

Fluid-attenuated Inversion Recovery MR

1

2

FLAIR (Fluid-attenuated Inversion Recovery)

가 .

T1 T2 , FLAIR , FLAIR (conspicuity) FLAIR

FLAIR, T2 .

FLAIR FLAIR

60% (24/40) , 70% (28/40) T2

T1 58% (23/40) FLAIR

27 22 (81%) FLAIR T2

FLAIR (CNR) FLAIR

가 FLAIR 가 가 FLAIR 3

2 FLAIR T1

FLAIR

가 가

FLAIR Hajnal White (1, 2)

T2 가

FLAIR 가 (6).

T2 가 T2

(3, 4). FLAIR T1 FLAIR

FLAIR

(5). FLAIR

T2 T2 , T1

T2 가 , T2 FLAIR FLAIR

, T2 가 .

1

2

2000 2 18 2000 7 18 . 24 (97.5 - 99.5) 40

257

21 (8 , T1
 4 , 4 , 4 , (TR/TE = 500/90 msec)
 1), 13 (5 , 3 가
 , 3 , 1 , 1)
 6 . 27 FLAIR T1
 , 13 가 T2 , FLAIR
 4 9 T1 (conspicuity)
 11-77 52 가
 22:18 가
 MR 1.5T GE signa (GE Medical Sys - tems,
 Milwaukee, WI, U.S.A.) , T1 (TR/TE =
 500/90 msec), T2 (TR/TE =
 3666/104 msec), FLAIR (TR/effective TE =10000/
 123 msec, inversion time = 2200 msec)
 21 x 21 cm, 256 x 192 가
 가 (Magnevist , Schering, Germany) 0.1 -
 0.15 mmol/Kg 3 FLAIR
 (TR/TE/Inversion time = 10000/123/2200 msec) T1 T2 FLAIR T1
 FLAIR 가 T2 FLAIR

