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· 临床研究 ·

5T MRI对青年人群牙髓及牙周膜的体内成像效果研究

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【摘要】 目的 探讨5T磁共振成像(5T magnetic resonance imaging, 5T MRI)对青年人群牙髓及牙周膜组织的体内成像效果,为高场核磁共振技术在口腔临床检查中的应用提供依据。方法 获得单位医学伦理委员会审批,共招募15名健康志愿者(纳入413颗恒牙),进行全口腔5T MRI扫描,其中6名志愿者(纳入共168颗恒牙)同时接受3T磁共振成像(3T magnetic resonance imaging, 3T MRI)和锥形束CT(cone-beam computed tomography, CBCT)扫描。由两名口腔科医师采用5级Likert量表对图像上的牙髓及牙周膜成像效果进行独立评分,并记录每颗牙可检测到的根管数目。采用加权kappa检验法和组内相关系数(intraclass correlation coefficient, ICC)评估评分者间一致性。通过非参数检验比较不同组织结构、牙位及成像方式间的成像效果差异。结果 5T MRI能对大部分牙髓组织和部分牙周膜结构实现体内成像;两名评分者对牙髓及牙周膜成像评分的一致性较高(牙髓 $\kappa=0.934$,牙周膜 $\kappa=0.737$);牙髓的成像评分显著高于牙周膜($P < 0.001$),且磨牙牙髓的评分低于前磨牙和前牙。在6名志愿者的多模态对比中,评分者对5T MRI、3T MRI、CBCT成像方式的牙髓、牙周膜评分及根管计数均具有良好一致性(5T MRI牙髓 $\kappa=0.971$,3T MRI牙髓 $\kappa=0.933$,CBCT牙髓 $\kappa=0.964$;5T MRI牙周膜 $\kappa=0.625$,3T MRI牙周膜 $\kappa=0.667$,CBCT牙周膜 $\kappa=0.571$;根管计数ICC均 ≥ 0.990)。5T MRI对牙髓和牙周膜的成像评分明显高于3T MRI(牙髓: $P < 0.001$;牙周膜: $P = 0.022$),但两者在根管数目的检出率方面差异无统计学意义($P > 0.05$)。虽然5T MRI对牙髓、牙周膜的成像评分以及根管数目的检出率方面不如CBCT(牙髓成像评分: $P < 0.001$;牙周膜成像评分: $P = 0.02$;根管数目: $P < 0.05$),但却能在真正意义上对这两种软组织实现“直接成像”。结论 5T MRI能对青年人群的牙髓及牙周膜组织实现较好的体内直接成像效果,提示其在牙髓及牙周相关疾病的临床诊疗中具有潜在应用价值。

【关键词】 5T磁共振成像; 3T磁共振成像; 锥形束CT; 牙髓; 牙周膜; 体内成像; 软组织对比; 直接成像

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Study on the *in vivo* effects of 5T magnetic resonance imaging on the dental pulp and periodontal ligament in young adults QI Zhengnan¹, CAO Yiting¹, WANG Yiwei¹, SONG Qingbo², ZHANG Peirong², SUN Shuntao³, WANG Dengbin², TANG Zisheng¹.

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【Abstract】 Objective To evaluate the performance of 5T magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) in visualizing dental pulp and periodontal ligament (PDL) tissues *in vivo* in the young adult population, thereby providing a basis for the application of high-field MRI technology in clinical oral examinations. **Methods** The study was approved by the Ethics Committee of the hospital. A total of 15 healthy volunteers (413 permanent teeth altogether) were recruited and underwent full-mouth 5T MRI scans. Among them, six volunteers (168 permanent teeth) also received both 3T MRI and cone-beam computed tomography (CBCT) scans. Two dental specialists independently evaluated the imaging quality of the dental pulp and PDL on the images using a 5-point Likert scale and recorded the number of detectable root canals for each tooth. Inter-rater agreement was assessed using weighted kappa statistics and intraclass correlation coefficient (ICC). Non-parametric tests were employed to compare differences in imaging performance among different tissue structures, tooth positions, and imaging modalities. **Results** 5T MRI can achieve *in vivo* imaging for most dental pulp tissues and partial periodontal membrane structures. There was a high level of agreement between the two raters in their imaging scores for the dental pulp and PDL (dental pulp $\kappa = 0.934$, PDL $\kappa = 0.737$). The imaging scores for dental pulp were significantly higher than those for PDL ($P < 0.001$), and the scores for molar dental pulp were lower than those for premolars and anterior teeth. In the multimodal comparison involving six volunteers, the raters showed good consistency in scoring dental pulp and PDL imaging across 5T MRI, 3T MRI, and CBCT, as well as in root canal counts (5T MRI for dental pulp $\kappa = 0.971$, 3T MRI for dental pulp $\kappa = 0.933$, CBCT for dental pulp $\kappa = 0.964$; 5T MRI for PDL $\kappa = 0.625$, 3T MRI for PDL $\kappa = 0.667$, CBCT for PDL $\kappa = 0.571$; ICC for root canal counts all ≥ 0.990). The imaging scores for dental pulp and PDL using 5T MRI were significantly higher than those using 3T MRI (dental pulp: $P < 0.001$; PDL: $P = 0.022$), but there was no statistically significant difference in the detection rate of the number of root canals between the two ($P > 0.05$). Although the imaging scores for dental pulp and PDL as well as the detection rate of the number of root canals with 5T MRI were inferior to those with CBCT (dental pulp: $P < 0.001$; PDL: $P = 0.02$; number of root canals: $P < 0.05$), 5T MRI can truly achieve "direct imaging" of these two soft tissues. **Conclusion** 5T MRI enables effective *in vivo* direct imaging of dental pulp and PDL tissues in the young adult population, indicating its potential clinical application value in the diagnosis and treatment of pulp and periodontal diseases.

