

Role of proton MR spectroscopy in spinal cord lesions: A guarded espousal

Sir,

I read with great interest the article titled "3T proton MR spectroscopy evaluation of spinal cord lesions" by Sathyanathan *et al.* published in the July–September, 2018 issue of the *Indian Journal of Radiology and Imaging*.^[1] The manuscript is well written and informative. The authors have narrated the MR spectroscopy (MRS) protocol and patterns in various intramedullary spinal lesions in a very efficient manner. However, I would like to make the following contributions and observations pertinent to the study.

In their study cohort of 50 patients, the authors have investigated spectral pattern on intramedullary spinal cord lesions. They designated four of them as schwannoma, which is an extramedullary lesion. Literature shows very few case reports of intramedullary schwannoma, which may be found in neurofibromatosis.^[2,3] Even in the subsequent discussion, the MRS pattern of these lesions is not elaborated. So, it will be of great help if authors could clarify my doubts in this regard.

The present study^[1] defines the changes in the metabolites in different spinal lesions based on the deviation in their peak values from the normal spectra. In the previous few studies,^[4,5] the results have been expressed in terms of metabolite ratios, which is an absolute quantification method. Therefore, I would like to know about the authors' experience in evaluating the metabolite ratios and their feasibility pertaining to the study.

High signal-to-noise ratio is addressed in the present study^[1] by the use of high magnetic field strength (3 T). However, there are spectral reliability indices such as Cramér–Rao lower bounds of each metabolite, mean, and standard deviation of the spectral line width, the coefficient of variations of the measurements, and the group average of the spectra.^[5] These quality indicators can be used in future studies for enhancing the spectral quality and dependability.

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Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

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