

论 著

Gd-EOB-DTPA增强MRI肝胆期高信号HCC的影像学表现及病理对照分析*

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【摘要】目的 探讨普美显(Gd-EOB-DTPA)增强MRI肝胆期(HBP)高信号肝细胞癌(HCC)影像学表现及病理对照分析。方法 回顾性分析南通第三人民医院自2018年12月至2022年10月经手术病理证实的29例Gd-EOB-DTPA增强MRI检查HBP高信号HCC患者的影像学及病理资料,观察肿瘤的影像特征(包括病灶大小、MRI平扫、动态增强模式及HBP表现),并与病理结果进行对照分析。结果 29例均为单发病灶,最大径3.0(2.2, 4.2)cm,主要表现为T₁WI低信号、T₂WI高信号,19例DWI、ADC均呈稍高信号,2例为病变内含脂。动态强化模式以快进慢出型为主(58.6%, 17/29),其次是快进快出型(41.4%, 12/29)。肝胆期,51.7%(15/29)表现为HBP低信号环、44.8%(13/29)表现为对比剂局灶性未摄取、27.6%(8/29)表现为“结中结”表现。根据HCC Edmondson病理分级,高分化3例(I级1例, I/II级2例)、中分化(II级)19例、低分化(II/III级5例, III级2例)7例。高中分化组与低分化组高信号HCC在ADC图信号、动态强化模式上具有统计学差异(P=0.030, P=0.011)。影像与病理对照发现, HBP低信号环与肿瘤纤维包膜相对应,对比剂局灶性未摄取与肿瘤囊变、坏死或去分化区相一致,“结中结”表现与肿瘤异质性分化密切相关。结论 HBP高信号HCC病理上以高中分化为主, ADC图信号、动态强化模式与肿瘤分化程度有关, HBP低信号环、对比剂局灶性未摄取、“结中结”表现有助于其诊断。

【关键词】肝细胞癌; 钆塞酸二钠; 结中结;
肝胆期低信号环

【中图分类号】R735.7; R445.2

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Comparative Analysis of Imaging and Pathology Features of Hepatocellular Carcinoma Showing Hyperintensity on the Hepatobiliary Phase of Gd-EOB-DTPA-enhanced MRI*

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ABSTRACT

Objective To analyze the imaging and pathology features of hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) showing hyperintensity on the hepatobiliary phase (HBP) of Gd-EOB-DTPA-enhanced MRI. **Methods** The imaging and pathological data of 29 patients with HBP hyperintensity HCC examined by Gd-EOB-DTPA-enhanced MRI in the Third Affiliated Nantong Hospital of Nantong University from December 2018 to October 2022 were retrospectively analyzed. The imaging features of the tumor (including lesion size, MRI plain scan, dynamic enhancement mode and HBP imaging) were observed and compared with the pathological results. **Results** All the 29 cases were single lesions with an maximum diameter of 3.0 (2.2, 4.2) cm. HBP hyperintensity HCC mainly showed hypointensity on T₁WI and hyperintensity on T₂WI. 25 cases showed slightly hyperintensity on DWI and ADC, and 2 cases contained fat in mass. The dynamic enhancement patterns of hyperintensity HCC were mainly wash-in and no wash-out type (58.6%, 17/29), followed by wash-in and wash-out type (41.4%, 12/29). Hyperintensity HCCs were mainly showed HBP hypointense rim (51.7%, 15/29), focal defects in uptake (44.8%, 13/29), and “nodule-in-nodule” architecture (27.6%, 8/29) on HBP imaging. According to the pathological grade of HCC Edmondson, 3 cases were highly differentiated (1 case of grade I, 2 cases of grade I/II), 19 cases of moderately differentiated, and 7 cases of low differentiated (5 cases of grade II/III, 2 cases of grade III). There was a statistically significant difference in ADC map signal and dynamic enhancement pattern between the high-moderately differentiated group and the poorly differentiated group (P=0.030, P=0.011). According to the comparison of imaging and pathology, it was found that the HBP hypointense rim was corresponding to the tumor fibrous capsule, focal defects in uptake was consistent with the cystic degeneration, necrosis or dedifferentiation of the tumor, and “nodule-in-nodule” architecture was closely related to the heterogeneous differentiation of the tumor. **Conclusion** HBP hyperintensity HCC is mainly moderately and highly differentiated, and the imaging findings can reflect the pathological changes to some extent, combined with the important signs of hepatobiliary phase, which is helpful to improve the accuracy of preoperative diagnosis.

