



Title Place of Breast MRI in the Pre-Treatment Locoregional Spread Assessment of Breast Cancer

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Aim

To evaluate the diagnostic accuracy of breast MRI and the various factors influencing it; and to estimate the usefulness of breast MRI in the pretreatment locoregional spread assessment of breast cancer.

Conclusions and results

The sensitivity of breast MRI in detecting additional lesions, which is greater than that of mammography, comes with false positives in proportions that vary according to the populations studied. These false positives mean that caution is needed when considering any change in therapeutic management on the basis of breast MRI results. Hence, breast MRI in the pretreatment locoregional spread assessment of breast cancer should be reserved for clearly defined situations.

Recommendations

HAS recommends breast MRI in pretreatment locoregional assessment in the following situations:

- When a lack of agreement between clinical features, mammography, and ultrasonography could lead to a change in therapeutic management
- When difficult treatment choices have to be made (oncoplastic surgery, conservative treatment or mastectomy, neoadjuvant treatment)
- In women under 40 years of age
- In women with a high familial risk of breast cancer.

There are no data about the contralateral breast to confirm or deny the usefulness of breast MRI in examining the contralateral breast.

Methods

We critically analyzed clinical data published from 01/1999 to 09/2009 from a document search of the MEDLINE and Cochrane Library databases (103 studies were analyzed). A multidisciplinary working group consisting of 6 radiologists, 1 radiotherapist, 1 anatomo-

mopathologist, 4 gynecologists, 2 oncologists, and 1 plastic surgeon discussed the results of this analysis. The *Commission d'Evaluation des Actes Professionnels* (CEAP), the HAS specialized appraisal committee, reviewed the conclusions.

Further research/reviews required

The data currently available are insufficient to rule on the impact of breast MRI pretreatment assessment on recurrence and patient survival. Long-term studies are needed before this question can be answered.