

# DIAGNOSTIC VALUES OF MAMMOGRAPHY, ULTRASONOGRAPHY AND DYNAMIC ENHANCED MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING IN BREAST LESIONS

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MEME LEZYONLARINDA MAMOGRAFİ, ULTRASONOGRAFİ VE DİNAMİK KONTRASTLI MANYETİK REZONANS GÖRÜNTÜLEMENİN TANI DEĞERLERİ

#### ÖZET

Amaç: Meme lezyonlarının karakterize edilmesinde konvansiyonel mamografi (MM) ve ultrasonografi (US) korelasyonu ilk tercih edilecek yaygın ve kolay uygulanabilir radyolojik inceleme yöntemleridir. Ancak seçilmiş olgularda meme lezyonlarının tanımlanmasında konvansiyonel kontrastlı manyetik rezonans görüntüleme (MRG) problem çözücü yöntem olarak kullanılmaktadır. Çalışmamızda amacımız, tek başlarına ve birlikte kullanıldıklarında her üç inceleme yöntemlerinin tanı değerlerinin araştırılmasıdır.

Hastalar ve Yöntem: Kasım 2009 — Nisan 2010 tarihleri arasında Celal Bayar Üniversitesi Radyoloji Anabilim Dalı Mamografi Ünitesi'ne başvuran, 50 kadın olguya, farklı endikasyonlarla MM, US ve dinamik kontrastlı MRG uygulamaları gerçekleştirildi. Çalışmamızda değerlendirmeye 52 lezyon dahil edildi.

Bulgular: Çalışmaya dahil edilen malign lezyonların prevalansı hesaplandı. Bulunan tüm lezyonlar "Breast Imaging Reporting and Data System" (BI-RADS) (Meme Görüntüleme Raporlama ve Veri Sistemi) sınıflamasına göre sınıflandırılıp her inceleme için duyarlılık, özgüllük, negatif prediktif değer, pozitif prediktif değerler bulundu. Ayrıca her inceleme yöntemi kendi arasında karşılaştırılıp duyarlılık ve özgüllükleri hesaplandı.

Sonuç: Tüm bu bulgulara bakıldığında malign meme kitlelerinin tanısında dinamik kontrastlı MRG tüm tetkiklerden üstün bulundu. Ancak maliyet, ulaşılabilirlik, kontrast madde kullanımı, uygulama ve değerlendirme güçlüğü nedeniyle meme MRG'nin tanısal amaçlı değil de MM ve US'a ek olarak problem çözücü olarak kullanımı uygundur.

**Anahtar sözcükler:** meme lezyonları, mamografi, ultrasonografi, manyetik rezonans görüntüleme

#### ABSTRACT

Purpose: Convantional mammography (MM) and ultrasonography (US) are the first and easily performed diagnostic techniques in characterization of breast lesions. Convantional enhanced magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) is used as a problem solving tool to identify and characterize breast lesions in selected cases. In this study, we aimed to determine diagnostic values of these techniques when they used either on by their own or together.

Patients and Methods: We included 50 female patients who applied to Celal Bayar University Radiology- Mammography Department between November 2009- April 2010 with different indications. In this study, we evaluated 52 different breast lesions.

Results: Prevalance of malign breast lesions were calculated and all the breast lesions were classified according to "Breast Imaging Reporting and Data System" (BI-RADS) characteristics. For every diagnostic technique, sensitivity, specificity, negative predictive and positive predictive values were found. Additionally, every diagnostic techniques were compared between each other, sensitivities and specificities were calculated.

Conclusion: After all results dynamic enhanced MRI, was evaluated as superior than the other techniques. However, the difficulties such as cost, attainability, contrast material usage and evaluation, breast MRI should be used as a problem solving technique together with MM and US techniques.

**Key words:** breast lesions, mammography, ultrasonography, magnetic resonance imaging

# Purpose

Both early diagnosis and determination of malignant potentials of breast lesions are very important in treatment. Dynamic enhanced magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) is a very useful technique in determination of breast lesions which can not be

diagnosed efficiently by mammography (MM), ultrasonography (US) and physical examination. In MRI examination, discrimination of benign and malignant breast lesions can be made according to their morphologic and kinetic pattens. In fact, biopsy and histopathologic examinations should be applied to possibly



malignant breast lesions for definitive diagnosis (1, 2, 3). In this study, we aimed to investigate the diagnostic values of US, MM and dynamic enhanced MRI separately and when they are used in combination.

