

Evaluation of Palpation Imaging in Breast Lesion Diagnosis

YingSong, Chunwu Zhou, JingLi

Department of Diagnostic Radiology ,Cancer Hospital Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences

Objective The Palpation imaging (PI) that closely mimics manual palpation but with enhanced sensitivity and specificity might be considered as a branch of elasticity imaging or elastography. PI yields a digital elasticity map and provides quantitative characterization of the detected mass using the data obtained by a force sensor array pressed against the examined site. The changes in the surface stress patterns as a function of displacement, applied load and time provide information about the elastic composition and geometry of the underlying tissue structures. The objective of this study is the clinical evaluation of palpation imaging (PI) for breast lesion diagnosis.

Methods and Materials From June 2010 to December 2011, 169 patients with 195 breast lesions, of which 125 were breast cancers and 70 were benign lesions verified by surgical pathology, were examined by PI, physical examination, mammography and ultrasound in cancer hospital, Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences. The hardness, shape, homogeneity, and mobility of the lesion extracted from PI were used for lesion characterization. Additional diagnostic information provided by other diagnostic modalities was collected and used for the analysis of the potential of diagnosis of breast lesion by PI. Receiver operating characteristics (ROC) curve was used to evaluate PI for differentiation between benign and malignant lesions. The diagnostic sensitivity and specificity of the four examinations were compared.

Results The area under the receiver operating characteristics curve(AUC) characterizing benign and malignant lesion discrimination was 0.884 (95%CI: 0.836~0.932, $P<0.001$) for PI (see Fig.1). The sensitivity of PI was 82.4%, which was significantly higher than that of physical examination (48%, $P=0.000$) but lower than that of either mammography (93.6%, $P=0.003$) or ultrasound (95.5%, $P=0.000$). The specificity of PI (80.0%) was significantly better than that of mammography (55.7%, $P=0.002$) and ultrasound (62.3%, $P=0.023$), For patients with different breast composition on mammography, PI had similar sensitivity (87.3% for <50% glandular, 77.4% for >50% glandular, $P=0.166$) and specificity (85.7% for <50% glandular, 79.4% for >50% glandular, $P=1.000$).

Conclusion PI has the capability for differentiation of benign and malignant breast lesions, and may serve as an adjunct to physical examination, mammography and ultrasound in the diagnosis of breast diseases.

Email: songying1770@hotmail.com

No. 17, PanJiaYuan Nan-li P. O. Box 2258

Chaoyang District ,Beijing 100021 P. R. China