

MAGNETIC RESONANCE PRESENTATION OF INTRACRANIAL MENINGIOMAS

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Magnetic resonance (MR) has become the most important imaging method in the diagnosis of intracranial meningiomas.

The aim of this study was to present the characteristics of meningiomas.

Thirty patients with histologically proven intracranial meningiomas were studied. There were 20 female and 10 male patients (median=53±15 years). All MR examinations were performed on the MR apparatus, the strength of which is 1.5T. All patients were scanned with T1, T2-weighted imaging (T1WI, T2WI), FLAIR and contrast-enhanced T1WI.

Most of the tumors showed on T1WI the isointense signal (80%) and hypointense signals (20%). On T2WI, most of tumors showed isointense signal (80%) and hyperintense signal (20%). On FLAIR, the majority of tumors showed isointense signal (80%) and hyperintense signal (20%). After contrast administration, significantly intensive sign in contrast-enhanced T1WI was observed in 90% of the tumors, while 10% showed moderate enhancement. Supratentorial lesions were found in 83,34% of cases and infratentorial lesion were demonstrated in 16,66% of cases.

MRI characteristics of intracranial meningiomas are various. Intracranial meningiomas usually show isointense and hypointense signals on T1WI; isointense and hyperintense ones on T2WI; isointense and hyperintense ones on FLAIR images, with intense enhancement after contrast administration. The most common is supratentorial localisation. *Acta Medica Medianae* 2011;50(2):24-28.

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Introduction

Meningiomas are common intracranial tumors that arise from the cells covering the external arachnoid layer (1) compressing the brain (2). Meningiomas represent 20-26% of all primary intracranial neoplasms. They represent 20% of all intracranial tumors in men and 38% in women. 94% of meningiomas are benign, 4% are atypical and 1% is anaplastic. Benign meningiomas are more common in women, whereas atypical and anaplastic forms are frequent in men (3).

They also present as primary intracranial neoplasms, together with astrocytomas, that produce distant metastases in the lung and breast (4,5). They appear in the middle decades of life with a female predominance in incidence M:F=1:1.5 to 1:3. They show the geographic (includes 30% of intracranial tumors in Africa) and ethnic predominance (Caucases, Spanish, African-Americans (6,4). Meningioma has estrogenic (0-94%) and progesterone receptors (40-100%).

Besides these receptors, the expression of androgen receptors can be found in meningiomas with approximately equal frequency, so that 69% present in males and 31% in women (6).

The beginning of magnetic resonance application (MR imaging - MRI) in the early 1980s radically changed the routine radiological diagnosis of primary and secondary brain tumors. Today, MRI is a key modality not only for diagnosis of lesions, but also for the assessment of type and grade of the tumor and degree of spreading into the surrounding tissue (7). On MR imaging, meningiomas are presented with various signals depending on the sequence. On T1WI, they show isointense signal and hypointense signal, and on T2WI they show hyperintense signal. After the application of gadolinium, on contrast-enhanced T1WI sequences, meningiomas show intense staining, which can be heterogeneous in some cases (7,8).

We presented MR imaging findings of 30 patients with meningioma.

Method

A prospective study involved a group of 30 patients with histologically proven intracranial meningiomas in the period 2004-2009. The study included 20 women (66.66%) and 10 men (44.44%), with mean age 53±15 years. All patients underwent surgical resection of the tumor; histological

diagnosis of tumors was determined according to WHO classification.

DW MRI method was performed in the Center for Radiology Niš, on the Siemens Avanto MR device, with magnetic fields of 1.5T. The examinations were performed in all patients, up to seven days before surgery, according to the standard protocol with the following sequence: T1WI, T2WI, FLAIR and post contrast T1W.

Comparison of representation of certain findings by the level of T sequences between patients with different histological diagnoses was performed by Fisher exact probability test of the null hypothesis (Fisher's exact test).

Results

MR imaging was performed in 30 patients in the period 2004-2009 and intracranial meningiomas were diagnosed. The study included 20 (66.66%) women and 10 (44.44%) men, with the female predominance in incidence M:F=1:2. The youngest patient was 29 years old and the oldest 73 years, with mean age 53±15 years.

