Evaluation of a multiparametric quantitative BOLD approach to map local blood oxygen saturation in stroke patients

Julien Bouvier1,2, Marjorie Villien1,2, Sylvie Grand3,4, Assia Jaillard1,4, David Chechin2, Jean-Francois Le Bas3, Alexandre Krainik1,4, Emmanuel L Barbier1,5, and Irene Tropres5

1Grenoble Institute of Neurosciences, Grenoble, France, 2Philips Healthcare, Suresnes, France, 3INSERM U836, Grenoble, France, 4CHU Grenoble, Grenoble, France, 53T Facility, SFR Biomedical NMR and Neurosciences, Grenoble, France

Purpose/Introduction: Local oxygen saturation maps (lSO2) may be obtained using a multiparametric quantitative BOLD approach [1] that combines separate estimates of T2, T2*, blood volume fraction (BVf), and B0 inhomogeneities [2]. The aim of this study is to evaluate this approach in stroke patients.

Subjects and Methods: Seven stroke patients with NIHSS score above 10 one month after stroke gave their written informed consent. All images were acquired on a Philips Achieva 3T TX 45 days after the episode.

In addition to a 3DT1 sequence, three sequences were acquired: a 3D multi-gradient-echo sequence to correct for static field inhomogeneities; a multiple spin-echo experiment for T2 mapping and a perfusion sequence with injection of 0.1mmol/kg of Gd-DOTA (Guerbet, France) for BVf mapping.

For quantification purpose, the mean brain blood volume was normalized to 5% and mean cerebral blood flow to 60ml/100g/min. SO2 maps were calculated pixelwise using:

\[ lSO_2 = 1 - \frac{4}{3} \pi \cdot \gamma \cdot \Delta X_0 \cdot Hct \cdot T_{2'} \cdot B_0 \cdot BVf \]

where \( 1/T_{2'} = 1/T_{2^*} - 1/T_2 \), \( \gamma \) is the gyromagnetic ratio, \( \Delta X_0 = 0.264 \text{ppm} \) the difference in magnetic susceptibilities between fully oxygenated and fully deoxygenated hemoglobin and Hct=0.42 is the hematocrit fraction.

Three regions of interest were drawn on the T2* images: the lesion (non necrotic pixels), the periphery and the contralateral area (figure 1a). Mean values of T2, BVf, ISO2, and CBF were calculated for each ROI and averaged over the 7 patients. Results are expressed as mean ± standard deviation. Significance between the ROIs was tested with a Student t-test (p<0.05).

Results

The figure presents examples of the parameter maps. T2 values in the contralateral side are significantly smaller than in the lesion (#) or in its periphery ($) (table). CBF is higher in the contralateral area than in its periphery ($) and in the lesion (#), while BVf values are comparable between the three regions. lSO2 values are comparable in the lesion than in its periphery (*) or than in the contralateral side (#).

Discussion/Conclusion: These preliminary results show a reduced lSO2 in the lesion about 6 weeks after stroke. This lower lSO2 is consistent with the lower CBF observed in the non necrotic pixels of the lesion. It could reflect a glial inflammatory scar. Methodological issues remained to be addressed since quantitative BOLD approaches have not yielded accurate estimates in white matter areas yet. Our results suggest that 45 days after stroke, brain perfusion remains suboptimal in the lesion core. A longitudinal study is in progress to confirm or not the relationship between perfusion and lSO2.

References