Focal Nodular Hyperplasia: Classification and Mimics, MR Imaging Findings Correlating with Histopathology
Pardeep Mittal1, Juan C Camacho1, Kiran K Maddu1, Brian Quigley2, Nima Kokabi1, Kelly Cox1, Sadhna Nandwana1, and Courtney C Moreno1
1Radiology and Imaging Sciences, Emory Uni School of Medicine, Atlanta, Georgia, United States, 2Pathology, Emory Uni School of Medicine, Atlanta, Georgia, United States

Purpose:
- To demonstrate MR characteristics of focal nodular hyperplasia (FNH) and its classification (classic and non-classic types).
- To educate participants regarding variety of lesions which mimic focal nodular hyperplasia and ensure treatment and management of such lesions.
- To demonstrate differential diagnosis of fat as well as scar containing lesions that can also be present in FNH.

Methods: The presentation includes review of MR examination of patients for characterization of liver lesions such as FNH and its mimics using dedicated MRI abdomen protocol with and without contrast medium (Multihance) and hepatobiliary agents used for problem solving cases. We will correlate FNH and its mimics with histopathology.

Discussion: Focal nodular hyperplasia is the second most common benign liver tumor after hemangioma and is incidentally discovered during cross sectional imaging. FNH classified as classic type 80% and non-classic type 20% (which includes telangiectatic FNH, FNH with cytologic atypia and mixed hyperplastic and adenomatous FNH). FNH is a hyperplastic process in which all the normal constituents of liver are present but in an abnormally organized pattern. It is crucial to differentiate hypervascular lesions mimicking FNH such as HCC, especially fibrolamellar, hepatic adenoma and metastasis to ensure proper treatment. In this presentation, we will discuss the appearance of FNH in the background of hepatic steatosis as well as hemochromatosis along with imaging techniques and value of different contrast agents (e.g. hepatobiliary agents) essential for the correct diagnosis of FNH.

Conclusion: MRI is invaluable tool in diagnosing primary liver lesions such as FNH and identifying several entities that mimic focal nodular hyperplasia and thereby assist physicians in detection and management of such pathologies.

References:

Adenoma mimics FNH in a male patient
FNH against hemochromatosis but mimics HCC
Development of FNH in a renal transplant patient
Firolamellar type HCC