#### Material and methods

Between November 2009 – April 2010, MM, US and dynamic enhanced MRI examinations were appilied to 50 different female patients who appilied to Celal Bayar University School of Medicine, Radiology Department, Mammography Unit with various indications. 23 malignant, 29 benign, totally 52 lesions were included to the study.

MM examiantion was not appilied to 1 patient with abscess findings who was operated with transverse rectus abdominis myocutaneous (TRAM) technique, 1 patient with silicon implants and 9 patients younger than 35-years-old. MM examination was appilied to remaining 39 patients who were included to this study with routine protocol [with cranio-caudal (CC) and medio-lateral oblique (MLO) positions].

All the patients in the study were examined by US with linear 7,5 MHz. probe.

Conventional breast MRI (enhanced) with 1.5 Tesla (T) MR device (Signa HDx; General Electric, Milwaukee, WI, USA) was appilied to 48 patients. The routine sequences include axial Short TI Inversion Recovery (STIR), sagittal Fast Spin Echo (FSE), Fat Saturated T2 weighted (W), sagittal 3D VIBRANT (Postcontrast Fat Saturated T1W) and substraction. After MRI examination postprocessing applications were applied. Non- enhanced MRI was appilied to 2 patients with a history of contrast material allergy.

Lesions were classified using "Breast Imaging Reporting and Data System" (BI-RADS) according to their MM, US and dynamic enhanced MRI findings.

Specificity, sensitivity, negative predictive value (-pv) and positive predictive value (+pv) of methods were calculated with the SPSS 16.0 (for Windows version) statistics software program.

For this study we had consent from Celal Bayar University School of Medicine Ethic Committee and it was realized with Celal Bayar University Scientific Investigation Project support.

# Findings

52 lesions of 50 patients included to the study according to their typical radiological features or histopathologic results were evaluated. The ages of patients varied between 26-76 with an avarage of 46,8(+/- 12.3). Avarage size determined by MM, US and conventional MRI were 16,5mm for benign and 23mm for malignant lesions.

 Table 1. Distrubiton of lesions which can not be determined by the imaging modalities

	ММ	US	MM and US	MRI
Number of lesions which can not be imagined	2	2	5	NONE

\*11 different patients with 15 different lesions were not examined with MM because of different contrindications. In fact all the lesions were examined with US and MRI. Lesions which were not examined with MM were not included to the table.

**Table 2.** Distrubition of the lesions diagnosed according to their typical radiological features or histopathologic results

MALIGNANT LESIONS	Lesions	n
(n=23)		
	Invasive ductal Ca	19
	Invasive ductal Ca +Invasive lobulary Ca	2
	Invasive ductal Ca +Invasive lobulary carsinoma in situ	1
	Mixed invasive ductal Ca + Pleomorphic invasive lobular Ca	1
BENIGN LESIONS (n= 29)	Enhanced normal breast tissue foci stable in follow-up	8
	Fibroadenoma	6
	Post-op tissue stable in follow-up	5
	Mastitis	2
	Infected galactocele	2
	Simle cyst	2
	Abcess	1
	Hemorrhagic cyst	1
	Post-op hemorrhagic fat tissue necrosis	1
	Fat tissue necrosis	1

**Table 3**. Numerical distribution and percentage of the lesions according to pathologic results

	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative percent
Benign	29	55,8	55,8
Malignant	23	44,2	100,0
Total	52	100,0	

9 additional lesions which could not be evaluated by MM and US were determined by conventional enhanced breast MRI (Table 1).

The distrubition of the lesions were included in the study according to their typical radiological features or histopathologic results are shown in Table 2 and Table 3.

When the 52 lesions included in this study were evaluated, the prevalence for the malignancy was calculated as 44.2 %.