Table 1. Distribution of patients in respect to histopathological diagnosis and sex

Histopathological diagnosis	Sex		Total
	Women	Men	
Meningothelial meningiomas	10 (66,66%)	5 (33,34%)	15 (50%)
Fibroblastic meningiomas	7 (70%)	3 (30%)	10 (33,33%)
Cystic meningiomas	3 (60%)	2 (40%)	5 (16,67%)
Total number of meningiomas	20 (66,66%)	10 (44,44%)	30 (100%)

From the total number of patients (30), meningothelial meningiomas were diagnosed in 15 (50%) patients, 66.66% of women and 33.34% of men. Fibroblastic meningiomas were found in 10 (33.33%) patients, 70% of women and 30% of men. Cystic meningiomas were diagnosed in 5 (16.67%) patients, 60% of women and 40% of men.

According to the results obtained in our study, there is a female predominance in the incidence M:F=1:2.

Table 2 Distribution of patients in respect to histopathological diagnosis and age

Histopathological diagnosis	Parameter				
	Xsr	SD	Med	Min	Max
Meningothelial meningiomas	64,00	6,25	62,00	59,00	71,00
Fibroblastic meningiomas	48,67	17,05	48,00	26,00	72,00
Cystic meningiomas	46,00	.	46,00	46,00	46,00
Total number of meningiomas	53,00	15,11	54,00	26,00	72,00

According to the results obtained in our study, meningiomas occur in the middle decades of life, with mean age 53±15 years.

Anatomic distribution of tumors

Table 3. Anatomic distribution of tumors

Supratentorial	Infratentorial
Convexity 13 (43,33%)	Cerebellopontine angle 3 (10%)
Parasagittal region 5 (16,66%)	Petrous apex 2 (6,66%)
Parafalcine 2 (6,66%)	
Occipital diploe 1 (3,33%)	
Anterior fossa 1 (3,33%)	
Middle fossa 1 (3,33%)	
Tentorium 2 (6,66%)	
25 (83,34%)	5 (16,66%)

In our study, all patients had a solitary lesion before surgery.

Supratentorial localization was reported in 25 (83.34%) patients. The tumor was localized in the cerebral convexity in 13 (43.33%) patients, parasagittal region in 5 (16.66%) patients, parafalcine in 2 (6.66%) patients, occipital diploe in 1 (3.33%) patient, anterior fossa in 1 (3.33%) patient, middle fossa in 1 (3.33%) patient, tentorium in 2 (6.66%) patients.

Infratentorial localization was confirmed in 5 (16.66%) patients. The cerebellopontine angle in 3 (10%) patients, and petrous apex in 2 (6.66%) patients.

According to the results obtained in our study, taking into account the localization of tumors, meningiomas have statistically significantly more supratentorial localization - 83.34%, compared to infratentorial localization in 16.66%.

Radiologic Findings

The frequency of isointense findings on T1WI (80%) was significantly higher ($p < 0,05$, $0,01$) than the frequency of hypointense findings (20%). Hyperintense and mixed findings were not recorded in patients examined.

The frequency of isointense findings on T2WI (80%) was significantly higher ($p < 0,05$, $0,01$) compared to the frequency of hyperintense findings - 20%. Hypointense and mixed findings were not recorded in the patients examined.

The frequency of isointense findings on FLAIR (80%) was significantly higher ($p < 0,05$, $0,01$) than the frequency of hyperintense findings - 20%. Hypointense and mixed findings were not reported in the patients examined.

The frequency of intensive findings on post-contrast T1WI (90%) was significantly higher ($p < 0,05$, $0,01$) than the frequency of moderate discoloration (20%). All patients had negative findings on post-contrast T1WI sequences.

