NUCLEAR IMAGING OF THE HEART, LUNG AND BLOOD VESSELS



Nuclear medicine in cardiology

- Perfusion : myocardial perfusion scintigraphy
- Function: readionuclide ventriculography
- Shunts: first-pass angiocardiography
- Myocardial infarction scintigraphy
- Metabolisam: fatty acid, glucose, oxidative metabolisam, hypoxia
- Inervation: chatecolamin analogs, antagonists of B-receptors
- Atherosclerosis: proliferration smooth muscle cells labeled antibodies
- Angioscintigraphy
- Thromb formation

Myocardial perfusion scintigraphy

- Based on the fact that the distribution of some radiopharmaceuticals is proportional to the blood flow through specific myocardial segment
- Significance of coronary stenosis
- Quantification posibility

Radiofarmaceuticals and their biodistribution

- Thallium -201 cloride
- monocation compounds labeled with Tc-99m (Isonitril, Tetrofosmin, Teboroxim, Furofosfin)
- N-13-ammonia and Rubidium-82-cloride (PET) (N-13: T_{1/2}=10 min; Rb-82: T_{1/2}=1,3 min)

TI-201

- cyclotrone-produced, potassium analog
- $T_{1/2} = 73 h$
- X rays: 69-83 keV (98%)
- y emission: 135 keV (2%) and 167 keV (8%)
- distribution 40 min after injection
- redistribution

TI- 201

 advantages: significant extraction fraction and redistribution allows for simultaneously assessment of coronary blood flow and myocardial viability

 disadvantages: unfavorable physical characteristics (energy and T ½); cyclotrone produced (cost and availability)

Imaging protocols for TI-201

Intravenous injection during peak exercise

- "stress" image (10 min after injection)

- "rest" image (180-240 min after injection)

Tc-99m-labeled radiopharmaceuticals

 Tc-99m labeled MIBI (isonitril), tetrofosmin, teboroxsim, furofosfin

- advantages: more favorable physical characteristics, availability, "freezing" perfusion myocardial image in the moment of injection, posibility of simultaneous assessment of perfusion and function ("gated" study)
- Disadvantages: no redistribution need for 2 injections, lesser extraction fraction; viability?

Imaging protocols for Technetium-99m radiopharmaceuticals: One day protocol



Imaging protocols for Technetium-99m radiopharmaceuticals : two day protocol



Exercise

- <u>Dynamic exercise</u>, treadmill or bicycle exercise; sensitivity of the test depends on achieved expected load (submax. 85%)
- Farmacological stress: when dynamic exercise isn't possible or in pts. with left brand branch block (LBBB); dipyridamole, adenosine – vasodilatators; dobutamine - simpatomymetic

Imaging methods

planar scintigraphy





Planar scintigraphy

- Anterior (ANT)
- left anterolateral 45° (LAO)
- left lateral 70° (LL)
- duration of projection: 6-10 min.





Schematic representation of segmental division of myocard on planar images. Segments 1 and 2 are anterolateral, 6 and 7 septal, 11 and 12 anterior, 4 and 5 inferior, 14 and 15 inferoposterior, 9 and 10 posterolateral, 3, 8 and 13 apical wall of the left ventricul.



Segments 1,2,6,7,11 and 12 are perfused from left descending artery (LAD), segments 4,5,14 and 15 are perfused from right coronary artery (RCA), and segments 9 and 10 are perfused from left circumflex artery (LCx). Apex can be perfused from all three vessels, and posterior wall is perfused dominantly from RCA or LCx.

Diagnostic patterns: stress myocardial perfusion

TABLE 16-10 Diagnostic Patterns: Stress Myocardial Perfusion

Stress	Rest	Diagnosis
Normal	Normal	Normal
Defect	Normal	Ischemia
Defect	Defect (unchanged)	Infarction
Defect	Some normalization with areas of persistent defect	Ischemia and scar
Normal	Defect	Reverse redistribution*