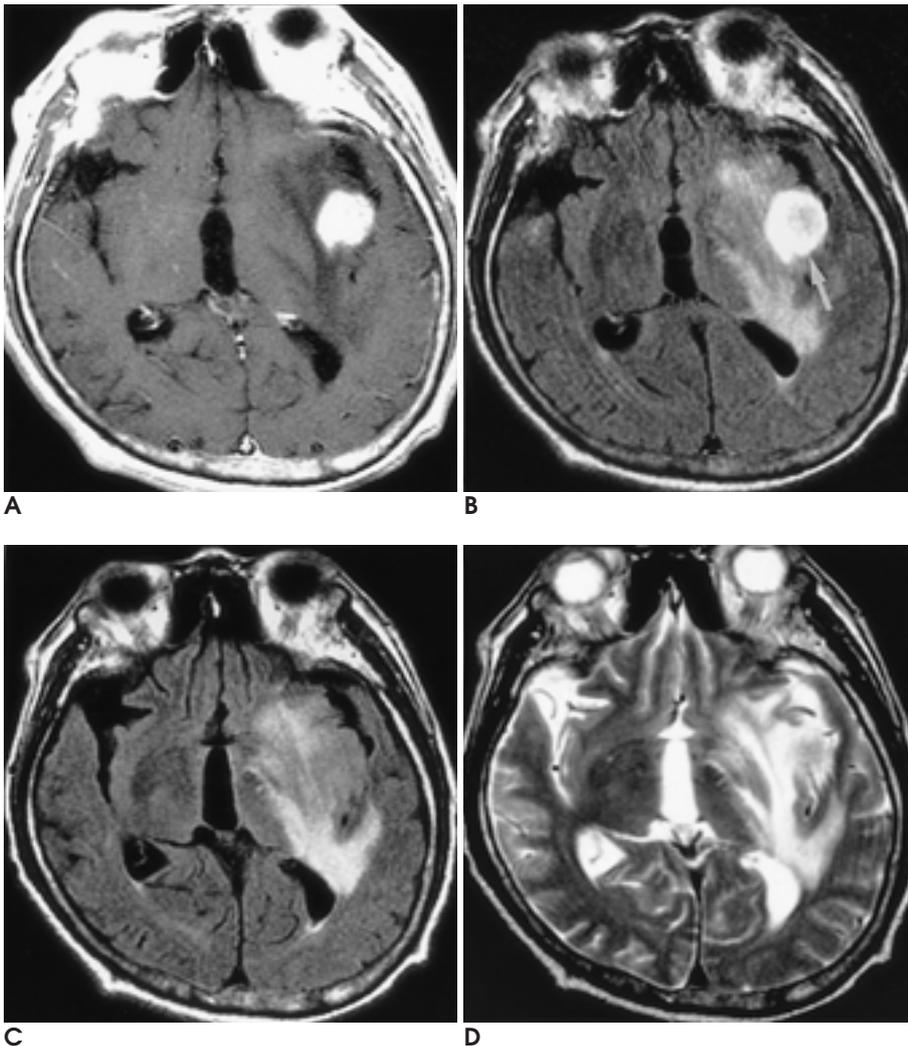


Fig. 1. A 69-year-old man with metastasis from small cell lung cancer. Contrast-enhanced T1-weighted (A) and fast FLAIR (B) images show a strongly enhancing mass in the left insula (arrow). Contrast-enhanced fast FLAIR image shows clear distinction between tumor and surrounding edema. The distinction between tumor and edema is not clear on fast FLAIR (C) and T2-weighted (D) images. The conspicuity of tumor is best on contrast-enhanced T1-weighted and it is better on contrast enhanced fast FLAIR than on fast FLAIR or T2-weighted image.

(contrast to noise ratio, CNR)
 $CNR = 100 \times \frac{\text{mean signal intensity of ROI} - \text{mean signal intensity of background}}{\text{standard deviation of background}}$
 interest) 10-20 mm² (region of interest)
 T1 T2
 ANNOVA test Kruskal - Wallis H
 40 34 21 16 13 12
 6 40
 24/40 (24/40)
 58% 27% 70%
 60% 85% (11/13)
 Table 1
 FLAIR FLAIR T1 FLAIR T1 FLAIR T2
 (Fig. 1), (Fig. 1, 2), (Fig. 3).
 T1 40 27 T2