Table 4. Representation of tumor on T1WI sequences in respect to histopathological diagnosis

Histopathological diagnosis	Results			
	Iso	Hypo	Hyper	Mixed
Meningothelial meningiomas	15 (100,0%)	-	-	-
Fibroblastic meningiomas	9 (90%)	-	1 (10%)	-
Cystic meningiomas	-	-	5 (100,0%)	-
Total number of meningiomas	24 (80,0%)	-	6 (20,0%)	-

Table 5. Representation of tumor on T2WI sequences in respect to histopathological diagnosis

Histopathological diagnosis	Results			
	Iso	Hypo	Hyper	Mixed
Meningothelial meningiomas	15 (100,0%)	-	-	-
Fibroblastic meningiomas	9 (90%)	-	1 (10%)	-
Cystic meningiomas	-	-	5 (100,0%)	-
Total number of meningiomas	24 (80,0%)	-	6 (20,0%)	-

Table 6. Representation of tumors on FLAIR sequences in respect to histopathological diagnosis

Histopathological diagnosis	Results			
	Iso	Hypo	Hyper	Mixed
Meningothelial meningiomas	15 (100,0%)	-	-	-
Fibroblastic meningiomas	9 (90%)	-	1 (10%)	-
Cystic meningiomas	-	-	5 (100,0%)	-
Total number of meningiomas	24 (80,0%)	-	6 (20,0%)	-

Table 7. Representation of tumors on on post-contrast T1WI sequences in respect to histopathological diagnosis

Histopathological diagnosis	Results		
	None	Moderate	Intensive
Meningothelial meningiomas	-	1 (6,67%)	14 (93,33%)
Fibroblastic meningiomas	-	2 (20%)	8 (80%)
Cystic meningiomas	-	-	5 (100,0%)
Total number of meningiomas	-	3 (10%)	27 (90%)

Given the intensity of the signal, according to data obtained in our study, the majority of tumors on T1WI show isointense (80%) and hypointense signals (20%). On T2WI, the majority of tumors (80%) show isointense and the hyperintense signals (20%). On FLAIR sequence, the majority of tumors show isointense (80%) and hyperintense signals (20%). After contrast application, on post-contrast T1WI sequences, 90% of tumors showed extensive staining, and 10% of the tumors moderate staining, which is a statistically significant difference ($p < 0.01$) (Table 6).

Discussion

Meningiomas represent 20-26% of all primary intracranial neoplasms (3), i.e. 14-20% (9). They appear in the middle decades of life with a female predominance in incidence 2:1 (4,6,10-13), and 2.2:1 based on the data available in the reference literature (14), which is in agreement with the results obtained in our study, where the average age is 53 ± 15 years, with a female predominance in incidence 2:1.

Meningiomas present as solitary lesions. Multiple meningiomas are rare lesions. Only 1-9% of intracranial meningiomas had multiple lesions (15), or 4.4% according to literature data (14). In our study, all lesions were solitary. Extracranial metastasis of malignant meningiomas are rare, occurring in less than 0.1% of all meningiomas (16). In our study, all patients with no extracranial metastases.

Anatomic distribution

Taking into account the tumor localization, De Monteand (13) on the basis of his researches and literature data show the distribution of meningioma: parasagittal and parafalcine 25%, convexity 19%, sphenoidal ridge 17%, supra sella (tuberculum) 9%, posterior pit 8%, olfactory groove 8%, middle fossa (Meckel's cave) 4%, tentorium 3%, peritorcular region 3%, 1-2% lateral ventricles, foramen magnum 1-2%, 1-2% optical path.

Based on the research by Monroe (17) et al., the convexity and parasagittal region are the most common localizations of meningioma in more than 50%. However, studies by other researchers provide data on 23.5% of parasagittal, parafalcine and convex localizations, intraventricular (23.5%) in the Sylvian fissure (8.8%), petroclival (8.8%), CPA (5.9%), and foramen magnum, tuberculum sellae, cavernous sinus, sphenoidal ridge in 32.3% of cases (18). According to Huang et al. (19) the most common site of meningiomas is convexity, while Hadidy et al. (14) in their study reported the para-sagittal one in 23.3% of cases.

According to the results obtained in our study and taking into account the localization of tumors, meningiomas statistically significantly occupy supratentorial localization in 83.34% of cases, compared to infratentorial localization in 16.66% of cases.