**Table 4**. Comparison of sensitivity, specificity, -pv, +pv of the lesions when BI-RADS 2 and BI-RADS 3 lesions were determined as benign, BI-RADS 4 and BI-RADS 5 lesions were determined as malignant

	SENSITIVIY	SPECIFICITY	-PV	+PV
MAMMOGRAPHY	90,9 %	66,7 %	83,3 %	80 %
ULTRASONOGRAPHY	86,4 %	66,7 %	76,9 %	79,2 %
MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING	100 %	100 %	100 %	95,7 %

**Table 5**. Comparison of sensitivity, specificity, -pv, +pv of the lesions when BI-RADS 2, BI-RADS 3, BI-RADS 4 lesions were determined as benign, BI-RADS 5 lesions were determined as malignant

	SENSITIVIY	SPECIFICITY	-PV	+PV
MAMMOGRAPHY	68,2 %	100 %	68 %	100 %
ULTRASONOGRAPHY	77,3 %	93,3 %	73,7 %	94,4 %
MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %

**Table 6.** Comparison of sensitivity and specificity of imaging techniques

	SENSITIVIY	SPECIFICITY
ULTRASONOGRAPHY + MAMMOGRAPHY	95,4 %	66,6 %
ULTRASONOGRAPHY + MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING	100 %	66 %
ULTRASONOGRAPHY + MAMMOGRAPHY + MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING	100 %	66 %

The lesions were classified with BI-RADS classification, according to their MM, US and dynamic enhanced MRI findings. When BI-RADS 2 and BI-RADS 3 lesions were determined as benign, BI-RADS 4 and BI-RADS 5 lesions were determined as malignant, the specificity and the sensitivity of MM were calculated 66.7 % and 90,0 % consecutively. –Pv and +pv of MM were calculated 83.3 % and 80 % consecutively. The specificity of US was found 66.7 % and the sensitivity was found 86.4 %. –Pv of US was calculated 76.9 % and +pv of US was calculated 79.2 %. The specificity, sensitivity and -pv of enhanced MRI were determined 100 %, +pv was determined 95.7 % (Table 4).

When only BI-RADS 5 lesions were determined as malignant, the specificity and the sensitivity of MM were calculated 100 % and 68.2 % consecutively. –Pv and +pv of MM were calculated 68 % and 100 % consecutively. The specificity of US was found 93.3

% and the sensitivity was found 77,3 %. –Pv and +pv of US were calculated 100 %. The specificity, sensitivity, -pv and +pv of enhanced MRI were determined 100 % (Table 5).

The prevalence of malignant lesions in 37 patients whose all examinations were complete was calculated as 59,4 %. In this group when US and MM were examined together, sensitivity and and specificity were found 95.4 % and 66.6 % consecutively. When US and conventional breast MRI were examined together sensitivity and specificity were calculted 100 % and 66 % consecutively. When MM, US and conventional breast MRI were examined together sensitivity and andspecificity were determined 100 % and 66 % consecutively (Table 6).

MM, US and MRI findings of 4 different patients of the 50 patients included in our study are presented in cases 1-4.

#### **Conclusion and results**

Breast cancer has high morbidity and mortality rate worldwide. For this reason it is an important source of interest and anxiety for clinicians and researchers. Early diagnosis and determination of malignancy possibilities of breast lesions are very important in treatment. Because of this reason, standardizations in terminology of description and reporting system must be achieved. This system that provides the convenience of communication between clinic-radiology as well as standardization of the studies, was offered by American Collage of Radiology (ACR) in 1993 for standardization of MM reporting terminology in the name BI-RADS. This system was accepted internationally. Finally it was reviewed in 2003 with the addition of US and MRI classification.

## **BI-RADS classification**

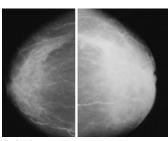
**Category 0-** There is no need for additional imaging technique.

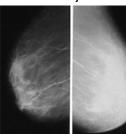
**Category 1-** *Negative, all the findings are normal.* 

**Category 2-** Benign findings, radiologic and clinical follow-up are recommended according to the age. These findings include, simple cysts, calcified fibroadenomas, multiple secretuary calcifications, fatty cysts, lipomas, galactoceles, the lesions including fatty content such as mixed density hamartoma, intramammarian lymph nodes, implants, vasculary calcifications or tissue distortions which were proved that they are because of previous operations, bilaterally scattered asymmetrical enhanced breast foci smaller than 5mm.