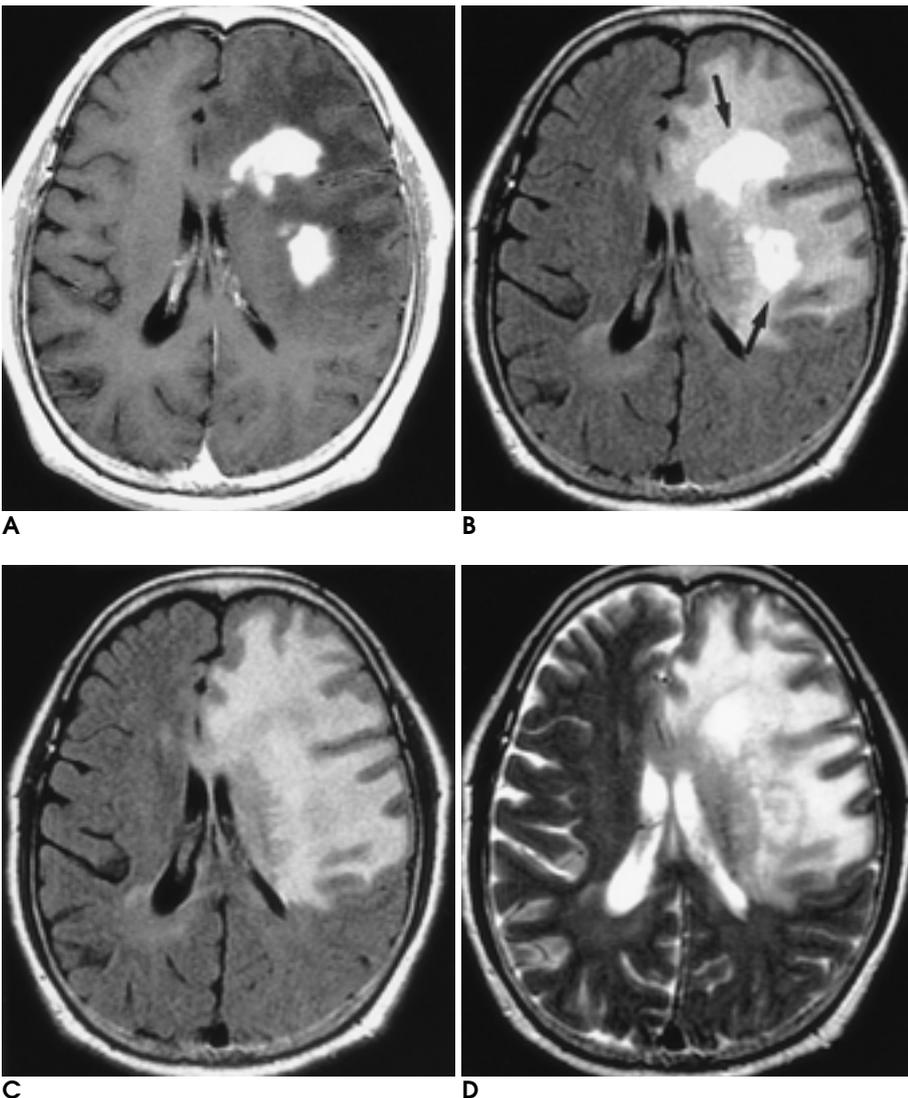


Fig. 2. A 55-year-old woman with lymphoma. Contrast-enhanced T1-weighted (A) and fast FLAIR (B) images show strongly enhancing masses in the left frontal lobe (arrows). Contrast-enhanced Fast FLAIR image shows clear distinction between tumor and surrounding edema. Fast FLAIR (C) and T2-weighted (D) images show poor conspicuity and indistinct delineation of tumor because the high signal intensity of tumor is similar to surrounding edema. Although the conspicuity of tumor is best on contrast-enhanced T1 weighted image, contrast-enhanced fast FLAIR shows better conspicuity of tumor than fast FLAIR or T2-weighted image.

Table 1. Visual Assessment of Lesion Conspicuity in Brain Tumors

	Gliomas (n=21)	Metastases (n=13)	Lymphomas (n=6)	Total (n=40)
EF vs. F				
EF > F	10 (48%)	11 (85%)	3 (50%)	24 (60%)
EF = F	11 (52%)	2 (15%)	3 (50%)	16 (40%)
F > EF	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
EF vs. ET1				
EF > ET1	3 (14%)	3 (23%)	0 (0%)	6 (15%)
EF = ET1	11 (52%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	11 (27%)
ET1 > EF	7 (33%)	10 (77%)	6 (100%)	23 (58%)
EF vs. T2				
EF > T2	13 (62%)	11 (85%)	4 (67%)	28 (70%)
EF = T2	8 (38%)	2 (15%)	2 (33%)	12 (30%)
T2 > EF	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)

EF: contrast-enhanced fast FLAIR,
 ET1: contrast-enhanced T1-weighted image,
 F: fast FLAIR, T2: T2-weighted image.
 A > B; A is superior to B, A = B; A is equal to B,
 A < B; B is superior to A

FLAIR T2 (81%)
 (Fig. 1 - 3).
 가
 FLAIR T1
 1
 FLAIR T1 (Fig. 4).
 34
 CNR FLAIR 32.6 ± 18.1, T2
 26.9 ± 17.1, T1 24.1 ± 12.6,
 FLAIR 12.3 ± 10.0 (Table 2).
 가
 CNR
 FLAIR CNR 가 .

