

# 超声凝胶阴道填充后MRI在早期宫颈癌分期中的价值研究\*

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**【摘要】目的** 探讨超声凝胶阴道填充后MRI在早期宫颈癌分期中的价值。**方法** 前瞻性纳入经宫颈活检确诊为宫颈癌行MRI检查的患者158例,先行常规MRI检查,超声凝胶填充阴道后再行一次MRI检查。两名医师采用双盲法对凝胶填充前后宫颈癌MRI分期进行判定,以术后病理为金标准,比较同一患者前后2次检查对于鉴别Ⅱa期病例的阳性预测值、阴性预测值,及在判断宫颈癌Ⅱa期中的敏感度、特异度及准确度。**结果** 两名医师采用双盲法对常规MRI图像进行分期,得到的一致性中等( $\kappa=0.680$ );而运用超声凝胶填充后对MRI图像进行分期时,结果一致性高( $\kappa=0.932$ )。常规MRI检查图像在鉴别宫颈癌Ⅱa期中的阳性预测值为66.67%,阴性预测值为76.74%;灵敏度、特异度及准确度分别为70.59%、73.33%和72.15%;超声凝胶填充阴道后MRI检查图像的阳性预测值为90.91%,阴性预测值为91.30%;灵敏度、特异度及准确度分别为88.24%、93.33%和91.14%,两者对比灵敏度、特异度及准确度差异有统计学意义( $P<0.05$ )。**结论** 超声凝胶阴道填充后行MRI检查在鉴别宫颈癌Ⅱa期中具有更高的诊断价值,其方法简便可行,可运用于宫颈癌的常规MRI检查中。

**【关键词】** 宫颈癌  宫颈癌Ⅱa期  磁共振  超声凝胶

The Value of MRI in Early Cervical Cancer Staging with Vaginal Filling of Ultrasound Gel MOU Can, LÜ Fa-jin<sup>△</sup>, YU Bin, XIAO Zhi-bo. Department of Radiology, the First Affiliated Hospital of Chongqing Medical University, Chongqing 400000, China

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**【Abstract】 Objective** To investigate the value of MRI after ultrasonic gel vagina filling in the staging of early-stage cervical cancer. **Methods** A total of 158 patients with cervical cancer who underwent MRI examination after their cervical cancer diagnosis was confirmed by cervical biopsy were prospectively enrolled. Routine MRI examination was performed first, followed by another MRI examination after vaginal filling with ultrasound gel. Two physicians used a double-blind method to determine the staging of cervical cancer based on the MRI images before and after vaginal filling of ultrasound gel. Results of the postoperative pathology analysis were used as the golden standard. The positive predictive value and negative predictive value for stage Ⅱa cases of the two examinations of the same patient were compared, and the sensitivity, specificity and accuracy in identifying stage Ⅱa cervical cancer were compared. **Results** Two physicians used the double blind method to determine the staging of cervical cancer based on conventional MRI images, achieving moderate consistency ( $\kappa=0.680$ ). However, for the staging of cervical cancer with MRI images after vaginal filling of ultrasound gel, the two physicians achieved highly consistent results ( $\kappa=0.932$ ). Regarding identifying stage Ⅱa cervical cancer, the positive predictive value of conventional MRI was 66.67%, the negative predictive value was 76.74%, and the sensitivity, specificity and accuracy were 70.59%, 73.33% and 72.15%, respectively. The positive predictive value of MRI after vaginal filling of ultrasound gel was 90.91%, the negative predictive value was 91.3%, and the sensitivity, specificity and accuracy were 88.24%, 93.33% and 91.14%, respectively. The sensitivity, specificity and accuracy of the two methods were compared and the difference was statistical significant ( $P<0.05$ ). **Conclusion** MRI examination after ultrasound gel vaginal filling has better diagnostic value for identifying stage Ⅱa cervical cancer. The method is simple and easy to do, and can be used in routine MRI examination of cervical cancer.