**Category 3-** Possibly benign findings, short interval follow-up is recommended. This category includes, non-calcified, well-defined solid lesions, non-calcified fibroadenomas, focal asymmetry, clustered punctat microcalcifations, well-defined lesions with type 1 (benign) enhancement pattern, regional enhancement, and coincidental enhanced foci.

Case 1: 70-year-old female, Bilateral Invasive Ductal Carcinoma





Fat Saturated T1W, +C, right breast



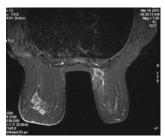
**CASE 1 MM:** The patient appilied with a palpable mass at her left breast with the mammograms obtained at another center. At the mammograms, there is increase of density in whole breast tissue with no clearly shaped mass lesion at the inner middle quadrant. At the lower inner quadrant of right breast a few blurred, not prominant clustered microcalcifications are seen.

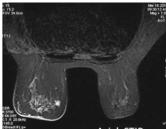






**CASE 1 US:** US examination showed solid, irregular contoured masses at the lower inner quadrant of the right breast and at the upper middle quadrant of the left breast. The lesions were classified as BI-RADS 5. Another ovoid shaped, hypoechoic, solid mass is seen at the inner middle quadrant of the left breast. The lesion was categorized as BI-RADS 4.





**CASE 1 MRI 1:** In MRI, in axial STIR image, increased signals representing masses are seen at the lower inner quadrant of right breast and at the upper middle- inner middle quadrant of the left breast.

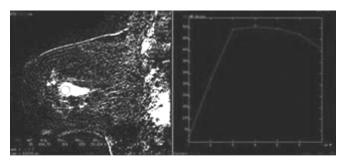
**Category 4-** Doubtful findings, biopsy is recommended. Most of the biopsy recommended lesions are in this category. Malignancy possibility of the lesions in this category changes between 3-94 %. Because of this reason, in some imaging centers, it is classified in 4a, 4b, 4c sub-groups according to their malignancy possibilities.

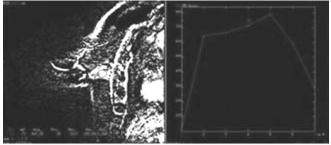
**Category 5-** Possibly malignant lesions- biopsy and appropriate approach are recommended. In this category the lesions which have classical breast carcinoma findings and have malignancy possibility more than 95 % are included. Radial and irregular contoured with high density lesions, radial contoured lesions accompanying segmentally and linear sequenced or pleomorphic microcalcifications, spiculated contoured lesions with posterior acoustic shadow, lesions with circulary enhancement and the lesions which have rapid wash-out are samples of this category.

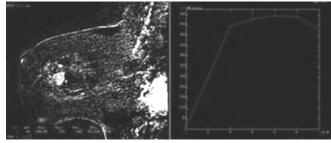




**CASE 1 MRI 2:** In sagital post-contrast and substraction images of the right and the left breasts, enhanced.

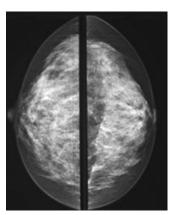


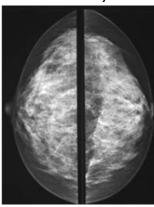




**CASE 1 MRI 3:** Region Of Interests (ROI)'s were placed in the masses and type 3 (malignant) dynamic curves were obtained.

# Case 2- 43 year-old female, Invasive Ductal Carcinoma





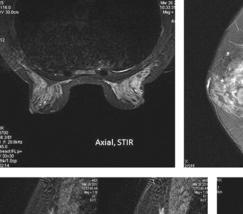
**CASE 2 MM:** The patient with a palpable mass complaint appilied with mammograms obtained at another center. No mass image or microcalcification is detected. Mammograms were evaluated as normal.