Keywords: Hepatocellular Carcinoma; Gd-EOB-DTPA; Nodule-in-Nodule; HBP Hypointense Rim

钆塞酸二钠(gadolinium ethoxybenzyl diethylenetriamine pentaacetic acid, Gd-EOB-DTPA)增强MRI肝胆期(hepatobiliary phase, HBP)低信号是诊断肝细胞肝癌(hepatocellular carcinoma, HCC)的重要依据,但大约10%~15%的HCC“反常摄取”对比剂^[1], HBP呈高信号。由于临床经验的缺乏造成误诊率较高,而目前国内、外有关这方面的研究报道甚少^[2-4]。因此,本文回顾性分析经手术病理证实的29例HBP高信号HCC患者的影像学及病理资料,旨在提高该病变的诊断准确率。

1 资料与方法

1.1 一般资料 选取2018年12月至2022年10月南通市第三人民医院肝胆胰外科收治的465例HCC患者。

纳入标准: HBP呈高信号,定义为相对于背景肝实质, ≥2/3的病变区域呈等或高信号^[3];手术切除病理诊断为HCC; MRI检查前未接受针对HCC的局部及系统性治疗;术前接受Gd-EOB-DTPA增强MRI检查。排除标准: 存在恶性肿瘤病史或者同时合并其他恶性肿瘤;由于伪影导致MRI图像质量较差。最终,筛选出HBP高信号HCC患者29例,均为单发病灶。其中,男21例、女8例,年龄45~81岁,中位年龄63(55, 72)岁。

1.2 方法

1.2.1 仪器设备 MRI检查: 采用荷兰Philips Achieva 3.0 T MRI扫描仪, 16通道腹部线圈。MRI常规平扫序列包括同、反相位T₁WI、脂肪抑制T₂WI和DWI。横轴位屏气扰相梯度回波(FLASH)T₁WI正反相位: TR 81 ms, TE1 1.15 ms, TE2 2.3 ms, 层厚5.0 mm, 层间距1.0mm, 矩阵256×160;横轴位自由呼吸单次激发脂肪抑制快速自旋回波(TSE)T₂WI: TR 2 000.00ms, TE 90.00ms, 层厚5.0mm, 层间距1.0mm, 矩阵256×160;横轴位自由呼吸单次激发平面回波(EPI)DWI: b值取0和800s/mm², TR 2 200.00ms,

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TE 55.00ms, 层厚5.0mm, 层间距1.0mm, 矩阵128×160。动态增强扫描采用T1高分辨率各向同性容积激发扫描(THRIVE)序列: TR 3.0ms, TE 1.5ms, 层厚2.5mm, 无间距扫描, 矩阵250×230。对比剂采用Gd-EOB-DTPA(德国拜耳医药保健公司), 采用高压注射器经静脉以1.0~1.5mL/s流率注射, 剂量为0.1mL/kg, 注射对比剂后以20mL生理盐水冲洗。注射对比剂后分别延迟22s、60~70s、3min、20min采集动脉期(arterial phase, AP)、门静脉期(portal venous phase, PVP)、过渡期(transitional phase, TP)及肝胆期(image, TP)及肝胆期图像。

病理检查: 根据HCC Edmondson-Steiner组织病理分级, 依次分为高分化(I级或I/II级)、中分化(II级)、低分化(II/III级、III级或IV级)。由一名病理诊断医师观察病灶周围是否存在纤维包膜, 肿瘤内部是否存在囊变、坏死或异质性分化区。