Definitions describing the status of the myocardium

ABLE **16-9** Definitions Describing the Status of the Myocardium

erm	Definition and scan appearance	Ayocardial scar	Late result of infarction; hypoperfusion on scintigraph
Iyocardial ischemia	Oxygen supply below metabolic requirements because of inadequate blood circulation caused by coronary stenosis	Hibernating myocardium	Chronic ischemia with decreased blood flow and down regulation of contractility; reversible with restoration of blood flow
	Hypoperfusion (cold defect) on stress perfusion scintigrams		No perfusion on rest imaging, poor ventricular contraction
Iyocardial infarction	Necrosis of myocardial tissue, as a result of coronary occlusion		 Improved perfusion given a long recovery between rest-rest imaging or delayed reinjection TI-201 Increased uptake by FDG metabolic imaging mismatched to reduced uptake on perfusion scan Myocardium with persistent contractile dysfunction despite restoration of perfusion after a period of
	Hypoperfusion on rest-stress perfusion and decreased uptake with metabolic imaging	Stunned myocardium	
Fransmural infarction	Necrosis involves all layers from endocardium to epicardium		
	High sensitivity for detection by perfusion imaging		
ubendocardial infarction	Necrosis involves only muscle adjacent to endocardium		ischemia; usually improves with time Normal by perfusion imaging, poor ventricular contraction
	Lower sensitivity for detection on perfusion imaging		
			Uptake by FDG metabolic imaging

Reversible perfusion defects (Ischemia): anteroseptal, inferoseptal and apical regions Irreversible perfusion defect (Scar): inferoposterior wall



Coronary arteriography revealed an occluded right coronary artery and subtotal stenosis located in the proximal segment of the left anterior descending coronary artery.

Imaging methodes

Planar scintigraphy





















Figure 3: Tomographic images reoriented in short axis, vertical and horizontal long axis views. Correlation with coronary anatomy is provided by the drawing





A: normal perfusion

- B: exercise induced ischemia in the anterior and septal segment
- C: **fixed defect (scar)** in the inferior segment

Normal Study Te-99m SESTAMIBI




























































Normal finding





Reversible perfusion defect





Irreversible perfusion defect



ECToolbox Summary Page	*******	MIB 5/31/
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Stress Total Severity Score = 127

3-D perfusion review







ESTIMATED LV MYOCARDIAL MASS = 126gm (from the UNGATED data)

Def 1 Def 2 Def 3 Def 4 Def 5 Total

Stress Defect:

Total Mass	2	1gm	1gm	1gm	11gm	2 gm	16gm
Percent of Myo	1	18	18	18	108	28	15%
Reversibility:							
Total Mass	-	0 gm	0 gm	0 gm	3 gm	0 gm.	Зgm
Percent of Defect	Ξ.	08	08	08	238	08	16 %
Percent of Myo	-	08	08	08	28	08	28

Stress Total Severity Score = 178

3-D perfusion review





Stress Blackout

Reversed

ESTIMATED LV MYOCARDIAL MASS = 126gm (from the UNGATED data)

Def 1 Def 2 Def 3 Def 4 Def 5 Total

Stress Defect:

Total Mass	2	1gm	1gm	1gm	11gm	2 gm	16gm
Percent of Myo	:	18	18	18	108	28	15%
Reversibility:							
Total Mass	ł	0 gm	0 gm	0 gm	3 gm	0 gm	Зgm
Percent of Defect	2	08	08	08	238	08	16%
Percent of Myo	5	08	08	08	28	08	28

Stress Total Severity Score = 178

3-D perfusion review







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Gated SPECT perfusion study



16-10. Gated SPECT perfusion study. End-diastolic and endimages of the short-axis views (*top four rows* of images) and vertical rizontal long-axis views (*bottom two rows*) are shown. The TAC for all lices is shown at the *top*. ANT, Anterior; EDV, end-diastolic volume; ction fraction; ESV, end-systolic volume; FBP(G), filtered back pro-(gated); INF, inferior; Lat, lateral; SEP, septal; SV, stroke volume.