**【Key words】** Cervical cancer  Stage Ⅱa cervical cancer  MRI  Ultrasound gel

宫颈癌在全世界妇女恶性肿瘤发病率中居第四位,是常见的女性生殖系统恶性肿瘤<sup>[1]</sup>。宫颈癌的分期直接影响着临床治疗方案的制定,并最终决定着患者的预后及生活质量。临幊上通常通过阴道镜或双合诊、三合诊等检查对宫颈癌进行临幊分期,将有无阴道穹窿的浸润作为区分Ⅰb期及Ⅱa期的一个标志,当出现阴道穹窿浸

润时,划分为Ⅱa期<sup>[2]</sup>。近年来, MRI已广泛运用于辅助宫颈癌分期中<sup>[3-6]</sup>。由于阴道在自然状态下处于塌陷状态,与宫颈外生型软组织肿块贴合在一起,目前MRI在评估阴道穹窿浸润时,与临幊阴道镜检查相比,其准确率反而有所下降<sup>[7]</sup>。超声凝胶作为一种安全、可靠的填充剂,具有一定张力,能使塌陷的阴道得到扩张,现国外在行女性盆腔疾病(如子宫内膜异位症)的MRI检查时已将其作为阴道的一种填充剂使用<sup>[8]</sup>,但目前国内还没有使用超声凝

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胶作为阴道填充剂的相关报道。为了提高MRI在鉴别宫颈癌早期分期中的准确度,本研究通过对比同一患者超声凝胶阴道填充前后的MRI图像,评估其在鉴别宫颈癌早期分期中的价值。

## 1 资料与方法

### 1.1 一般资料

本研究已通过重庆医科大学附属第一医院伦理委员会批准(审查批号:2020年科研伦理2020-273),所有入组受试者均签署了知情同意书。研究纳入及排除标准如下:

纳入标准:①在我院经宫颈活检证实为宫颈癌且在MRI检查后1周内行手术治疗的患者;②经常规MRI扫描及术后病理分期均为I b期及II a期的患者。排除标准:①MRI检查时有大量阴道出血;②MRI检查前3 d内白带常规检查结果为Ⅲ°及以上,提示阴道炎;③术后出现淋巴结转移的病例;④首选治疗方式为放化疗治疗,而未行手术治疗。本研究共纳入2019年10月~2020年11月在我院接受手术治疗的宫颈癌患者158例,记录患者的年龄、孕产史、首发症状、手术方式、术后病理类型、分化程度及浸润间质深度、术后临床分期。

### 1.2 检查方法

注入超声凝胶前,进行第一次MRI扫描(采用Philips 1.5T磁共振及32通道相控阵体线圈)。患者采用头先进仰卧位,先行宫颈矢状位T2加权图像(T2 weighted image, T2WI)、斜轴位T1加权成像(T1-weighted image, T1WI)、斜轴位脂肪抑制T2WI扫描。随后经注射器向阴道内注入超声凝胶直到阴道口有超声凝胶流出即停止注射(约50 mL),再行第二次MRI扫描,包括宫颈矢状位T2WI,斜轴位T1WI、T2WI扫描。最后行斜轴位脂肪抑制T1WI增强扫描,及矢状位T1WI延迟期增强扫描。

扫描参数为:斜轴位(基线垂直于子宫颈)快速自旋回波序列T1WI[重复时间(repetition time, TR)540 ms, 回波时间(echo time, TE)15 ms];矢状位快速自旋回波序列T2WI(TR 2 048 ms, TE 100 ms)、斜轴位脂肪抑制快速自旋回波序列T2WI(TR 2 000 ms, TE 100 ms)。上述序列均采用层厚4 mm, 层间距1 mm, 视野(field of view, FOV)340 mm×340 mm, 矩阵340×340, 翻转角90°, NEX 1。

