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Prosthetic metallic artifact reduction with iMAR

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Data courtesy of New Century Imaging, Oradell, NJ, USA

History

A 62-year-old woman with a prior history of left hip replacement in 2004 following a fracture injury recently sustaining migration of the prosthesis underwent preoperative evaluation for revision and evaluation for vascular compromise. The study was performed on a Biograph™ Horizon PET/CT scanner with a whole-body contrast computed tomography (CT) scan (110 kV, 100 mAs).

Findings

Images without application of iterative metal artifact reduction (iMAR) demonstrate migration of the acetabular component of the left hip prosthesis through the left ilium into the pelvis. Evaluation of intrapelvic organ injury is suboptimal due to significant streaking artifact secondary to the metal prosthesis. Images with iMAR reconstruction demonstrate compression of bowel loops and urinary bladder by the prosthesis. The adjacent bowel loops appear intact and there is no evidence of other anatomical abnormality. CT angiography was also performed to evaluate adjacent vasculature and revealed intact external iliac artery and common femoral artery and its branches.

Comments

Total hip arthroplasty (THA) is one of the most common elective surgical procedures performed in orthopedics.[1] Refining of the technique as well as significant advances in technology has made the surgery incredibly effective in the treatment of hip damage since its inception in 1960.[2] It is projected that the number of THAs performed globally will increase by 170% by the year 2030. This increase is in part due to increasing life expectancy, higher diagnosis rates, and improvements in treatment of advanced arthritis, which is the most common cause of hip damage that leads to THA.[3] Complication rates for THA are generally less than 10%, with aseptic loosening, infection, and prosthetic dislocation being among the more common complications. Along with an aging population of hip replacement patients who often outlive the life of the prosthesis, it is no surprise that revision procedures account for up to 12% of hip surgeries.[4]

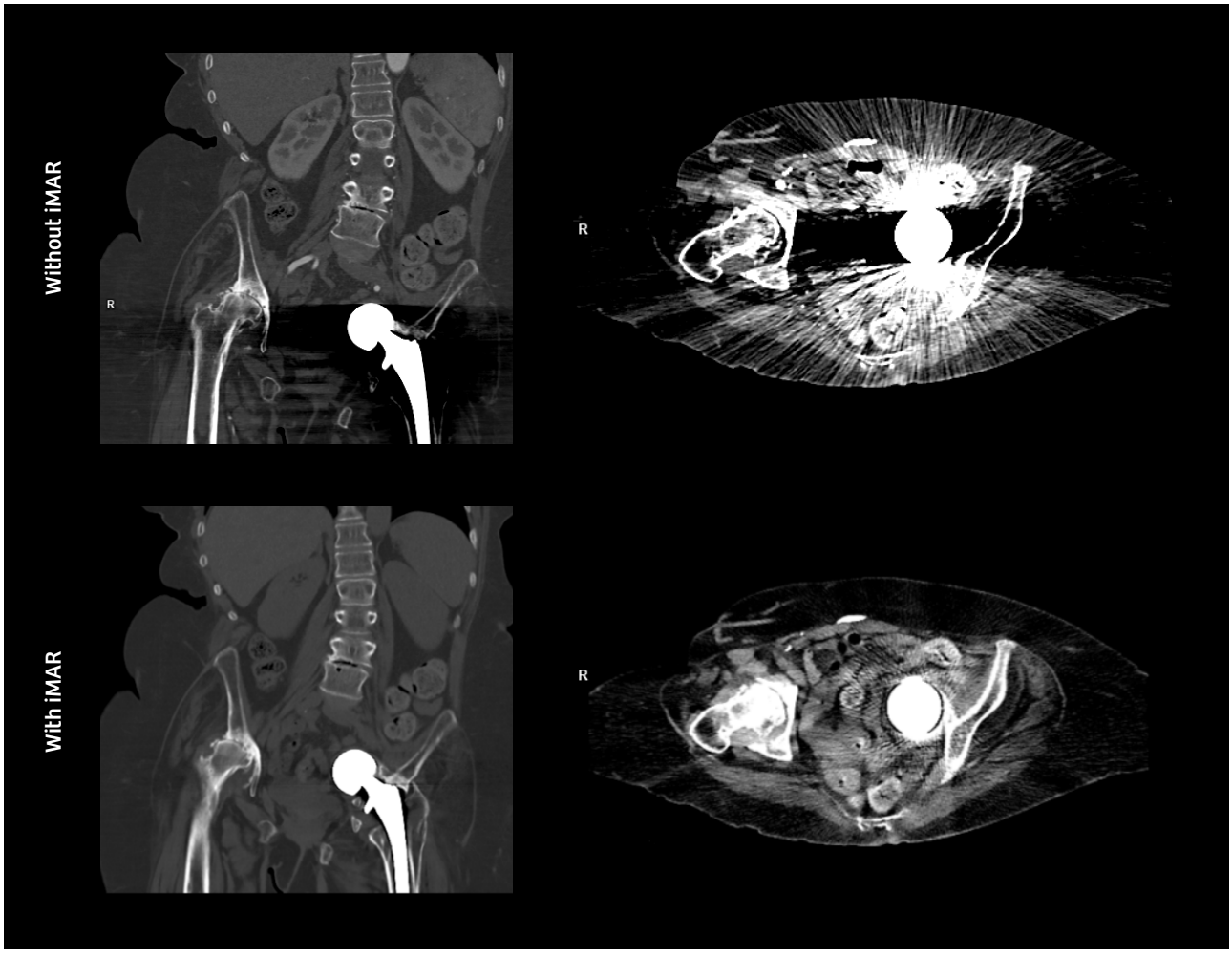
To evaluate postsurgical complications or preoperatively plan for revision procedures, CT is often used. However, metal prostheses can cause significant streaking artifacts on CT. These artifacts are caused by the prosthetic exerting four physical effects on the X-ray beam, namely: scatter, beam hardening, undersampling,

