

가?:

1

2

(CEMRA)

15 28

1.5T
35°

, Turbo-FLASH (TR/TE/FA = 3.2ms/1.3ms/

CEMRA DSA

: 28

12

DSA

DSA

가

가 (11,12)

(1).

(13).

가

2D-TOF, 3D-TOF,
(2-8).

가 (14,15).

3D-PC

가

가 (9,10).

가 가

(signal inhomogene-

ity)

가 T1

가

1

2

(DSA) , CEMRA

1997 11 1999 1

15 , 28 가 6 , 가

9 34 71 2 , 1 , 7

55 11 가 175 x 280mm, 7 , 7

1 , 11 가 sequence 4 17.5 7

67 , 27 15 1 3

2 2 가 28 10 ° 18 가 (MIP) 2

3 가 2

Iodine 5ml 5ml/sec (Multistar T.O.P., Siemens, Erlangen, Germany) 6 Phantom 2

4 5

1kg 0.2mmol (Magnevist, Schering, Germany) 15ml 18G (Medrad, Pitts-burg, U.S.A.) 1.5T (Vision, Siemens, Erlangen, Germany) Neck CP array 3D-FLASH (TR/TE/FA/ =3.2/1.3/35 °) (matrix) 80 x 160, 7



A

B

Fig. 1. Transparent silicon phantom carotid bifurcations filled with blood mimicking fluid.
 A. Model of normal carotid bifurcation that has smooth branching pattern.
 B. Model of tortuous carotid bifurcation that might be expected to show turbulent flow at the carotid bulb.

1). 28 가 (Table 가 , (Fig. 3A, B). 4 가

Table 1. Signal Patterns of Carotid Bulb in CEMRA and Correlation with DSA.

Group	Signal pattern	Corresponding phase in DSA	Number
Group 1	Focal signal defect at carotid bulb	Early arterial phase	8
Group 2	High and low signal area at carotid bulb	Early arterial phase	4
Group 3	Homogenous enhancement	Mid-arterial phase	16
			Total 28

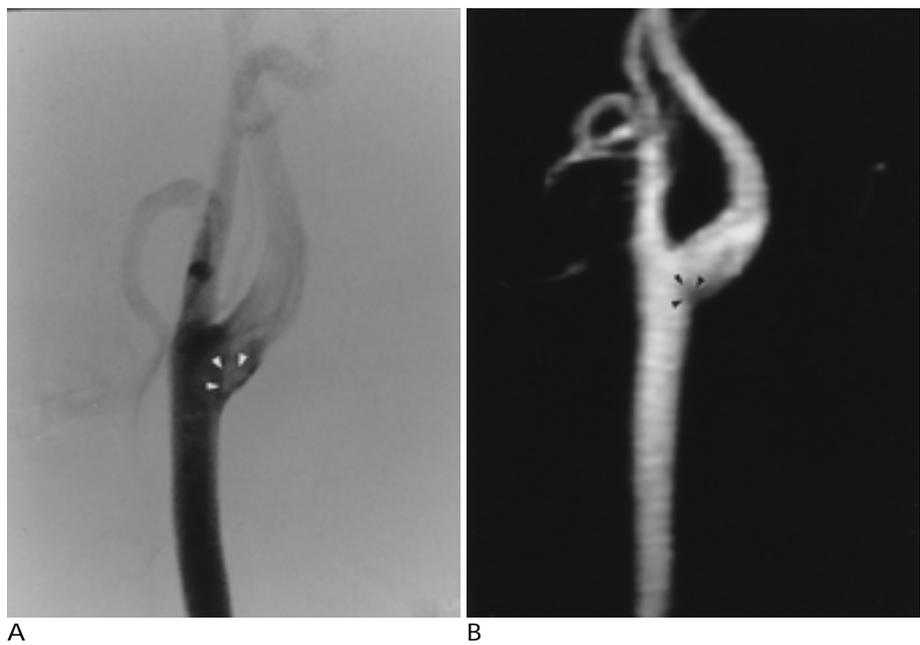


Fig. 3. Rt. carotid arterial images of 42-year-old man.
 A. Early arterial phase DSA shows incomplete mixing of contrast agent and secondary filling defect(white arrowheads).
 B. Arterial phase CEMRA shows inhomogeneous low signal intensity at the carotid bulb(black arrowheads). Signal pattern at the carotid bulb is nearly identical with (A). In this case, central k-space is targeted to the early arterial phase.



Fig. 4. Rt. carotid arterial images of 47 year-old woman.
 A. Early arterial phase DSA clearly shows flow pattern at the carotid bifurcation. Whirl-like shadow at the carotid bulb reflects turbulent flow (white arrows). Note wedge shaped filling defect at the internal carotid bifurcation (white arrowheads).
 B. Arterial phase image of CEMRA shows wedge shaped low signal area is noted at the internal carotid bifurcation (black arrowheads). Also noted focal high signal area at the carotid bulb (black arrows). Turbulent and reversed flow at the carotid bifurcation is responsible for this complex signal.