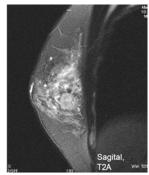


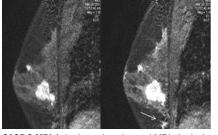
**CASE 2 US:** In US examination, a hypoechoic, irregular contoured, solid mass at the lower inner quadrant of right breast, 2.5cm in size is seen. The lesion has components extending to areola and chest wall. The mass was categorized as BI-RADS 4.

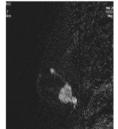
Category 6- Known malignancy- appropriate approach is needed. This category is added for the lesions which the malignancy of these lesions proved by biopsy before the exact treatments such as surgical excision, radiotherapy, chemotherapy or mastectomy. This category is different from BI-RADS category 4 and category 5 and it is not concerned with interventional techniques which are done in order to prove malignancy. This category is appropriate for secondary diagnosis findings before biopsy and in order to follow the answer of neoadjuvant chemotherapy before surgical excision. It should not be used after malignancy excision (lumpectomy) (4).

In recent years, with development of techniques in MM, breast US and breast MRI, the proportion of malignancy determination has risen. With the increase of these early diagnostic techniques, alternative surgical methods to mastectomy have taken over (5, 6). After the digital MM has been put in to routine use, it is reported

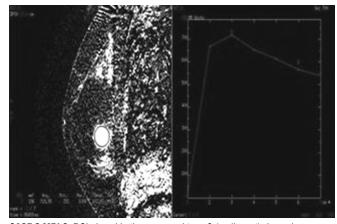








**CASE 2 MRI 1:** In dynamic enhanced MRI, the lesion described in US is seen clearly. Additionally, a second milimetric focus is seen in the inferior lateral part the lesion described in MM and US examinations (arrow). The patient was diagnosed as multifocal breast carcinoma. The treatment protocole had changed.

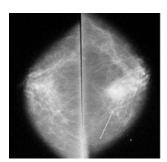


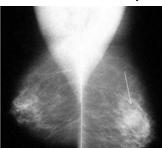
CASE 2 MRI 2: ROI placed in the mass and type 3 (malignant) dynamic curve was obtained.

that the proportion of lesion determinations in breasts with high density has increased (7). Also, with the useage of high resolution probes in US, with the developments in spatial and temporal resolution in breast MRI, the sensitivity of diagnostic techniques has risen (8, 9). It is reported that, breast MRI is a problem solving method when MM and breast US techniques remain insufficient for the diagnosis (10).

MM is the most effective method in the approach of breast disease investigations. Other diagnostic methods are used as complementary to MM when it is needed. The usage of MM is for two different purposes; diagnosis and malignancy screening. In fact,

# Case 3-53-year-old female, Fibroadenoma





**CASE 3 MM:** The patient appilied for routine control mammogram. In CC mammogram, asymmetrical, increase of density increase with indistinct contours (arrow) is seen at the middle part of left breast. Lesion was categorized as BI-RADS 4 in terms of MM.



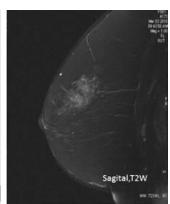
**CASE 3 US:** In US examination, hypoechoic, microlobulated solid mass is seen at the same localization with the mammogram. Minimal increase of echogenity is seen around the lesion. Lesion was categorized as BI-RADS 4 in terms of US.

the specificity of MM is low and biopsy is needed in order to make discrimination between benign and malignant lesions which have determined by MM. Only 10-35 % of the biopsies that are done according to mammographic findings yielded the final diagnosis of malignancy (11).

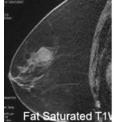
The usage of gray scale US additional to MM, especially after the developments in US technology, helps in solid-cystic lesion discrimination, guides aspiration biopsies and also helps to discriminate benign and malignant lesions (12, 13).

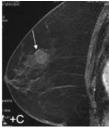
MRI has been started to use from the outset of 1980's. In the first applications, longitudinal relaxation time (T1), transverse relaxation time (T2) and hydrogen spin densities were used (14- 17). MRI should be done necessarily with the application of contrast material containing gadopentetate dimeglumine (Gd DTPA). By this way, it provides high sensitivity in diagnosis of breast cancer and lesion discrimination. Enhanced breast MRI is used in the control and diagnosis of breast cancer for more than 15 years (1- 3, 18-22). According to the technical and diagnostic criterions in

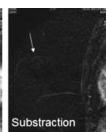




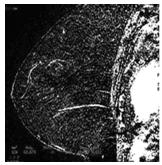
**CASE 3 MRI 1:** T2 signal increase is seen in MRI image at the same localization with MM and US examinations.