### 1.3 图像评价

根据2018 FIGO宫颈癌分期系统<sup>[2]</sup>,由2名经验丰富的主治医师采用双盲法对超声凝胶填充前后的两组T2WI图像分别进行宫颈癌分期判定。具体分期方法如下:宫颈见软组织肿块,无阴道穹窿浸润时为I b期,阴道穹窿浸润时为II a期,宫旁浸润时为II b期;盆腔、髂血管

旁及腹主动脉旁淋巴结短径>1 cm时为III期。当分期不一致时由第三位经验丰富的医师参与阅片,最后协商得到一致性结果。阴道穹窿浸润的MRI诊断标准为宫颈软组织肿块与阴道穹窿分界不清。

### 1.4 统计学方法

阳性预测值、阴性预测值、灵敏度、特异度和准确度用率表示,采用Kappa检验对两名医师的评价结果进行一致性评价( $\kappa<0.4$ 时,表明一致性较差; $0.4\leq\kappa<0.6$ 时,表明一致性一般, $0.6\leq\kappa<0.75$ 时,表明一致性中等, $\kappa\geq0.75$ 时,表明一致性高)。率的比较采用 $\chi^2$ 检验,  $\alpha=0.05$ 。

## 2 结果

### 2.1 一般资料

患者年龄24~81岁,平均年龄为(55±13)岁,其中35岁以下22例(13.92%),35岁及以上136例(86.08%);孕次0~7次,其中0次5例(3.16%),3次及以下98例(62.03%),3次以上55例(34.81%);产次0~3次,其中0次18例(11.39%),1~2次118例(74.68%),3次及以上22例(13.92%)。首发临床症状分别为绝经后阴道出血75例(47.47%),同房后阴道出血45例(28.48%),阴道不规则流血28例(17.72%),阴道流液5例(3.16%),体检阴道镜偶然发现宫颈赘生物5例(3.16%)。手术方式为广泛全子宫切除术+双侧附件切除术+盆腔淋巴结清扫术或宫颈锥切术。术后病理类型:鳞状细胞癌95例(60.13%),腺癌50例(31.65%),腺鳞癌13例(8.23%);分化程度:中高分化138例(87.34%),低分化20例(12.66%);浸润间质深度小于等于1/2有42例(26.58%),大于1/2有116例(73.42%);术后病理分期:II a期68例(43.04%),I b期90例(56.96%)。

### 2.2 MRI图像判断宫颈癌阴道穹窿是否受侵

超声凝胶在T1W上呈低信号,T2W上呈高信号。

外生型宫颈癌患者采用仰卧位,先行常规MRI检查,宫颈软组织肿块与阴道穹窿分界不清(图1);经注射器于阴道口注入超声凝胶后,塌陷的阴道得以撑开,使未受侵的阴道穹窿与宫颈癌病灶在空间上得以分开,宫颈肿块与阴道壁间T2W上可见线状高信号影(图2),而在增强扫描上见线状低信号影(图3)。

### 2.3 两名医师MRI分期评估结果一致性比较

两名医师在对常规MRI图像行宫颈癌I b及II a期鉴别中,一致性中等( $\kappa=0.680$ );而两名医师在对超声凝胶填充后的图像行宫颈癌I b及II a期鉴别中,一致性高( $\kappa=0.932$ )。

