

Low Dose Spectral Insufflation CT Protocol Preoperatively Optimized for T Stage Esophageal Cancer: Preliminary Research Experience

Abstract

AIM

To evaluate the T stage of esophageal squamous cell carcinoma (ESCC) using preoperative low-dose esophageal insufflation CT (EICT).

METHODS

One hundred-twenty ESCC patients confirmed by surgery or esophagoscopy were divided into three groups. Automatic spectral imaging assist (GSI assist) was performed in groups B and C via a 300 mgI/kg contrast medium injection, while group A received a conventional 120 kVp CT with a 450 mgI/kg contrast medium injection. EICT was performed in group C. Group A and groups B and C were reconstructed with FBP and 50% ASIR, respectively. The contrast-to-noise ratio (CNR) of lesion-to-mediastinal adipose tissue and the radiation dose were measured. Special imaging features were observed, and T stage ESCCs were evaluated.

RESULTS

The sensitivity and accuracy of the T1/2 stage were higher in group C than those in groups A and B. With regard to the T3 stage, the sensitivity and specificity in group C was higher than those of groups A and B. The diagnostic sensitivity, specificity and accuracy of the T4 stage were similar among all groups.

CONCLUSION

EICT combined with GSI assist allows a differential diagnosis between the T1/2 and T3 stages.

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