1.2.2 图像分析 由2名放射科医师(分别具有10年和7年腹部MRI诊断经验)在不了解病理详情的情况下独自观察影像特征, 意见不一致时, 相互协商达成一致意见。

观察并记录以下MRI特征: (1)一般特征, 包括病灶的位置、数目、最大径; (2)MRI平扫, 包括T₁WI、T₂WI、DWI、ADC信号, 病灶是否含脂; (3)动态强化模式(分为AP强化, PVP/TP强化减退, 即“快进快出”型; AP强化, PVP/TP持续强化, 即“快进慢出”型); (4)HBP表现, 包括HBP低信号环^[5](环绕于病变周围薄而光滑的低信号边缘)、对比剂局灶性未摄取(HBP病灶内存在低信号区, 范围比<1/3)及“结中结”表现^[6](由较小富血供强化的内结节及周围较大乏血供低强化的外结节组成, HBP外结

节高信号、内结节高或低信号, 范围比<1/3)。

汇总影像、病理资料后, 放射科医师在病理诊断医师的协助下进一步与手术病理结果进行对照。

1.3 统计学方法 采用SPSS 26.0软件进行统计学分析。计数资料以率表示, 高中分化组与低分化组高信号HCC MRI特征的比较采用Fisher确切概率法, 以P<0.05为差异有统计学意义。

2 结果

29例均为单发病灶, 最大径(1.4~7.3)cm, 中位数3.0(2.2, 4.2)cm, 主要表现为T₁WI低信号、T₂WI高信号, 19例DWI、ADC均呈稍高信号, 2例为病变内含脂。动态强化模式以快进慢出型为主(58.6%, 17/29)(图1A、图1B), 其次是快进快出型(41.4%, 12/29)(图2A、图2B)。肝胆期, 51.7%(15/29)表现为HBP低信号环(图1C)、44.8%(13/29)表现为对比剂局灶性未摄取(图2C)、27.6%(8/29)表现为“结中结”表现(图3A~3C)。根据HCC Edmondson病理分级, 高分化3例(I级1例, I/II级2例)、中分化(II级)19例、低分化(II/III级5例, III级2例)7例。高中分化组与低分化组高信号HCC在ADC图信号、动态强化模式上具有统计学差异(P=0.030, P=0.011), 其余MRI征象两者间均无统计学差异(P均>0.05)。影像与病理对照发现, HBP低信号环与肿瘤纤维包膜相对应(图1D), 对比剂局灶性未摄取与肿瘤囊变、坏死或去分化区相一致(图2D), “结中结”表现与肿瘤异质性分化密切相关(图3D)。

表1 肝胆期(HBP)高信号HCC影像表现与病理分化程度的关系

影像征象	合计(n=29)	病理分化程度		P值
		高中分化(n=22)	低分化(n=7)	
肿瘤最大径/cm	3.0(2.2, 4.2)	2.9(2.2, 4.0)	3.2(2.4, 4.5)	0.107
MRI平扫				
T ₁ WI表现(低信号/高信号)/例	26/3	19/3	7/0	1.000
T ₂ WI表现(高/混杂/低信号)/例	17/10/2	14/6/2	3/4/0	0.397
DWI信号(低/高)/例	4/25	4/18	0/7	0.546
ADC信号(低/高)/例	10/19	5/17	5/2	0.030
病变内含脂(有/无)/例	2/27	2/20	0/7	1.000
动态强化模式				
快进快出型(是/否)/例	12/17	6/16	6/1	0.011
快进慢出型(是/否)/例	17/12	16/6	1/6	0.011
HBP表现				
HBP低信号环(有/无)/例	15/14	12/10	3/4	0.682
对比剂局灶性未摄取(有/无)/例	13/16	8/14	5/2	0.192
“结中结”表现(有/无)/例	8/21	4/18	4/3	0.068

