

Carpal Tunnel Syndrome : Correlation between Magnetic Resonance Imaging and Nerve Conduction Study

Seong-Ho Park, M.D., Hyunwoo Nam, M.D., Won-Joon Choi, M.D., Hee Jin Yang, M.D.*,
Hye Won Chung, M.D.†, Sam Soo Kim, M.D.†, Sang Hyung Lee, M.D.*, Yong-Seok Lee, M.D.,
Chi Sung Song, M.D.†, Young Seob Chung, M.D.*, Kwang-Woo Lee, M.D.‡

Departments of Neurology, Neurosurgery*, and Diagnostisic Radiology†,
Municipal Boramae Hospital, and Department of Neurology‡,
Seoul National University College of Medicine

- Abstract -

Purpose : Carpal tunnel syndrome (CTS) is a disorder of median nerve at wrist. It is usually diagnosed through clinical manifestation and nerve conduction study (NCS). However, sometimes, NCS does not provide a reliable evidence to reach the diagnosis. Thus, authors performed this study to determine whether NCS was correlated with specific parameters measured on magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) which might become a potential complemental diagnostic tool. **Methods** : We performed MRI in 34 wrists of 18 patients with clinical manifestations of CTS and pathologic nerve conduction values and analyzed them at levels of the distal radioulnar joint, pisiform and hook of hamate, **Results** : Increase in the cross-sectional area of the median nerve at the pisiform level and flattening, increased signal intensity, and contrast enhancement of the median nerve at levels of the pisiform and hook of hamate were statistically significant. Change in cross sectional areas between the distal radioulnar joint and hamate and the signal intensities at levels of pisiform and hamate were well correlated with the median nerve conduction velocity. **Conclusions** : Characteristic MRI findings in CTS reported previously were well demonstrated and some of MRI parameters are well correlated with nerve conduction study. MRI, despite cost, may help in evaluating CTS.

Key Words : Carpal tunnel syndrome, Magnetic resonance imaging, Nerve conduction study

Tinel sign, Phalen sign,

가

1-3

가

2 395

TEL) 02 - 840 - 2481, FAX) 02 - 831 - 0714, e - mail) nslee@brm.co.kr

* 1998

가 2)

가 (pisiform), (hamate) (hook)

(flattening ratio), T2-

가

/4

(flattening ratio)

가

22

grade 1 grade 4

, T2-

grade 1

grade 4

grade 2 grade 3

1.

가

18 (; 1, ; 17) 35 (; 17, : 18)

16

grade 0 (mild)

grade 1 (marked)

grade 2

1

1

2

34

37

62

52

1

20

48.3

3)

Excel V (Cadwell, Kennewick, USA) (orthodromic technique)

2.

1)

가

가 3.6 msec

가 -

1.0 Tesla (Siemens Medical System, Erlangen, Germany)

가 41.3 m/sec

가 34.1 m/sec

(radio-ulnar joint) (metacarpal base) T1- , T2-

(fat-suppression) T1-

T1- 560 msec 15

msec, T2- 4000 msec 96 msec,

T1- 660 msec 15 msec

3 mm, 0.6 mm, 144 x 256 omniscan (Gadolinium pentotate) 0.1 mmole/kg

4)

paired t-test, Chi-square test, one-way ANOVA

30 m/sec 가 - 가 30 m/sec

1.

30 m/sec 가 30 m/sec 가

가 - 가 (Table 3).
 가 20 , - 가 15 , 가 (Table 4).
 가 T2- 가

가 7

2.

(Table 5).

(Table 1).

가 가
 가

(Table 1).

가 (p < 0.001).

3.

(Table 2).

가 -

Table 1. MRI parameters (area, flattening ratio) of median nerve at levels of distal radioulnar joint, pisiform, and hook of hamate, respectively.

	Mean	N	SD	p value
Area at RU (mm ²)	9.70	34	4.10	NA
Area at P (mm ²)	13.80	34	3.73	<0.001
Area at H (mm ²)	11.10	34	3.95	0.21
FR at RU	1.83	34	0.51	NA
FR at P	2.62	34	0.89	<0.001
FR at H	2.46	34	0.85	0.001

NA ; not available

Area calculation-See text.

N; number, SD ; standard deviation, RU ; at distal radioulnar joint,

P ; at pisiform, H ; at hook of hamate, FR ; flattening ratio

Table 2. Grading of Nerve Conduction Study.

