TITLE:

Evaluation of Focus Laterality in Temporal Lobe Epilepsy: A Quantitative Study Comparing Double Inversion-Recovery MR Imaging at 3T with FDG-PET(Digest_要約)

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CITATION:

Morimoto, Emiko. Evaluation of Focus Laterality in Temporal Lobe Epilepsy: A Quantitative Study Comparing Double Inversion-Recovery MR Imaging at 3T with FDG-PET. 京都大学, 2014, 博士(医学)

ISSUE DATE:

2014-05-23

URL:

<https://doi.org/10.14989/doctor.k18451>

RIGHT:

学位規則第9条第2項により要約公開

Evaluation of Focus Laterality in Temporal Lobe Epilepsy: A Quantitative Study

Comparing Double Inversion-Recovery MR Imaging at 3T with FDG-PET

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This is the pre-peer reviewed version of the following article: Morimoto E, Okada T, Kanagaki M, Yamamoto A, Fushimi Y, Matsumoto R, Takaya S, Ikeda A, Kunieda T, Kikuchi T, Paul D, Miyamoto S, Takahashi R, Togashi K. (2013) Evaluation of focus laterality in temporal lobe epilepsy: A quantitative study comparing double inversion-recovery MR imaging at 3T with FDG-PET. *Epilepsia*. Dec;54(12):2174-83, which has been published in final form at [<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/epi.12396/abstract>]

Summary

Objective: To quantitatively compare diagnostic capability of double inversion recovery (DIR) with fluorine-18 fluorodeoxyglucose positron emission tomography (FDG-PET) for detection of seizure focus laterality in temporal lobe epilepsy (TLE).

Methods: This study was approved by the institutional review board, and written informed consent was obtained. Fifteen TLE patients and 38 healthy volunteers were enrolled. All MR images were acquired using a 3T-MRI system. Voxel-based analysis (VBA) was conducted for FDG-PET images and white matter segments of DIR images (DIR-WM) focused on the whole temporal lobe (TL) and the anterior part of the temporal lobe (ATL). Distribution of hypometabolic areas on FDG-PET and increased signal intensity areas on DIR-WM was evaluated, and their laterality was compared with clinically-determined seizure focus laterality. Correct diagnostic rates of laterality were evaluated, and agreement between DIR-WM and FDG-PET was assessed using κ statistics.

Results: Increased signal intensity areas on DIR-WM were located at the vicinity of the hypometabolic areas on FDG-PET, especially in the ATL. Correct diagnostic rates of seizure focus laterality for DIR-WM (0.80 and 0.67 for the TL and the ATL, respectively) were slightly higher than those for FDG-PET (0.67 and 0.60 for the TL and the ATL, respectively). Agreement of laterality between DIR-WM and FDG-PET was substantial for the TL and almost perfect for the ATL ($\kappa = 0.67$ and 0.86 , respectively).

Significance: High agreement in localization between DIR-WM and FDG-PET and nearly equivalent detectability of them show us an additional role of MRI in temporal lobe epilepsy.