### 2.4 宫颈癌MRI分期及病理分期结果比较

#### 2.4.1 常规MRI检查分期与病理分期结果比较 行常规

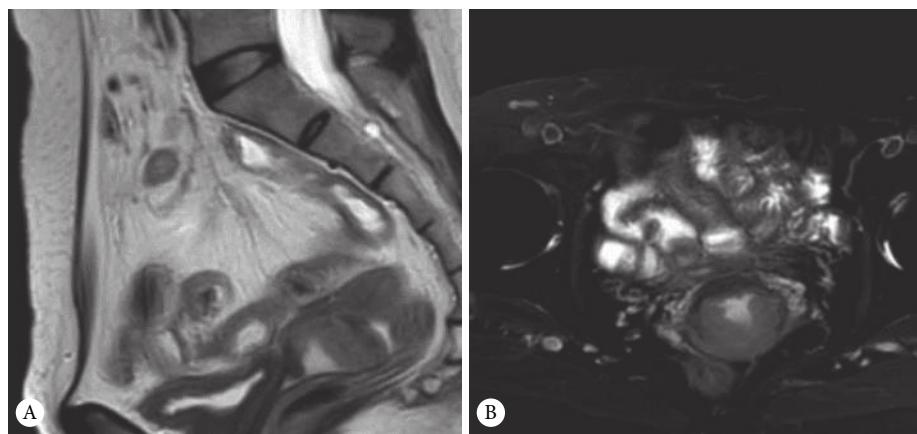


图1 常规MRI检查:宫颈软组织肿块,呈T2W稍高信号(A),与阴道穹窿分界不清(B)

Fig 1 Routine MRI examination: soft tissue mass of cervix with slightly high signal of T2W (A) and unclear boundary with vaginal vault (B)

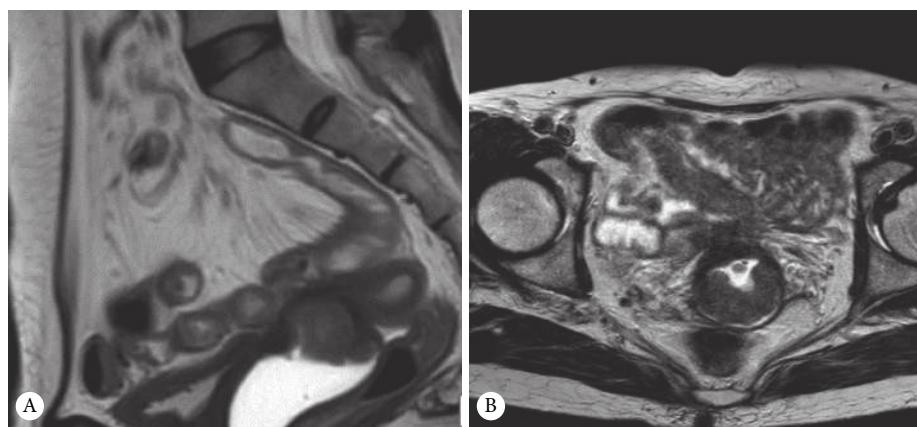


图2 超声凝胶填充阴道后再行MRI检查:超声凝胶在T2W呈高信号,与T2W稍高信号的癌灶形成鲜明的对比(A),超声凝胶使宫颈软组织肿块与未受侵的宫颈穹窿在空间上分开(B)

Fig 2 MRI examination after vaginal filling with ultrasound gel: the ultrasonic gel showed high signal in T2W, which was in sharp contrast with that of T2W with slightly high signal (A). The cervical soft tissue mass is separated from the uninvaded cervical dome in space by ultrasound gel (B)

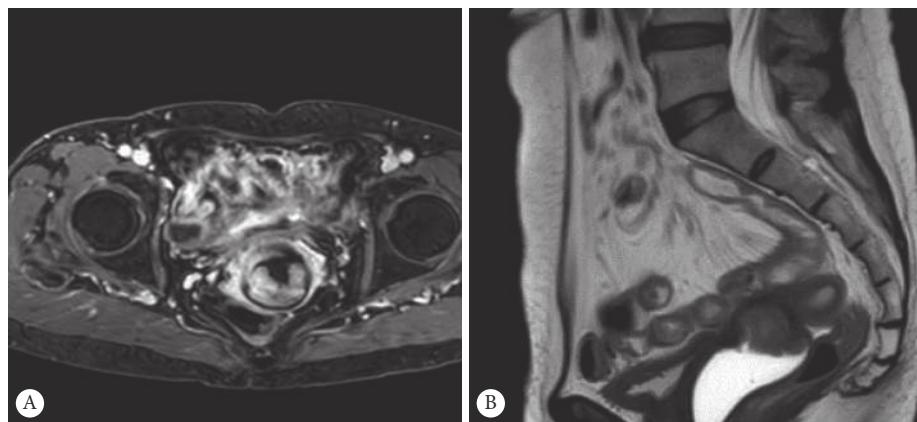


图3 超声凝胶填充阴道后再行增强MRI检查:超声凝胶在TIW上呈低信号,与明显强化后呈高信号的宫颈软组织肿块及阴道壁亦能形成良好的对比(A),很好的显示宫颈软组织肿块未侵犯阴道穹窿(B)

