



Reviewer's code: 02992965

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

1, All the cases should have pathological diagnosis or diagnosis criteria. If not, how to evaluate the exclusion criteria such as ICC, etc? 2, If you could add a group of conventional FB-DWI compared with modified FB-DWI and modified FB-DWI with non-contrast agents vs modified FB-DWI with contrast agents group would be better?

Answers to reviewer's comments

Comment 1, All the cases should have pathological diagnosis or diagnosis criteria. If not, how to evaluate the exclusion criteria such as ICC, etc?

Answer 1

Thank you for the suggestion. Thirty-eight of the 105 HCCs were pathologically confirmed after surgeries. Other 67 HCCs were diagnosed referring to imaging findings. In this study, HCCs which showed typical imaging findings were used for the analysis. In other words, liver tumors which showed atypical imaging findings were not included in this study.

Of course, there was a risk that we could not exclude ICCs which showed the similar appearance as HCCs. However, in this study, we compared the detectability between two types of DWI methods, not the differential diagnosis or characterization of liver tumors. We didn't think that it didn't influence on the results of detectability of DWI even if a few ICCs were included in the subjects of this study. It is because it was doubtful whether ICC could be detected by one type of DWI but not by other type of DWI.

However, we add the following sentences as a limitation of this study in the DISCUSSION.



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In addition, there was a risk to include small ICCs which showed hypervascular tumor like HCCs. However, in this study, we did not focus on the differential diagnosis or characterization of liver tumors. The results of our study were not influenced even if a few ICCs were included in the subjects.

Comment 2, If you could add a group of conventional FB-DWI compared with modified FB-DWI and modified FB-DWI with non-contrast agents vs modified FB-DWI with contrast agents group would be better?

Answer 2

Thank you for the suggestion. Unfortunately, this was a retrospective study, so that it was impossible to do additional groups or investigations. We'll keep in mind the reviewer's suggestion and try it in a future study.