The Role of Imaging in Seizure/ Epilepsy

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Various Structural Abnormality that can be associated with seizures

Hippocampal sclerosis

Cortical dysplasia

Brain tumors

Vascular malformation

Other structural findings

Other Structural Abnormalities

Encephaloceles: Herniation of brain tissue through a defect in the skull.

Polymicrogyria: A condition characterized by an abnormal number of small gyri.

Heterotopia: Abnormal locations of gray matter. Post-traumatic and post-ischemic lesions. Resulting from previous injuries or strokes.

MRI Protocol for Epilepsy

Harness Protocol for Epilepsy Imaging

- The Neuroimaging Task Force recommends use of the Harmonized Neuroimaging of Epilepsy Structural Sequences (HARNESS-MRI) protocol with iso- tropic, millimetric 3D T1 and FLAIR images, and high-resolution 2D sub millimetric T2 images
- Use of the HARNESS-MRI protocol standardizes best-practice neuroimaging of epilepsy in outpatient clinics and specialized surgery centres alike.

MRI Protocol for Epilepsy (HARNESS Protocol)

- Have extra sequences
- Contrast in general is not routinely for brain MRI in epilepsy
- Sequences that use for epilepsy:
 T1 3D BRAVO or T1 3D MPRAGE or T1 3D IR
 3D T2FLAIR
 Coronal thin T2FLAIR perpendicular to the hippocampus
 Coronal thin T2FRFSE perpendicular to the hippocampus
 - ► Axial GRE or SWI
 - >Non contrast MR perfusion: 3D ASL

2D thin coronal T2 perpendicular to hippocampus







3D FLAIR reformatted at 3 mm



3D FLAIR native resolution at 1 mm isotropic



Axial T1 3D BRAVO



Cor T1 3D BRAVO



M, 12 years with epilepsy





Hippocampal Sclerosis





T1 3D BRAVO

3DASL, post ictal

Dx: L MTS with increase of rCBF post ictal

Female, 19 years with seizure

Polymicrogyria at right parietal

Male, 10 years with seizure

3D T2 FLAIR

CubeDIR .3mm /1.30sp 47 L = 572 CubeDIR |.3mm /1.30sp 47 L = 572 Ex:S

DX: Cortical dysplasia at right posterior temporal

M, 36 years with temporal epilepsy

Dx: Epidermoid cyst

M, 11 years with ALL, post chemotherapy, suddenly has generalized seizure

Dx: ALL with leptomeningeal metastasis

M, 24 years with seizure

Dx: Cavernous angioma at left middle temporal lobe

Take Home Point

Various structural abnormality can cause seizures:

Hippocampal sclerosis

Cortical dysplasia, polymicrogyria, Heterotopia

Brain tumors

Vascular malformation

Traumatic brain injury

Should perform proper imaging with HARNESS protocol.