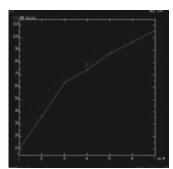






**CASE 3 MRI 2:** In MRI, in pre-contrast fat saturated T1W image hyperintense, well-defined mass is seen at the same localization with MM and US examinations. Only peripheral and septal enhacements are seen both in post-contrast and substracted images (arrows).

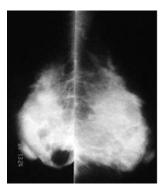


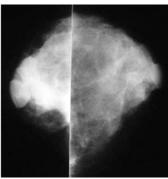


**CASE 3 MRI 3:** ROI was placed in the mass and type 1 (benign) dynamic curve was detected. With these MRI findings, the lesion was categorized as BI-RADS 3, evaluated as fibroadenoma and the patient was put in the follow-up.

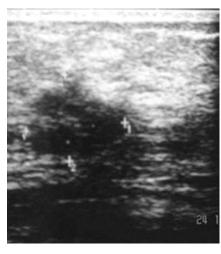
breast MRI application, the sensitivity varies between 83-100 % and the specificity varies between 29-100 % (18-20). Breast MRI has disadvantages such as long examination time. Moreover, difficulties can be seen in characterization of lesion determination from time to time. The criteria of conventional breast MRI evaluation include lesion morphologies, enhancement dynamics of the lesions and T2 signal features. As the findings in benign and malignant lesions overlap, it is reported that the specificity of MRI can decrease to 40-80 % (23-25). Recently, enhanced dynamic breast MRI is accepted as a very sensitive imaging method in breast cancer diagnosis. In selected cases, it is offered as a complementary

# Case 4-39-year-old female, Invasive Lobulary Carcinoma-Invasive Ductal Carcinoma





**CASE 4 MM:** The patient applied with a palpable mass and skin changes of the breast. In MM, in the right breast there is increase of density at whole breast except the lower inner quadrant.

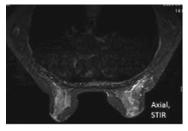


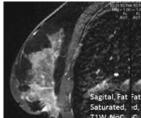
case 4 us: In US examination, irregulary contoured, hypoechoic, solid masses with posterior acoustic shadow are seen at the right breast. Masses were categorized as BI-RADS 5.

diagnostic modality (26, 27). When MRI is used together with MM and US, it is a very powerful method in imaging and characterization of breast masses.

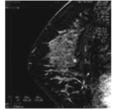
ACR has determined the indications of enhanced breast MRI (28). In all these indications except for the evaluation of the silicon implanted breasts with the doubt of rupture, enhanced MRI is used. The indications of enhanced breast MRI are:

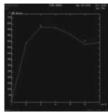
- In determination of breast lesions which can not be evaluated by MM, US, physical examination separately or together with all these methods.
- 2. In neoadjuvant chemotherapy applied cases.
- In determination of cases who have malignant axillary lymph nodes and whose breast lesions can not be diagnosed by MM, US and physical examination.
- 4. In determination of the cases with post-operative reconstruction.
- 5. In determination of the cases with doubtful deep pectoral fasia invasion.
- 6. In determination of contraterally breast lesion.



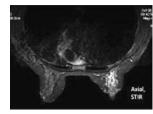


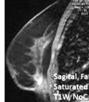


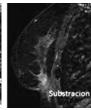




CASE 4 MRI 1: MRI examination was done in order to evaluate the masses and contrlateral breast. In MRI images, diffuse signal increase and mass enhancement with chest wall invasion are seen at the right breast. Type 3 (malignant type) curve was drawn from the foci of the mass. The patient was diagnosed as stage 4 breast carcinoma. Tru-cut biyopsy was appilied under US guidence. Pathologic result was invasive lobulary carcinoma-invasive ductal carcinoma. The patient was referred to onchology clinic for chemotherapy treatment







**CASE 4 MRI 2:** After neoadjuvant chemotherapy, MRI was repeated. In MRI images, the decrease in size of the lesion and the regression of chest wall invasion are seen. The patient was referred to surgery.