and photon starvation. Scatter and beam hardening result in dark bands resulting from scatter of photons and attenuation underestimation, respectively. Undersampling artifacts result in thin white streaking emanating from the prosthesis due to the significant difference between the density of the implant and surrounding tissue. Photon starvation is simply the lack of photons that are able to traverse a given density to reach the detectors, resulting in noisy images. When the images are reconstructed, image noise is further amplified resulting in streaks in the image. The end result of these four effects is the obscuring of anatomy, important pathological findings, and can even result in images that are deemed non-diagnostic.[5] This issue becomes even more problematic in oncology patients with pelvic pathology because not only are pathological findings at risk of being missed, errors in dose calculation at radiation planning can occur.[6]

With the prevalence of hip replacements on the rise as discussed above, there has been increasing interest in developing methods to reduce metal artifact on CT imaging. The solution to this challenge is iMAR software, the only artifact reduction software that uses a combination of three research-proven algorithms to address all four physical effects that can degrade image quality. iMAR is also versatile, as it has the ability to correct an artifact caused by a variety of metal implants regardless of size. This includes dental implants, surgical screws, neurological coils, as well as larger joint prostheses of the shoulder, hip, and knee. It was also shown to be effective when used to reconstruct the co-registered CT images of PET/CT scans.

Conclusion

iMAR software effectively addresses not one, but all four physical effects of metal hardware on the X-ray beam that cause artifact. iMAR can therefore result in improved image quality, better



1 Coronal and axial imaging without and with iMAR.
Data courtesy of New Century Imaging, Oradell, NJ, USA.

anatomical evaluation, enhanced detection of pathology, and more accurate dose calculation with radiation therapy planning in the presence of a wide variety of metal implants. It has also been shown to be effective when applied to the co-registered CT scan of PET/CT studies.

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References

[1] https://www.ahrq.gov/news/newsletters/e-newsletter/503.html (accessed on 3/14/2018)

[2] https://orthoinfo.aaos.org/en/treatment/total-hip-replacement (accessed on 3/14/2018)

[3] J Bone Joint Surg Am. 2015 Sep 2; 97(17): 1386–1397.

[4] Dtsch Arztebl Int 2014; 111: 884–90.

[5] RadioGraphics 2004; 24:1679–1691.

[6] Med. Phys. 43 (9), September 2016.

2 CT angiography demonstrating intact external iliac and common femoral arteries. Data courtesy of New Century Imaging, Oradell, NJ, USA.

Examination protocol

Scanner: Biograph Horizon

CT	
Tube voltage	110 kV
Tube current	100 eff mAs
Slice thickness	5 mm

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