and the liver is not distinguished from the lung bases on the image with the longest echo time (E). On the image with a large flip angle (F) which has rather T1 effect, the lesion conspicuity is markedly inferior to that on C with the same echo time but a smaller flip angle.

**G.** On T2\*-weighted FISP image with short echo time (TR/TE/FA, 180/7/30°), one (short arrow) of three tumors was not detected during image analysis and the margin of the largest tumor (arrowhead) is markedly blurred.

**H.** T2\*-weighted FISP image with medium echo time (TR/TE/FA, 180/12/30°), shows better lesion conspicuity and image quality compared with G.

**I, J.** Proton density weighted (I: TR/TE/ETL, 4500/16/5) and T2-weighted (J: TR/TE/ETL, 4500/98/5) turbo spin echo sequences show excellent lesion conspicuity. One of the tumors (arrowhead) is poorly delineated on this slice but clearly seen on the next caudal image (not shown). T2-weighted image (J) provides the superior lesion contrast but shows rather prominent imaging artefact compared with other sequences (G - I). Also noted the blurred hepatic margin.



**Fig. 2.** Gradient echo T2\*-weighted sequences of SPIO-enhanced MRI with various echo times of a rabbit liver with VX2 carcinomas.

**A. T2\*-weighted FLASH image with short echo time (TR/TE/FA, 180/7/30,)** shows the least imaging artefact, but the poorest lesion conspicuity. During image analysis, only one (arrow) of three tumors around the gallbladder was detected.

**B.** T2\*-weighted FLASH image with medium echo time (TR/TE/FA, 180/12/30.) shows excellent lesion conspicuity for all three tumors and acceptable imaging artefact.

**C.** T2\*-weighted FLASH image with long echo time (TR/TE/FA, 180/35/30°) provides the best lesion contrast for one (arrow) of three tumors, but the remaining two are not delineated due to severe artefact.

**D.** FLASH image with medium echo time and a large flip angle (TR/TE/FA, 180/12/80<sub>o</sub>) shows inferior lesion con-

trast and more imaging artefacts to B with a smaller flip angle and the same echo time. Only two (arrows) of three tumors were detected during image analysis.

(35 msec)

90%

MRI

가

가

CTAP SPIO

(8 - 10)

Schwartz (23)

echo train length 16

5

가

T2 (35 msec)

(TR/TE/ETL, FLASH T2\*

(7 msec)

T2\*

SPIO

(16 -

(Fig. 3)

18, 21, 23).

T2\*

(16).

가

msec

가

가

가

가

SPIO

MR

Ward (14) 0.5 T

FLASH, 1.5 T

‘blooming’

T2

1.5 T

T2

1.5 T

(15)

1.5 T

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## Pulse Sequence Optimization for Superparamagnetic Iron Oxide-enhanced MR Imaging in the Detection of Hepatic VX2 Tumors in Rabbits<sup>1</sup>

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**Purpose:** The purpose of this experimental study was to determine the optimal pulse sequences for SPIO-enhanced MR imaging in the evaluation of multiple hepatic tumors.

**Materials and Methods:** Twelve rabbits with multiple VX2 liver tumors underwent SPIO-enhanced MRI using the following nine pulse sequences: TSE T2-weighted imaging (T2WI), TSE proton density-weighted imaging (PDWI), and GRE T2\*-weighted imaging (T2\*WI) with seven different echo times (TE). Liver-lesion contrast-to-noise ratios (CNRs) were calculated, and images were also assessed qualitatively by two radiologists, who reached a consensus as to lesion conspicuity and imaging artefacts using a four-level scale. By means of pathologic correlation, the sensitivity and positive predictive value of each sequence was calculated.

**Results:** TSE T2WI and long-TE (35 msec) FLASH T2\*WI showed the highest liver-lesion CNR. The best lesion conspicuity was seen at TSE T2WI and medium-TE (12 msec) GRE T2\*WI. Short TE GRE T2\*WI showed the least imaging artefacts. The four sequences which demonstrated the best sensitivity were medium-TE (12 msec), GRE T2\*WI (FLASH, 84%; FISP, 82%), TSE T2WI (79%), and TSE PDWI (76%). All nine sequences showed overall high positive predictive value (86 - 97%), with no statistically significant difference ( $p > 0.05$ ).

**Conclusion:** In terms of image quality and the detection of sensitivity, TSE T2WI and medium TE (12 msec) GRE T2\*WI were the top two pulse sequences among the various sequences used for on SPIO-enhanced MRI. They are thus considered to be the optimal sequences for evaluating multiple malignant hepatic tumors.

**Index words :** Liver, neoplasms

Magnetic resonance (MR), contrast media

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