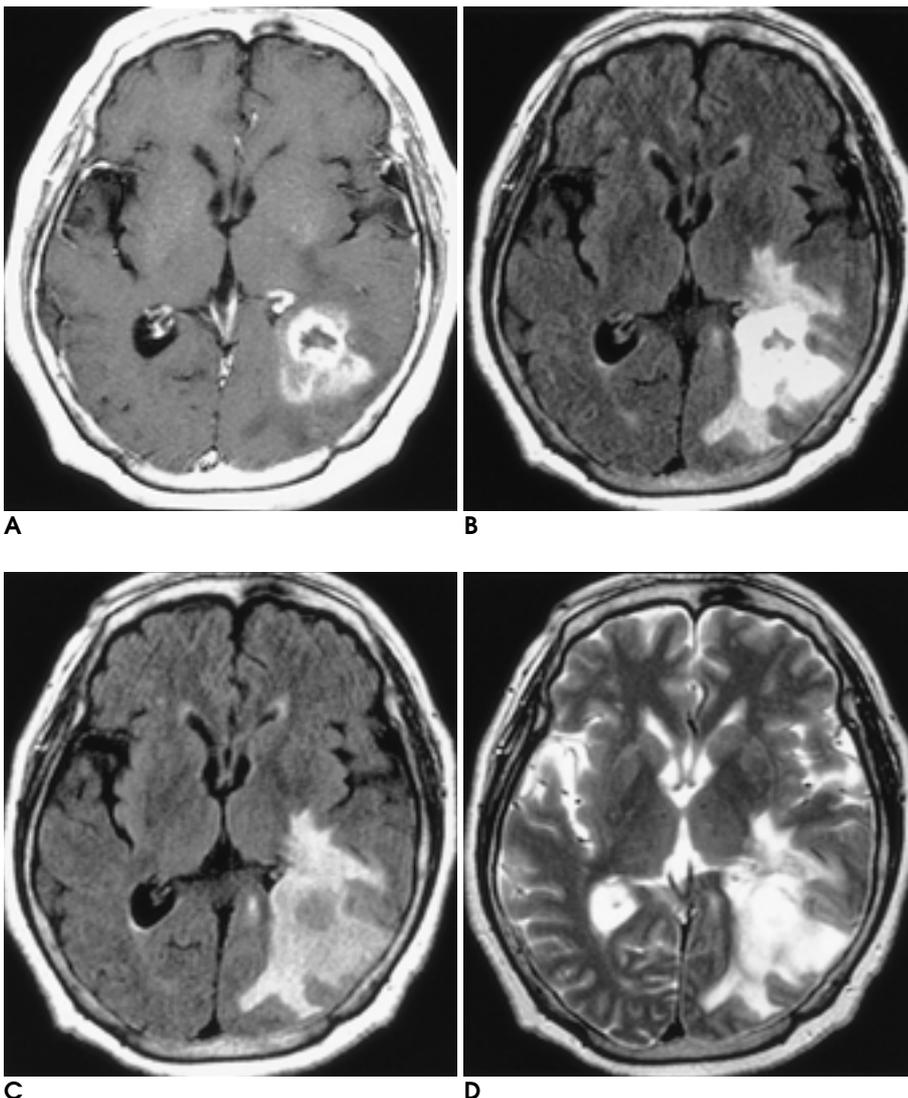


Fig. 3. A 67-year-old man with glioblastoma. Contrast-enhanced T1-weighted (A) image shows an irregular enhancing mass in the left temporal lobe. The conspicuity of tumor is similarly better on contrast-enhanced T1-weighted (A) and fast FLAIR image (B) than on fast FLAIR (C) and T2-weighted image (D). Contrast-enhanced fast FLAIR image also shows clear distinction of enhancing tumor and surrounding edema.

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Contrast-enhanced Fast Fluid-attenuated Inversion Recovery MR Imaging in Patients with Brain Tumors¹

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Purpose: To assess the feasibility of contrast-enhanced fast fluid-attenuated inversion recovery (fast FLAIR) MR imaging in patients with brain tumors.

Materials and Methods: This study involved 31 patients with pathologically proven brain tumors and nine with clinically diagnosed metastases. In all patients, T2-weighted, fast FLAIR, contrast-enhanced fast FLAIR and contrast-enhanced T1-weighted MR images were obtained. Contrast-enhanced fast FLAIR images were visually compared with other MR sequences in terms of tumor conspicuity. In order to distinguish tumor and surrounding edema, contrast-enhanced fast FLAIR images were compared with fast FLAIR and T2-weighted images. The tumor-to-white matter contrast-to-noise ratios (CNRs), as demonstrated by T2-weighted, fast FLAIR, contrast-enhanced fast FLAIR and contrast-enhanced T1-weighted imaging, were quantitatively assessed and compared.

Results: For the visual assessment of tumor conspicuity, contrast-enhanced fast FLAIR image imaging superior to fast FLAIR in 60% of cases (24/40), and superior to T2-weighted in 70% (28/40). Contrast-enhanced fast FLAIR imaging was inferior to contrast-enhanced T1-weighted in 58% of cases (23/40). For distinguishing between tumor and surrounding edema, contrast-enhanced fast FLAIR imaging was superior to fast FLAIR or T2-weighted in 22 of 27 tumors with peritumoral edema (81%). Quantitatively, CNR was the highest on contrast-enhanced fast FLAIR image and the lowest on fast FLAIR. For the detection of leptomeningeal metastases, contrast-enhanced fast FLAIR was partially superior to contrast-enhanced T1-weighted imaging in two of three high-grade gliomas.

Conclusion: Although contrast-enhanced fast FLAIR imaging should not be seen as a replacement for conventional modalities, it provides additional information for assessment of the extent of glial cell tumors and leptomeningeal metastases in patients with brain tumors.

Index words : Brain, MR

Brain, neoplasms

Magnetic resonance (MR), comparative studies

Magnetic resonance (MR), contrast enhancement

Magnetic resonance (MR), inversion recovery

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