Grade	Terminal latency		Finger-wrist sensory NCV		Palm-wrist sensory NCV	
	Criteria	N	Criteria	N	Criteria	N
0	normal latency (<3.6 msec)	4	mildly abnormal (>30 m/sec)	9	mildly abnormal (>30 m/sec)	8
1	Abnormal (>3.6 msec)	23	severely abnormal (<30 m/sec)	5	severely abnormal (<30 m/sec)	14
2	no potential	7	no potential	20	no potential	12

NCV ; nerve conduction velocity, N ; number

Table 3. Correlation between MRI parameters (area and area difference) and nerve conduction study(motor terminal latency and sensory nerve conduction velocities) (One-way ANOVA)

p value	Area RU	Area P	Area H	Area P - Area RU	Area H - Area RU
Motor TL (msec)	0.13	0.20	0.37	0.78	0.27
Sensory NCV f-w (m/sec)	0.007*	0.13	0.098	0.82	0.002*
Sensory NCV p-w (m/sec)	0.027*	0.27	0.65	0.23	0.059*

* Correlation is significant at the .05 level (2-tailed).

RU ; at distal radioulnar joint, P ; at pisiform, H ; at hook of hamate, TL ; terminal latency, f-w: finger-wrist, p-w ; palm-wrist, NCV ; nerve conduction velocity

Table 4. Correlation between MRI parameters (flattening ratio and change in flattening ratio) and nerve conduction study(motor terminal latency and sensory nerve conduction velocities) (One-way ANOVA)

p value	FR at RU	FR at P	FR at H	FR at P/FR at RU	FR at H/FR at RU
Motor TL (msec)	0.67	0.90	0.23	0.81	0.43
Sensory NCV f-w (m/sec)	0.58	0.83	0.077	0.43	0.68
Sensory NCV p-w (m/sec)	0.51	0.90	0.91	0.99	0.79

* Correlation is significant at the .05 level (2-tailed).

FR ; flattening ratio, RU ; distal radioulnar joint, P ; pisiform, H ; hook of hamate, TL ; terminal latency, f-w ; finger-wrist, p-w ; palm-wrist, NCV ; nerve conduction velocity

Table 5. Correlation between MRI parameters (signal intensity and contrast enhancement) and nerve conduction study

P value	Signal Intensity at T2WI by Location			Contrast Enhancement by Location		
	Radioulnar	Pisiform	Hamate	Radioulnar	Pisiform	Hamate
Motor TL (msec)	0.56	0.21	0.48	0.88	0.36	0.16
Sensory NCV f-w (m/sec)	0.17	0.023*	0.042*	0.43	0.19	0.30
Sensory NCV p-w (m/sec)	0.57	0.018*	0.034*	0.88	0.11	0.61

* Correlation is significant at the .05 level (2-tailed).

TL ; terminal latency, f-w ; finger-wrist, p-w ; palm-wrist, NCV ; nerve conduction velocity

가 9. 가 - 가
 가 가
 가 8,10,11. 12-14 가 가 가
 , 가 , 가, (bowing) 가, 가,
 , 가, (deep tendon fat),
 (flexor tenosynovitis) 2,12,15-17
 9,18,19
 가 가

- nel: MR imaging. II. Carpal tunnel syndrome. *Radiology* 1989;171:749-754.
13. Sugimoto H., Miyaji N., Ohsawa T. Carpal tunnel syndrome: Evaluation of median nerve circulation with dynamic contrast-enhanced MR imaging. *Radiology* 1994;190:459-466.
 14. Wolfgang B. Radiologic imaging of the carpal tunnel. *Euro J Radiol* 1997;25:112-117.
 15. Murphy RX Jr., Chernofsky MA, Osborne MA, Wolson AH. Magnetic resonance imaging in the evaluation of persistent carpal tunnel syndrome. *J Hand Surg[Am]* 1993;18:113-120.
 16. Dalinka MK, Meyer S, Kricun ME, Vanel D. Magnetic resonance imaging of the wrist. *Hand Clin* 1991;7:87-98.
 17. Healy C, Watson JD, Longstaff A, Campbell MJ. Magnetic resonance imaging of the carpal tunnel. *J Hand Surg* 1990; 15:243-248,
 18. Richard BR. The role of imaging in the diagnosis of carpal tunnel syndrome. *Invest Radiol* 1993;28(11):1059-1062.
 19. Daniel MR, Mark ES, John T. Carpal tunnel syndrome: Are the MR findings a result of population selection bias? *AJR* 1997;169:1649-1653.
 20. Grundberg AB. Carpal tunnel decompression in spite of normal electromyography. *J Hand Surg* 1983; 8:348-349.
 21. Phalen GS. Reflections on 21 years' experience with the carpal tunnel syndrome. *JAMA* 1970;212:1365-1368.