(Fig. 4A, B).

가

16

9

10

(Fig. 5A, B).

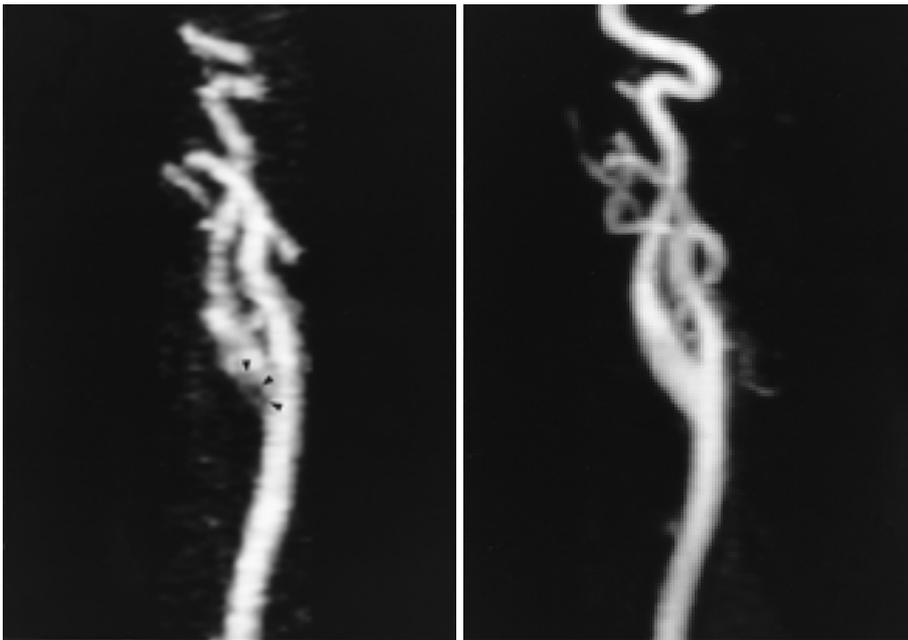
CEMRA 28

9

가

가

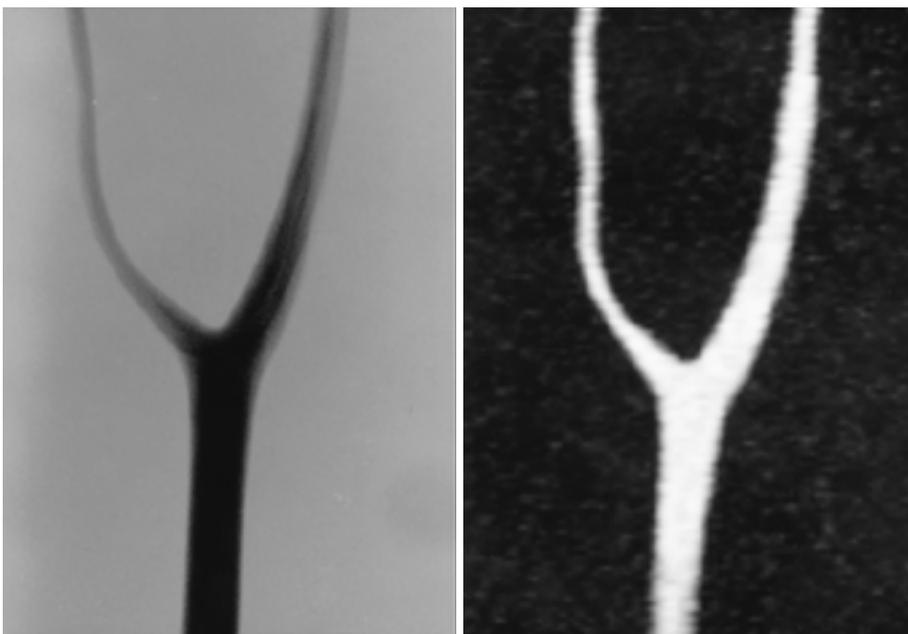
19



A

B

Fig. 5. Comparison with arterial (A) and venous (B) phase selective arterial MIP images of 42-year-old man in CEMRA. Low signal at the carotid bifurcation (black arrowheads) in the arterial phase disappears in the venous phase.



A

B

Fig. 6. DSA and CEMRA images of smoothly branching phantom carotid bifurcation.

A. Early phase of DSA shows no significant turbulent flow at the carotid bifurcation. Contrast is homogeneously mixed in the carotid bulb.