Fig 3 MRI examination after vaginal filling with ultrasound gel: ultrasound gel on TIW showed low signal, forming a good contrast with the significantly enhanced signal intensity of cervical soft tissue and vaginal wall (A); it shows clearly that cervical soft tissue has not invaded the vaginal vault (B)

MRI检查时,Ⅱa期病例72例,Ⅰb期病例86例,而术后病理分期Ⅱa期病例68例,Ⅰb期病例90例,常规MRI检查对宫颈癌阴道浸润(Ⅱa期)的阳性预测值为66.67%,阴性预测值为76.74%。见表1。

表 1 常规MRI分期与术后病理学结果比较

Table 1 Comparison of MRI staging and postoperative pathology in conventional examination

MRI stage	Pathology stage/case		Total/case
	Ⅱa	Ⅰb	
Ⅱa	48	24	72
Ⅰb	20	66	86
Total	68	90	158

**2.4.2 超声凝胶填充阴道后MRI检查分期与病理分期结果比较** 超声凝胶填充阴道后行MRI检查,Ⅱa期病例66例,而Ⅰb期病例92例,与术后病理分期一致性更高,超声凝胶填充阴道后MRI检查对宫颈癌阴道浸润(Ⅱa期)的阳性预测值达到90.91%,阴性预测值为91.30%。见表2。

表 2 超声凝胶填充后MRI分期与术后病理结果比较

Table 2 Comparison of MRI staging after ultrasound gel filling and postoperative pathology

MRI stage	Pathology stage/case		Total/case
	Ⅱa	Ⅰb	
Ⅱa	60	6	66
Ⅰb	8	84	92
Total	68	90	158

## 2.5 超声凝胶填充阴道前后MRI对宫颈癌Ⅱa期鉴别的灵敏度、特异度及准确度

见表3。超声凝胶填充阴道前,灵敏度、特异度及准确度分别为70.59%(48/68)、73.33%(66/90)和72.15%(114/158);超声凝胶填充阴道后灵敏度、特异度及准确度为88.24%(60/68)、93.33%(84/90)和91.14%(144/158),两者间灵敏度( $\chi^2=6.46, P<0.05$ )、特异度( $\chi^2=17.99, P<0.01$ )及准确度( $\chi^2=19.00, P<0.01$ )差异有统计学意义。

表 3 超声凝胶在鉴别宫颈癌Ⅱa价值比较

Table 3 The value of MRI with vaginal filling of ultrasound gel for identifying stage Ⅱa cervical cancer

Vagina filled with ultrasonic gel	Sensitivity	Specificity	Accuracy
No	48/68 (70.59%)	66/90 (73.33%)	114/158 (72.15%)
Yes	60/68 (88.24%)	84/90 (93.33%)	144/158 (91.14%)

## 3 讨论

子宫颈由于其位置表浅,故宫颈癌一般于MRI检查前均已经宫颈活组织检查确诊,MRI检查的主要目的在于辅助提高宫颈癌分期的准确性。然而,常规MRI平扫对宫颈癌术前分期的诊断准确度仅为66.7%<sup>[9]</sup>。为了提高宫颈癌MRI分期的准确度,运用了大量的MRI新技术:例如表观弥散系数(ADC值)测量、体素内不相干运动磁共振扩散加权成像(IVIM-DWI)、外部相控阵接收器等<sup>[10-13]</sup>,但均未解决MRI在评估阴道穹窿浸润时准确度低的问题。

