



ORAL PRESENTATION

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Cardiovascular magnetic resonance stress perfusion compared to single-photon emission computed tomography (SPECT) in patients with left main stem disease: a CE-MARC substudy

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Summary

We compared detection rates for cardiovascular magnetic resonance (CMR) perfusion and single photon emission tomography (SPECT) in the subset of patients from the CE-MARC study with significant left main stem (LMS) disease. Detection rates for LMS disease by CMR perfusion were higher than for SPECT, and CMR identified a classical LMS pattern with higher frequency. Visual perfusion defects occurred with similar frequency in patients with $\geq 50\%$ and $\geq 70\%$ LMS stenosis.

Background

Left main stem (LMS) disease is found in approximately 5% of patients with stable angina. Three-year survival in patients with $>50\%$ left main stenosis may be as low as 50%. Single photon emission tomography (SPECT) fails to detect ischemia in up to 15% of LMS stenoses, and identification of the 'classical' pattern of both left anterior descending (LAD) and circumflex (LCx) coronary territory ischaemia is lower still. To date, the utility of cardiovascular magnetic resonance (CMR) perfusion in LMS disease is poorly established. The CE-MARC study was a prospective study of 752 patients with suspected coronary artery disease, enrolled to undergo CMR, SPECT and X-ray coronary angiography. We assessed the diagnostic performance of SPECT and CMR to detect LMS disease in the group of CE-MARC patients with $\geq 50\%$ LMS disease on quantitative X-ray

angiography. We also compared subsets of patients with $\geq 50\%$ and $\geq 70\%$ LMS stenosis.

Methods

All patients with LMS disease $\geq 50\%$ on quantitative angiography were identified from the CE-MARC study. All patients had undergone adenosine stress perfusion by CMR and SPECT and also invasive X-ray angiography [1]. By visual analysis we compared detection rates for LMS disease from the CMR and SPECT perfusion studies.

Results

Of 23 patients in the CE-MARC cohort with LMS stenosis $\geq 50\%$, one patient could not be analysed. CMR identified evidence of inducible perfusion defects in 18/22 (82%) of the LMS group; SPECT identified 13/22 (59%). For CMR and SPECT respectively, inducible perfusion defects were found in both LAD and LCx territories for 6/18 (33%) and 2/13 (15%). Only one patient had normal perfusion analyses (false negative) for both CMR and SPECT. Of 11 patients with $\geq 70\%$ LMS stenosis, 10 (91%) had inducible perfusion defects with CMR vs. 5 (45%) with SPECT. Six (55%) vs. 2 (18%) had a LAD and LCx disease pattern. Perfusion abnormalities were detected with similar frequency in $\geq 50\%$ and $\geq 70\%$ groups by both CMR ($p=0.64$) and SPECT ($p=0.49$). Figure 1 summarises the detection rate of CMR and SPECT in LMS disease.

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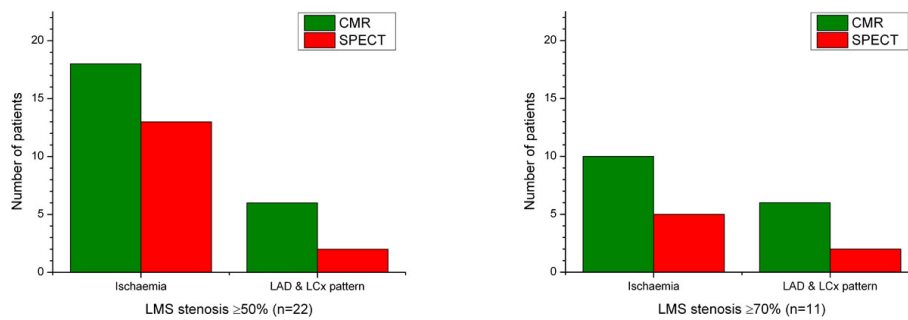


Figure 1 Detection rate of CMR and SPECT in LMS disease. Patients with LMS stenosis $\geq 50\%$ ($n=22$) and the subset with stenosis $\geq 70\%$ ($n=11$) are shown.

Conclusions

CMR stress perfusion imaging identifies ischaemia in a higher proportion of patients with significant LMS disease than SPECT, and identifies a 'classical' LMS pattern with higher frequency. Perfusion abnormalities are detected with similar frequency in patients with $\geq 50\%$ and $\geq 70\%$ LMS stenosis.

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Reference

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