- 7. In determination of post-op scar tissues and possible residual that is difficult to evaluate by MM and US.
- 8. Evaluation of cases with high malignancy possibility.
- 9. In control of cases with high recurrent malignancy possibility.
- 10. In preoperative tumor staging.

Cinetic curves (time-signal intensity curves) show the changes of intensities of the tissue by time as a reflection of enhancement. Cinetic curves are evaluated in two stages: in the early stage after bolus injection (first 2-3 min) the speed of signal increase and in the late stage, the changes of signal intensity. In the early stage, the speed of signal increase can be slow, moderate and fast. In the late stage, the signal intensity can continue to increase (persistant-type 1- benign type), can stay at the same level (plateau-type 2- doubtful for malignancy type) or can decrease (wash-out-type 3- malignant type) (24, 29). In malignant lesions, signal intensity mostly increases to its double level of beginning level in 90- 120 sec or more. In 3- 5 min., contrast material wash-out can be seen (24). The curves are shown in Figure 1.

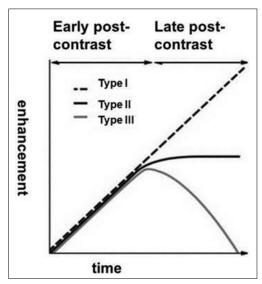


Figure 1. Time-enhancement curves

The evaluation of dynamic enhancement curves increases the specificity of breast MRI clearly. However malignant and benign lesions can show similar features.

In our study, 15 lesions which could not be determined by MM and/or breast US are determined by conventional breast MRI. When, depending on the technical and diagnostic criteria, the sensitivity of enhanced breast MRI changes between 83-100 %, the specificity changes between 29-100 % in the literature (18-20). The findings of this study were compatible with the literature.

Determination of more than one lesion at the same time is important. Enhanced breast MRI has high sensitivity in determination of additional lesions which are not suspected by conventional MM and US (30). In 4 of 16 patients with a malignant mass, additional masses could not have been evaluated by MM and US. These masses have been determined by conventional breast MRI, resulted changes in diagnosis and surgical technique. Total mastectomy was applied instead of breast protective surgery to

these 4 patients. When the findings were evaluated in terms of 'percentage', conventional MRI had provided diagnostic and surgical change in a proportion of 25 %. All these changes were verified by pathology also.

In a study by Orel et al., it has been shown that, mammographic BI-RADS classification is very useful for determination of malignancy. In this study, +pv of category 4 and category 5 lesions are calculated as 30 % and 97 % consecutively (31). In a study by Lazarus et al., +pv of category 5 lesions is calculated as 91 % (32). Our findings were compatible with the literature (Table 4, Table 5).

As a result, conventional breast MRI; can be used in problematic cases which can not be determined exactly by clinic examination, MM and US, such as in occult carcinomas with axillary lymph node metastasis, in evaluation of recurrent cases which can not be determined by MM and US after surgery, in evaluation of breasts with implants, in evaluation of multicentricity-multifocality in breasts with high density before breast conservative therapy planning. In our study, breast MRI examination applied according to the indication as recommended in the guideline provided increase of sensitivity and specificity in diagnosis. The lesions which could not have been evaluated by MM and US could be shown by breast MRI. Also in some cases, MRI was able to determine additional foci, changing the diagnosis to multifocal breast carcinoma, and thuseffected thus effected the surgery and therapeutic approach.

Ideally the radiologists dealing with breast MRI application, should be trained especially for conventional methods such as MM, US as well as for breast MRI protocols and techniques. It should not be forgotten that information and experiences obtained from these imaging techniques and comparison of MM and US findings with MRI findings help to reach correct diagnosis.

In fact, breast MRI should not be used in stead of percutaneus biopsy, diagnostic MM or US if the lesions can be diagnosed with these methods. MRI findings should be evaluated comparatively with clinical and other imaging findings.

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