Clinical indications for myocardial perfusion scintigraphy

- Detection of coronary disease
- Risk assessment in patients with known coronary disease
- Determening the significance of angiographicly found stenosis
- Follow-up after revascularisation
- Viability assessment

Detection of coronary disease

- High sensitivity (75-90% -SPECT, >90% PET) in confirming or dissmissing coronary disease
- Specificity (69-83%), depending on patient included in the study
- Significantly higher sensitivity with regard to ergometry
- <u>The highest significance in patients with</u> <u>intermidium probability of coronary disease</u>

Prognostic value of myocardial perfusion scintigraphy

- The biggest value is of the negative founding
- Patients with negative myocardial perfusion findings and small pretest risk have one-year risk for infarction and sudden heart death less then 1%
- Variables that influence the posttest risk after scintigraphy: age, value of systolic blood pressure, DM, angina pectoris, family history of coronary disease, value of blood cholesterol

Prognostic factors in myocardial perfusion findings

- Size and intensitiy (character) of defect
- Size of defect: percentage or number of involved segments (left ventricule divided in 20 segments)
- Character of ischaemic defect (5 degrees of deviation from the normal for age, sex, type of radiopharmaceutical and type of methode)
- Combination of the size and character defect:
 - SSS stres summed score
 - RSS rest summed score
 - DSS difference summed score

Prognostic factors in myocardial perfusion findings – non perfusion

- <u>TID transient ishemic dilatation</u> (significantly higher left ventricule volume during "stress" imaging in regard to "rest" imaging) – high specificity for critical stenosis
- Higher lung uptake of radiopharmaceutical (TI-201) in "stress" imaging
- Value of poststress EF

Proved usefull indications for myocardial perfusion scintigraphy

- Detection, localisation, assessment of size and extent of ischaemia in patients with intermedium probability for coronary disease
- Assessment of functional importance of angiography determined coronary lesion (stenosis 25-75%)
- Patients with known coronary diesase, after revascularisation with persistent or worsening of the symptoms
- Diagnosis of coronary a. disease in patients with nondiagnostic findings during exercise, or patients that can't be adequately stressed (pharmacolocigal stress)
- Assesment of myocardial viability

Myocardial viability

- Assesment of "stunned" and/or "hibernated" myocard
- Assessment of possibility for improving LV function by revascularisation
- TI-201 "rest" or reinjection
- Tc-99m radiopharmaceutical "rest"
- PET combination with perfusion SPECT scintigraphy

Definitions describing the status of the myocardium Myocardial viability

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	High sensitivity for detection by perfusion imaging		Myocardium with persistent contractile dysfunction despite restoration of perfusion after a period of	
Subendocardial infarction	Necrosis involves only muscle adjacent to endocardium	9	ischemia; usually improves with time Normal by perfusion imaging, poor ventricular	
	Lower sensitivity for detection on perfusion imaging		contraction	
			Uptake by FDG metabolic imaging	

Potentially useful indications for myocardial perfusion scintigraphy

- Asymptomatic, hig risk patients 3-5 years after revascularisation
- Asymptomatic, high risk patients with diabetes or other risk factors for coronary disease
- Asymptomatic patients in high risk professions (pilots, flight controlers)

Conclusion

- Mypcardial perfusion scintigraphy is important part of diagnostic algorytham for coronary disease
- Because of mutual influence, it can't be assessed separatly from other anamnestic, clinical, functional or other informations
- The existance of "scoring" system of individual risk assessment, which together with myocardial perfusion scintigraphy findings involves all risk factors, will contribute to better risk assessment for each patient

Imaging methods

Planar scintigraphy





Positron emission scintigraphy - PET

- Radiopharmaceuticals:
 - F¹⁸ FDG (fluorodeoxyglocose);
 - C¹¹ acetat;
 - N¹³⁻ammonia;
 - O¹⁵;
 - Rb ⁸²

 perfusion and metabolic examination, assessment of myocardial viability

Cost and limited avialibility

Myocardial metabolisam examination – PET

- C-11 – free fatty acid

- C-11 acetate
- **-** F-18 FDG
- O-15 water
- Rubidium 82-chloride
- N-13 ammona

PET study





N-13-amonia

F-18-deoxyglucose

Normal finding

PET study

Perfusion (N-13-ammonia)



Metabolisam (F-18-deoksiglucose)



Scar: no perfusion and no metabolisam

PET study

Perfusion (N-13-ammonia)



Metabolisam (F-18-deoksiglucose)



Mismatch: diminished flow, but maintained metabolisam

Figure 7: Examples of PET viability studies (short axis views). Myocardial flow is determined using N-13 ammonia, metabolism using the glucose analogue F-18-deoxyglucose. Mismatch denotes reduced blood flow and maintained metabolism; while scar is characterised by reduced flow and metabolism.





The end!