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► **To cite this version:**

Bénédicte Delattre, Magalie Viallon, Hongjiang Wei, Yuemin Zhu, Vinay Pai, et al.. Intravoxel Incoherent Motion applied to Cardiac diffusion weighted MRI using breath-hold acquisitions in healthy volunteers. 15th Annual SCMR Scientific Sessions, Feb 2012, Orlando, United States. pp.P261, 10.1186/1532-429X-14-S1-P261 . inserm-00682267

HAL Id: inserm-00682267

<https://www.hal.inserm.fr/inserm-00682267>

Submitted on 24 Mar 2012

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POSTER PRESENTATION

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Intravoxel Incoherent Motion applied to Cardiac diffusion weighted MRI using breath-hold acquisitions in healthy volunteers

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From 15th Annual SCMR Scientific Sessions
Orlando, FL, USA. 2-5 February 2012

Background

Diffusion weighted imaging (DWI) gives rise to a unique method to evaluate perfusion and diffusion parameters of a tissue without the need of any contrast agent, with the introduction of the Intravoxel Incoherent Motion (IVIM) model (Le Bihan, *Radiology* 1988). Despite its relevance, cardiac DWI has so far been limited to low b-values primarily due to signal loss induced by physiological motion. Recently, an efficient cardiac DWI method was proposed where images were acquired at different time points of the cardiac cycle and where motion-induced signal-loss was removed by Principal Component Analysis (PCA) filtering and temporal MIP (tMIP) techniques (PCATMIP) (Rapacchi, *Invest Radiol* 2011). We compared the IVIM parameters obtained at a single optimized diastolic time point of the cardiac cycle (1TD) to the results obtained with PCATMIP technique.

Methods

Breath-hold DWI scans were performed on 12 volunteers for 10 trigger-delay values in diastole. 13 b-values ranged from 0 to 550 s/mm² were used. Signal intensity (SI) of the LV myocardium was fitted with the IVIM model corrected for T1/T2 relaxation (Lemke, *MRM* 2010).

Results

Figure 1 shows examples of DWI for 1TD and PCATMIP as well as maps of IVIM parameters. PCATMIP allowed the recovery of signal loss due to either intrascan cardiac motion or RR variability over multiple breath-holds (see fig. 2). Perfusion fraction *f*, diffusion

coefficient *D* and pseudo-diffusion coefficient *D*^{*} were evaluated. The values of *D* measured for 1TD and for PCATMIP were similar (2.35±1.12x10⁻³ mm²/s and 2.35±0.89x10⁻³ mm²/s respectively, *p*=0.999). However, *f* was lower with 1TD than with PCATMIP (0.118±0.067 and 0.163±0.056 respectively, *p*=0.0018). Average *D*^{*} obtained was 0.106 mm²/s for 1TD and 0.0763 mm²/s for PCATMIP.

Conclusions

This study demonstrates feasibility and reports for the first time cardiac IVIM parameters in normal humans. PCATMIP minimized the motion-induced signal loss which is the main problem in cardiac DWI. This study opens new perspectives for perfusion imaging without contrast media.

Funding

This work was supported by the French National Agency for Research (ANR).

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Published: 1 February 2012

doi:10.1186/1532-429X-14-S1-P261

Cite this article as: Delattre et al.: Intravoxel Incoherent Motion applied to Cardiac diffusion weighted MRI using breath-hold acquisitions in healthy volunteers. *Journal of Cardiovascular Magnetic Resonance* 2012 **14** (Suppl 1):P261.

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