Radiologic Findings

There are several studies that have considered the signal characteristics of meningioma on MR imaging. Signal intensity of the tumor mass is variable on T1WI, T2WI and FLAIR sequences (20-22). On T1WI, most tumors are isointense in respect to gray matter (56-94%), while hypointense ones occur in 20-48% of cases and hyperintense are very rare. On T2WI, about 50% meningiomas are isointense, 4-18% hypointense, while 35-44% are hyperintense (20,21).

According to the results obtained in our study and taking into account the localization of tumors, meningiomas statistically significantly occupy supratentorial localization in 83.34% of cases, compared to infratentorial localization in 16.66%.

In our study, with respect to signal intensities, the majority of tumors on T1WI show isointense (80%) and hypointense (20%) signals. On T2WI, the majority of tumors show isointense (80%) and hyperintense (20%) signals. On FLAIR sequence, most of the tumors show isointense (80%) and hyperintense (20%) signals.

Meningiomas show intense staining after contrast applications on post-contrast T1WI sequences (20,21,23). Tumor staining in patients with meningiomas can help to identify anatomical boundaries of larger lesions that can be isointense on T1WI.

In our study, after contrast application on the post-contrast T1WI sequences, 90% of the tumors show extensively staining, and 10% of tumors have moderate staining of tumor.

Hadidy et al. (14) reported that the majority of meningiomas presented with isointense signal on T1WI and T2WI, hyperintense signal on FLAIR and intense staining. Yao et al. (24) in their study reported that meningiomas on T1WI had predominantly hypointense signal on T2WI and hyperintense signal on FLAIR sequences. Huang et al. (14) in their study of 76 patients concluded that isointense or hyperintense signals on T2WI were reported in 70.6% of cases, while a study of 106 patients on post-contrast T1WI showed significant intense staining in 82.5% of patients.

Conclusion

MRI characteristics of intracranial meningiomas are different. With regard to signal intensities, intracranial meningiomas on T1WI show isointense and hypointense signals. On T2WI, isointense and hyperintense signals are shown. On FLAIR sequences, isointense and hyperintense signals are shown. After contrast application, on the post-contrast T1WI sequences meningiomas show intense staining. The most common are supratentorial localizations.

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PREZENTACIJA INTRAKRANIJALNIH MENINGEOMA NA MAGNETNOJ REZONANCI

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Magnetna rezonanca (MR) postaje najvažniji imaging metod za dijagnostikovanje intrakranijalnih tumora.

Cilj ove studije bio je da prikaže MR karakteristike meningeoma.

Studija je obuhvatila 30 bolesnika (20 žena i 10 muškaraca) sa histološki dokazanim intrakranijalnim meningeomima, prosečne starosti 53±15 godina). Svi MR pregledi urađeni su na MR aparatu Siemens Avanto jačine 1.5T. Svim bolesnicima urađen je T1, T2-weighted imaging (T1WI, T2WI), FLAIR i postkontrastna T1WI sekvenca.

Od histoloških tipova registrovani su meningeoma meningotelijale (50%), meningeoma fibroplastikum (33%) i meningeoma cistikum (17%). Većina tumora na T1WI sekvenci pokazuje izointenzni (80%) i hipointenzni signal (20%) ($p < 0.01$). Na T2WI i FLAIR sekvenci većina tumora pokazuje izointenzni (80%) i hiperintenzni signal (20%) ($p < 0.01$). Nakon kontrastne aplikacije, na postkontrastnoj T1WI sekvenci 90% tumora pokazuje intenzivno, a 10% tumora umereno prebojavanje ($p < 0.01$). Anatomaska analiza pokazuje da su supratentorijalne lezije prisutne u 83,34%, a infratentorijalne u 16,66%, što je takođe statistički značajna razlika ($p < 0.01$).

MR karakteristike različitih histoloških tipova intrakranijalnih meningeoma su različite. Intrakranijalni meningeomi su obično izointenzni i hipointenzni na T1WI, T2WI i FLAIR, sa intenzivnim prebojavanjem nakon kontrastne aplikacije. Najčešće su supratentorijalne lokalizacije i u preko polovine slučaja to je meningeoma meningotelijale. *Acta Medica Medianae* 2011;50(2):24-28.

Ključne reči: MR imaging, meningeomi