有文献报道<sup>[14]</sup>,在行MRI平扫、DWI和增强扫描后,对阴道穹窿浸润鉴别的灵敏度、特异度仅为88.89%、80%;国外有研究报道<sup>[15]</sup>,阴道填充可以提高宫颈癌分期的准确性,但病例仅9例,且包含了全部宫颈癌的分期。而在本次研究的158例患者中,全部为早期宫颈癌患者,与常规MRI检查相比,使用超声凝胶阴道填充后,术后病理分期为Ⅱa期的68例中,仅有8例外术前被分到了Ⅰb期,在对阴道穹窿浸润的鉴别中灵敏度、特异度为88.24%、93.33%,较之前的研究其特异度明显提高,避免了患者进行术前不必要的放化疗。

本次研究中,宫颈癌患者在行常规MRI检查时,两名医师在对图像进行分期时一致性不高( $\kappa=0.680$ ),这可能是由于阴道塌陷,使肿块与阴道穹窿难以分开,医生仅凭自己的经验而做出诊断,导致因主观因素而造成的对同一事物的判断结果不一致。而两名医师在对超声凝胶填充后的图像行宫颈癌Ⅰb及Ⅱa期鉴别中,一致性高( $\kappa=0.932$ ),这可能是因为超声凝胶填充后,由于张力的原因,阴道被撑开,与之前的纱布填充阴道相对比,不至于对周围组织形成推挤,影响对宫旁侵犯的判断。当阴道穹窿未受侵时,宫颈肿块与阴道壁间T2W上可见线状高信号影,客观图像因素在诊断中所占比例更大,使得诊断标准更加明确,受个人主观经验的影响更小,故两名医师间更容易达成一致性的意见。

参与本次研究的患者共167例,因9例患者术后病理结果出现了盆腔淋巴结转移的情况,这些患者术前MRI分期均为Ⅰb期,而术后病理分期虽未见阴道浸润,但由于出现了淋巴结的转移,也不能认为与术前MRI分期相一致,故未纳入本次研究中。其中左侧髂动脉旁淋巴结转移4例,右侧髂动脉旁淋巴结转移3例,髂总动脉旁淋巴结转移1例,腹主动脉旁伴右侧髂动脉旁淋巴结转移1例。国内外学者研究发现,运用磁共振扩散加权成像、建立基于多参数的MRI模型等方法有助于提高淋巴结转移的检出率<sup>[16-17]</sup>。同时,有学者研究<sup>[18-21]</sup>发现,MRI在评价

宫颈癌淋巴结转移时,与正电子发射断层扫描(PET/CT)相比准确性较低;而将PET/CT纳入宫颈癌治疗前评估可提高约半数患者淋巴结转移的检出率,对宫颈癌的分期有重要意义。因此,在评估淋巴结转移时,还应尽量运用其它MRI技术或PET/CT等设备进行辅助,以提高淋巴结转移的检出率。

本次研究中,超声凝胶填充阴道后3例患者出现超声凝胶填充后的图像上测得的肿块值较常规MRI图像(及病理大体标本)测得的值小。笔者认为,这可能是由于填入的超声凝胶过多所造成,可以在以后运用时减少超声凝胶的注入量,使其刚好能够填充阴道穹窿又不至于太多遮挡肿块边缘为宜。

本次研究中的不足在于,本次纳入的病例仅为MRI诊断为I b及II a期的病例,并不是全部分期的病例,因此在评估宫颈癌MRI分期中存在一定的片面性,仅能说明超声凝胶填充后在鉴别宫颈穹窿的浸润上有作用。在今后的工作中,可纳入全部经活组织检查证实为宫颈癌的病例,行进一步的研究。

综上所述,使用超声凝胶后在鉴别宫颈癌II a期中具有更高的灵敏度、特异度及准确度,因其方法简便易行,安全可靠,可运用于宫颈癌常规MRI检查中。

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**利益冲突** 所有作者均声明不存在利益冲突

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