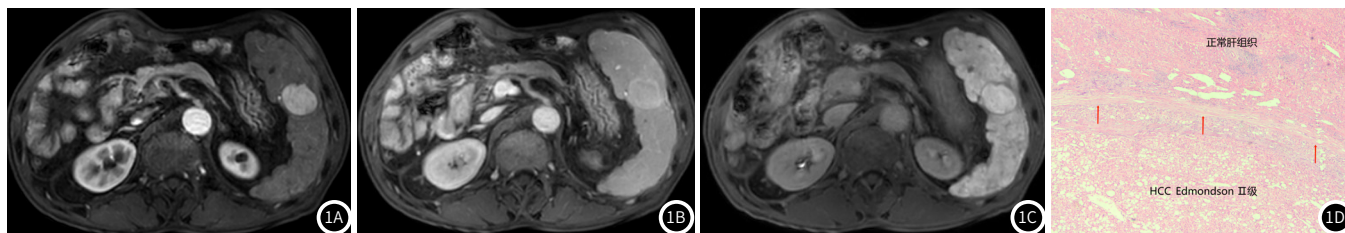


图1A-图1D 肝胆期(HBP)高信号HCC, 术后病理证实为中分化HCC(Edmondson II级)。病灶动态增强呈快进慢出型强化(图1A、图1B), 肝胆期呈高信号伴HBP低信号环(图1C)。术后病理显示, 肿瘤周围具有完整的纤维包膜形成, 对应于HBP低信号环(图1D)(HE×100)

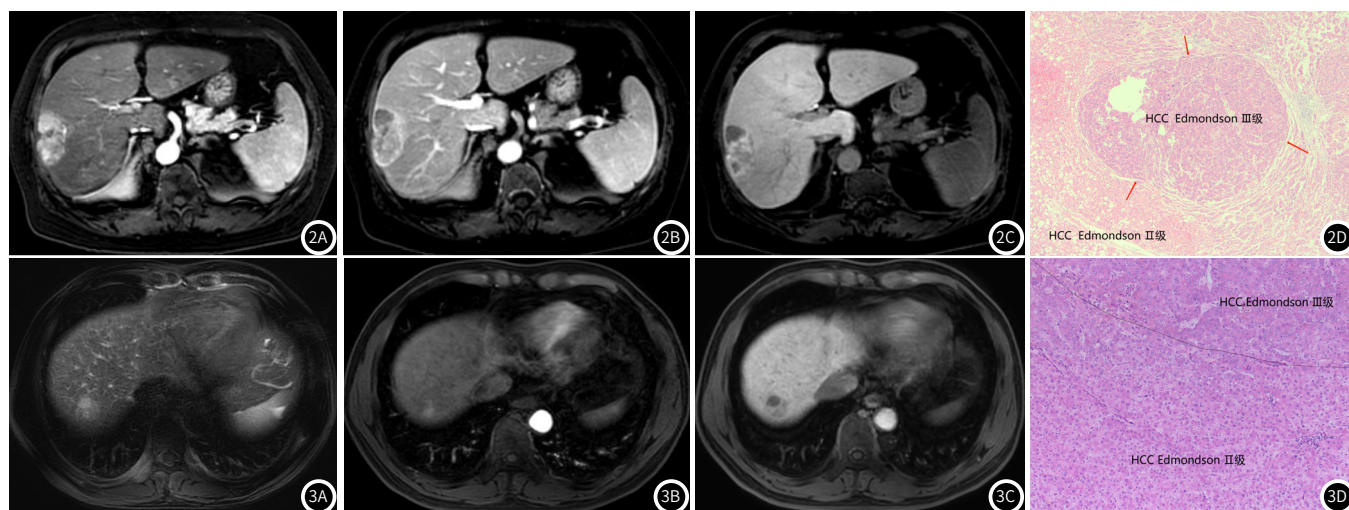


图2A-图2D HBP高信号HCC, 术后病理证实为中低分化HCC(Edmondson II/III级)。病灶动态增强局部呈快进快出型强化(图2A、图2B, 箭), 肝胆期显示对比剂局灶性未摄取(图2C)。术后病理显示, 肿瘤细胞呈异质性分化, Edmondson II级对应HBP高信号区、Edmondson III级对应HBP低信号区, 即对比剂局灶性未摄取(图2D) (HE × 100)

