
EDITORIAL COMMENT



The accuracy of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) for prostate cancer detection has been demonstrated in multiple studies, but the interpretation of prostate MRI can be quite challenging. In particular, changes caused by aging (ie, hyperplasia) or by pathologic conditions such as inflammation or cancer can lead to a nearly singular appearance on MRI for each prostate. Additionally, the lack of robust standardization across MRI scanners hampers the adoption of quantitative parameters for imaging analysis. Furthermore, the qualitative criteria used for interpretation of these images are subjective, leading to interobserver variability even among experienced readers.

In this pilot study, Wang et al compared diagnostic accuracy and confidence in interpretation of MRI for prostate cancer detection among a cohort of urology residents before and after they had access to an online case-based teaching tool in the form of an ibook. The residents had unlimited access to the ibook for a month and also attended a teaching session where they had the opportunity to review the ibook. The educational intervention led to an increase in both diagnostic accuracy and confidence.

The results of this pilot study are encouraging, and the authors should be lauded for this initiative. With the increas-

ing use of MRI for prostate cancer detection and treatment planning, it is of paramount importance that urologists become well-versed with this imaging technique. To this end, urology residents and attending physicians can take advantage of a variety of online educational resources designed to teach physicians how to interpret prostate MRI; many of these resources are available for free. One such resource is the website learnprostatemri.com, which was created by Dr Andrew Rosenkrantz with support from the Radiological Society of North America's Research & Educational Foundation. The website contains more than 50 interactive cases with feedback, as well as links to an introductory lecture and to a curated list of review articles.

In summary, interpretation of prostate MRI can be challenging, but online resources such as the one described in this pilot study can help those interested in improving their knowledge base regarding this increasingly important topic.

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