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WITHDRAWN - (U*) Comparing Two De-Noising Methods for ^{129}Xe and ^{19}F Hyperpolarized Gas MRI

Biomarkers are an important tool used to quantify lung disease, and are extracted from accurate, de-noised images (1). Hyperpolarized gas imaging, specifically Diffusion-Weighted (DW) and Dynamic-Ventilation (DV) are techniques used to quantify these biomarkers. However, noise is a concern, leading to over or underestimation of biomarkers (2). In this study, we aimed to compare two de-noising methods in order to improve measurements of diffusion length scale estimates (LmD) and Mean-Linear-Intercept-Estimates (Lm) as well as Regional-Fractional-Ventilation (r) in patients with lung disease as these metrics are potential biomarkers candidates (3). We first acquired ^{129}Xe morphometry and fractional ventilation maps, as well as ^{19}F fractional ventilation maps. We then applied MP-PCA (Marchenko Pastur- Principle Component Analysis) and modified MP-PCA de-noising methods to each image and obtained the pre and post de-noising r , LmD , and Lm metrics. MP-PCA de-noising works by first deconstructing the image signals using by projecting them onto an orthogonal base, reducing the size of noisy components, and then reconstructing the signal. Modified MP-PCA included the addition of hard-thresholding over a nuclear norm in k-space. Finally, applying a Student's T-Test, we found that the unmodified MP-PCA method was better suited to de-noise ^{19}F and ^{129}Xe images with no significant change between global metrics pre and post de-noising ($p < 0.03$). Conversely, the modified MP-PCA method showed grossly overestimated and therefore significantly different fractional-ventilation image metrics, and should not be used to de-noise hyperpolarized ^{19}F and ^{129}Xe images. In conclusion, de-noising HP ^{129}Xe and ^{19}F image using the unmodified MP-PCA method results in better overall images, and can be used to further research biomarkers of lung disease such as r , Lm , LmD in longitudinal studies.

Primary authors: WOODWARD, Elise; OURIADOV, Alexei (The University of Western Ontario); Dr FOX, Matthew S. (Lawson Health Research Center); Dr LEMBERSKIY, Gregory (New York University Langone Grossman School of Medicine)

Presenter: WOODWARD, Elise

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