B. Early phase of CEMRA shows homogeneous signal pattern at the carotid bulb as (A).

Phantom

(Fig. 7A).

DSA

(Fig. 7B). DSA

가

가

가

가

(Fig. 7C).

가

Phase

(Fig. 6A, B).

(Fig. 7D).

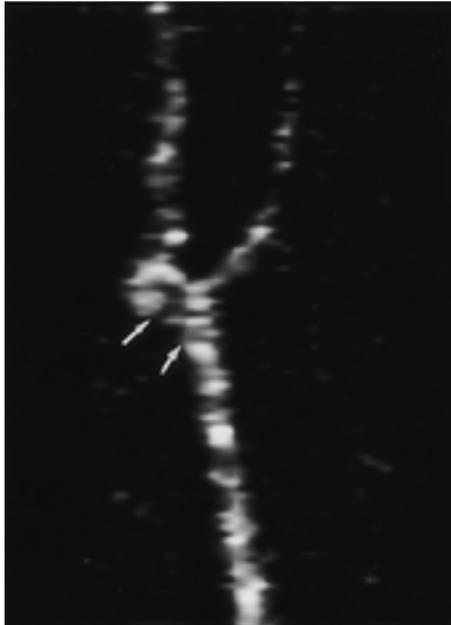
가

가

가



A



B



C



D

Fig. 7. DSA and CEMRA of tortuous phantom carotid bifurcation.

A. Early phase of sequential DSA image shows turbulent flow and incomplete filling of contrast at the carotid bulb leaving wedge shaped filling defect (black arrows).

B. Corresponding phase of CEMRA image with (A) shows inhomogeneous signal intensity at the carotid bulb. Signal pattern is similar to (A) (white arrows).

C. Mid-arterial phase of DSA image shows homogeneous filling of contrast without any filling defect in the carotid bulb.

D. Corresponding phase of CEMRA with (C) shows homogeneous signal pattern instead of inhomogeneous signal pattern in the early arterial phase (B).

(TOF) 가가

(10). 8-10 7

30 Phantom 가

bolus가 가

(time 가

resolution)

가

가

(TOF)

bolus가

가 (18, 19).

가 Gadolinium T-1

가 가

가 (20).

가 T-1 가

가 가

가 가

가 가

Motomiya

(14).

가 가

가 가

가 가

(17).

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What is the Cause of Signal Inhomogeneity at the Carotid Bifurcation During Contrast Enhanced Carotid MRA?: In Vivo and in Vitro Studies¹

Ki-Woong Chung M.D., Tae-Sub Chung M.D., Jin-Yang Joo M.D.²

¹*Department of Diagnostic Radiology, Yonsei University College of Medicine,
Research Institute of Radiological Science, Yonsei University*

²*Department of Neurosurgery, Yonsei University College of Medicine*

Purpose: To evaluate the hemodynamic causes of signal inhomogeneity at the carotid bulb that might be misinterpreted as pathologic signal defect in carotid contrast enhanced MRA(CEMRA).

Materials and Methods: Both carotid CEMRA and fast digital subtraction angiography(DSA) were conducted on 15 patients (28 carotid arteries) and arterial phase CEMRA images were compared with fast DSA images of the same patients. A 1.5T MR imager was used. The Turbo-FLASH sequence employed was TR/TE/FA= 3.2ms/1.3ms/35°. For experimental study, we utilized hand-made silicon phantoms of the tortuous carotid bifurcation; these might be expected to clearly demonstrate turbulent flow at the carotid bulb. In a closed circulatory system, both CEMRA and fast DSA involved the use of these phantoms.

Results: During CEMRA, inhomogeneous signals of varying degrees were found at the carotid bulb in 12/28 carotid arteries. When compared with sequential DSA images, incomplete mixing of contrast agent due to turbulent flow at the carotid bulb might be responsible for this inhomogeneity. This hypothesis was reinforced by successfully reproducing signal defects at the carotid bulb from the experimental CEMRA study using carotid phantoms that showed marked turbulent flow in the same area during DSA.

Conclusion: Incomplete mixing of contrast agent caused by turbulent flow at the carotid bulb might be responsible for the signal inhomogeneity seen on carotid CEMRA.

Index words : Carotid arteries, MR
Carotid arteries, angiography
Magnetic resonance (MR), contrast enhancement
Magnetic resonance (MR), vascular studies

Address reprint requests to : Tae-Sub Chung, M.D., Department of Diagnostic Radiology, Yonsei University,
College of Medicine, Yongdong Severance Hospital, #146-92, Dogok-Dong, Kangnam-Ku, Seoul 135-270, Korea.
Tel. 82-2-3497-3514 Fax. 82-2-3462-5472 E-mail : tschung@yumc.yonsei.ac.kr