

POSTER PRESENTATION

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Myocardial ASL perfusion reserve test detects ischemic segments in initial cohort of 10 patients with angiographic CAD

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From 2011 SCMR/Euro CMR Joint Scientific Sessions
Nice, France. 3-6 February 2011

Objective

This study sought to demonstrate the potential for myocardial arterial spin labeling (ASL) to identify the ischemic myocardial segments due to stenosis in coronary arteries as detected by X-ray angiography.

Background

Myocardial ASL is a technique for the assessment of myocardial blood flow (MBF) without contrast agents. It can be safely applied to patients with end-stage renal disease who are not candidates for first-pass imaging with contrast agents. Myocardial ASL perfusion imaging performed at rest and during adenosine stress provides perfusion reserve ($MBF_{\text{stress}}/MBF_{\text{rest}}$), which is a common indicator for the severity of coronary artery disease. In healthy myocardium, perfusion reserve is known to be approximately four [1].

Methods

Twenty nine patients were recruited from those scheduled for routine cardiac MR (CMR) and X-ray angiography. Myocardial ASL measurements were obtained from a single mid short-axis slice at rest and during adenosine infusion (dosage: 0.14 mg/kg/min) on a GE Signa 3T scanner. The ASL sequence was composed of flow-sensitive alternating inversion recovery (FAIR) tagging and balanced steady-state free precession (SSFP) imaging [2]. Perfusion reserve maps were generated in a standard short-axis view illustration by convolution with a Gaussian filter and resampling onto a polar coordinate [3].

Results

Ten of the twenty-nine patients were found to have significant stenosis on X-ray angiography. Table 1 contains the most ischemic myocardial segments in these ten patients as identified by two cardiologists using either X-ray angiogram or ASL perfusion reserve map independently. Based on McNemar's test with Bonferroni correction, there was no significant difference between X-ray and ASL MRI in identifying ischemia in all six myocardial segments ($p = 1.0000, 0.6170, 0.4795, 0.1336, 0.4795, \text{ and } 0.4795$). Figure 1 contains perfusion reserve maps acquired using myocardial ASL in these patients. The average standard deviation of physiological noise

Table 1 Most ischemic myocardial segments identified by X-ray angiograms and by ASL perfusion reserve maps

Pts #	X-ray angiography		ASL MRI
	Worst lesion on angiogram	Ischemic myocardial segments	Ischemic myocardial segments
1	Proximal LAD 100%	Anterior	Anterior
2	RCA 100%	Inferior, inferolateral	Inferolateral
3	LAD 90%	Anterior	Anterior, anteroseptal
4	LCS 90% (PDA)	Inferoseptal, inferior, inferolateral	Inferoseptal, inferior
5	RCA (100%)	Inferoseptal, inferior	Anteroseptal, inferoseptal, inferior
6	RCA (100%)	Inferoseptal, inferior	Inferior
7	Distal RCA 80%	Inferior	Anterolateral
8	Stent to LAD and RCA – now open	Anteroseptal, inferoseptal	Anterior
9	LCX 100%, RCA 100%	Inferior, inferolateral, anterolateral	Inferolateral
10	RCA 100%	Inferior, inferolateral	Anteroseptal

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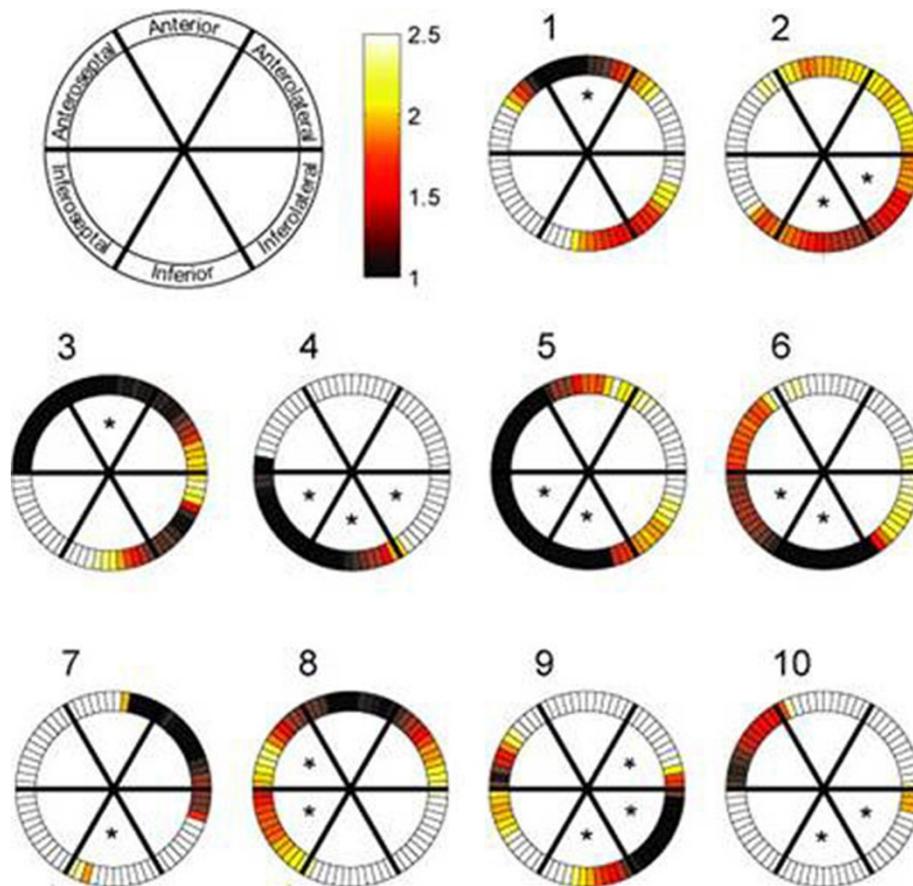


Figure 1 Perfusion reserve maps acquired using myocardial ASL in patients 1-10. Asterisks denote the most ischemic segments identified based on X-ray angiography.

was 0.22 ml/g/min at rest and 0.42 ml/g/min during stress [2].

Conclusion

There was visual agreement (except patients 7, 8, and 10) and no statistically significant difference between ischemic myocardial segments identified by ASL perfusion reserve maps and by X-ray angiograms. This suggests that myocardial ASL with vasodilation may have a potential to identify ischemic myocardial segments in patients with stenosis.

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Published: 2 February 2011

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doi:10.1186/1532-429X-13-S1-P110

Cite this article as: Zun et al: Myocardial ASL perfusion reserve test detects ischemic segments in initial cohort of 10 patients with angiographic CAD. *Journal of Cardiovascular Magnetic Resonance* 2011 13 (Suppl 1):P110.

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