图3A-图3D HBP高信号HCC, 术后病理证实为中低分化HCC(Edmondson II/III级)。病灶T₂WI呈“结中结”混杂稍高信号, 其中内结节呈更高信号(图3A, 箭), 动脉期内结节为富血供伴明显强化、外结节乏血供无强化(图3B), 肝胆期内结节呈低信号、外结节呈高信号, 即“结中结”表现(图3C, 箭)。术后病理显示, 肿瘤细胞呈异质性分化, Edmondson III级对应内结节, Edmondson II级对应外结节(图3D) (HE × 100)

3 讨论

肝脏部分肿瘤通过以下几种机制摄取对比剂(增生肝细胞摄取、肿瘤细胞摄取、细胞外间隙滞留、瘤周滞留及肿瘤内胆道强化)摄取对比剂^[1], HBP呈高信号。其中, 高信号HCC摄取对比剂主要与肿瘤细胞中 β -连环蛋白和肝细胞核因子4 α (HNF4 α)的共同激活, 通过上调有机阴离子转运多肽(OATP1B3)的表达来维持肝细胞功能相关^[7]。组织病理学上, 高信号HCC常伴有胆汁栓的假腺体增生模式, 也称为“绿色肝癌”^[2], 具有分化程度高、侵袭性弱以及复发率低等特点^[8-9], 本研究中, 75.9%(22/29)的HBP高信号HCC病理显示为高中分化。

本研究中, 65.5%(19/23)的病灶DWI、ADC图上同时呈高信号, 高中分化组与低分化组间ADC信号存在差异($P=0.030$)。多项研究及Meta分析^[10-11]认为, ADC值尤其是最小ADC值可作为预测HCC分化程度的重要依据, 低分化HCC的ADC值显著降低, 但不同级别HCC的ADC值部分存在重叠。动态强化模式, 高中分化组以快进慢出型为主(72.7%, 16/22), 低分化组以快进快出型为主(85.7%, 6/7), 这可能与其病理基础密切相关。HCC在疾病发生发展过程中血供方式发生变化, 从肝动脉及门静脉双重供血发展成以肿瘤动脉供血为主, 高、中分化HCC有较丰富的肝内血窦, 早期强化可不明显、强化持续时间长, 而低分化HCC有更密集、粗大的肿瘤血管, 更易出现快进快出的典型强化特点^[12]。此外, 本研究中, HBP低信号环、对比剂局灶性未摄取、“结中结”表现具有一定特征性, 有助于其诊断, 与先前的文献报道一致^[3]。HBP低信号环作为诊断HCC重要的辅助征象之一^[13], 组织病理学上代表纤维包膜或假包膜, An^[5]等研究结果显示, 如将HBP低信号环视为包膜征象, 可提高肿瘤包膜的检出及HCC的诊断效能。对比剂局灶性未摄取, 未摄取区可能代表肿瘤内的囊变、坏死区或去分化区, 类似“马赛克”表现^[3]。Cannella等^[14]研究指出“结中结”表现可作为早期HCC多步癌演变的重要标志, 病理学上, 内结节是HCC克隆扩增至更多低分化肿瘤细胞的中心, 具有典型HCC的影像征象, 即快进快出型强化、HBP低信号, 而外结节则表现出乏血供临界病灶的影像特征, HBP高信号^[6]。

本研究的局限性: 样本量少, 可能存在抽样误差, 后续需加大样本研究; 其次, 并未对其他HBP高信号病变进行鉴别诊断, 有待今后进一步探讨。

综上所述, HBP高信号HCC病理学上以高中分化为主, ADC图信号、动态强化模式与肿瘤分化程度有关, HBP低信号环、对比剂局灶性未摄取、“结中结”表现有助于其诊断。

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