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Mammographic Breast Density: Its role in tumor size assessment with imaging techniques

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Aim: To study the visual and automatic measurement of mammographic breast density (MBD) and its implications in tumor size assessment using distinct imaging techniques.

Methods: Study of the visual and automatic measurement of mammographic breast density according to the breast imaging data system (BI-RADS) in 212 patients with invasive unifocal breast cancer, excluding microinvasive lesions, who did not receive neoadjuvant chemotherapy. Tumor size assessment was compared using a linear regression according pathologic size with mammographic, US and MR size.

Results: Patient's mean age was $55,7\pm9.9$ year-old. The mean size of the lesion stablished by: Mammography was 16.8 ± 10.4 (4 -70) mm, US was 13.6 ± 7.2 (5 - 55) mm and MR 17.2 ± 9.9 (5 - 66) mm. Mean pathologic size was 12.6 ± 8.1 (0.3 - 55) mm. Automatic MBD mean was 25.2 ± 16.78 . BIRAD assessment with visual and automatic MBD measurements were correlated with a tendency of tumor size overestimation with visual method. BIRADS assessment according MBD stablished with visual or automated method. The best correlation was seen with MR although has a tendency to overestimate tumor size. Only tumor size assessed by mammography was influenced by MBD. With this technique, tumor size was best adjusted for those breasts with lower MBD.

Conclusion: Visual measurement overestimates MBD versus automatic measurement according BIRADS categories. MR is the more accurate breast imaging technique for assessing tumor size independently of the BMD which only influences in the mammographic tumor size estimation.

Biography

Maxim Izquierdo is an expert in the Breast Disease committee of Dexeus Universitary Hospital, Barcelona. He has presented his news in the Gallen International BCC; European Breast Cancer Conference; ASCO; and World Congress of Senologic International Society, He is member of Sociedad Española Senologia Patologia Mamaria.

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