【Key words】 5T magnetic resonance imaging; 3T magnetic resonance imaging; cone-beam computed tomography; dental pulp; periodontal ligament; *in vivo* imaging; soft tissue contrast; direct imaging

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X射线成像是目前口腔疾病诊疗中最常用的影像学方法,但其临床应用存在两大局限。①电离辐射暴露:研究认为,X射线(包括根尖片、曲面体层片、计算机断层扫描技术等)带来的电离辐射会增加罹患癌症的风险,应当严格把控该技术的临床适应证,尤其对于儿童、孕妇、甲状腺疾病患者等辐射敏感人群^[1]。②软组织对比度不足:X射线成像主要适用于硬组织结构(如牙槽骨、牙本质等)的显示,但对软组织(如牙髓、牙龈、牙周膜、下牙槽神经等)的分辨能力较差。磁共振成像(magnetic resonance imaging, MRI)在一定程度上弥补了上述缺陷。该技术不仅无电离辐射损伤,还在软组织成像方面展现出独特优势,甚至能够同时实

现组织结构与化学成分的三维可视化^[2-3]。自20世纪70年代问世以来,MRI已成为临床医学中不可或缺的影像学手段,广泛应用于大脑、骨关节及腹腔脏器等相关疾病的诊断,并逐渐引起口腔医学领域的关注^[4-5]。随着MRI在口腔颌面外科中逐渐成为颞下颌关节疾病和口腔肿瘤的重要辅助诊断工具,越来越多的研究开始探索其在牙体牙髓与牙周疾病中的应用潜力,涵盖龋病诊断^[6-7]、牙髓活力检测^[8]、牙髓再生与自体牙移植效果评估^[9-11]、咬合创伤检测^[12]、牙龈厚度测量^[13-14]等多个方面。

然而至今为止,MRI在牙髓与牙周疾病的实际临床诊疗工作中仍未得到广泛应用。除成本较高

外,分辨率不足是阻碍MRI投入应用的最主要原因之一。牙髓与牙周膜是口腔疾病诊断中的关键结构,但其亚毫米级的结构特点使其在传统MRI图像上难以获得清晰成像。文献显示,单根管下切牙根尖处直径平均约0.2 mm^[15],健康的牙周膜宽度通常为0.15~0.21 mm^[16-17],而目前临床医用的1.5T和3T MRI分辨率通常大于0.5 mm,难以满足此类精细结构的成像需求。理论上,提高磁场强度可在相同成像参数下提升信噪比,从而改善图像分辨率。已有研究显示,3T以上的高场MRI可实现0.075~0.30 mm的超高分辨率,清晰呈现牙齿细微结构与复杂根管系统^[18-22]。然而,这些研究多局限于体外模型,尚缺乏足够的人体成像数据以全面评估其临床转化潜力。与体外实验相比,高场MRI的体内成像需综合考虑扫描时间、邻近解剖结构、呼吸与吞咽运动等诸多因素对图像质量的影响^[23]。

近期,由上海联影医疗科技股份有限公司开发制造的5T MRI已逐步投入临床应用。有报道称,该5T MRI具有良好的安全性,更高的分辨率与信噪比,相比传统3T MRI,5T MRI对胰腺、肾脏等脏器的体内成像效果更佳^[24-25],对冠状动脉钙化与狭窄的诊断能力也进一步提升^[26]。然而,关于5T MRI对人体牙髓及牙周组织的体内成像效果尚缺乏相关报道。为此,本研究将采用5T MRI对志愿者进行全口腔扫描,分析5T MRI对牙髓及牙周膜的成像效果,并与传统3T MRI及锥形束CT(cone-beam computed tomography, CBCT)进行对比,旨在评估5T MRI对口腔细小软组织结构的高精度成像能力,以期为未来其在牙髓与牙周疾病诊疗中的临床应用提供依据。

1 资料和方法

1.1 研究对象

本研究已通过医院医学伦理委员会的审批(批准号:XHEC-C-2023-135-1)。在2024年3月至2025年3月期间,本研究从上海交通大学医学院附属新华医院口腔科招募了15名健康志愿者(男性6名,女性9名,年龄22~29岁,平均25.2岁)。所有志愿者均签署了知情同意书。

纳入标准:①全身状况良好,配合度高;②口腔卫生良好,牙龈无明显红肿,平均附着丧失 ≤ 1 mm且最大附着丧失不超过1 mm;除第三磨牙和接受过根管治疗过的牙齿外,其余恒牙均无冷热刺激痛、咬合痛及叩痛,且牙髓活力正常。

排除标准:①患有幽闭恐惧症;②口腔或身体其他部位有金属植入物或金属矫治器;③处于怀孕或哺乳期;④口腔内存在占位性病变(如囊肿、肿瘤等);⑤张口度严重受限(大张口时上下切牙切缘间距小于1 cm);⑥合并严重的全身系统性疾病(包括近半年有心梗或心绞痛发作、严重高血压、未控制的糖尿病、血液病等);⑦患有精神类疾病;⑧存在其他MRI/CBCT扫描禁忌证(如体温 >39 °C等)。

1.2 MRI扫描

本研究采用5T MRI(uMR Jupiter, 联影医疗, 中国上海)配备48通道头颈线圈对15名志愿者进行全口腔扫描。其中6名志愿者于同日额外接受3T MRI(uMR 770, 联影医疗, 中国上海)配备24通道头颈线圈的全口腔扫描。扫描均在上海交通大学医学院附属新华医院放射科完成。志愿者取仰卧位,颈部和头部两侧使用软垫帮助头部固定,并嘱其尽量使下颌靠近线圈。扫描过程中,志愿者被要求保持静止,避免吞咽动作。5T与3T MRI均采用快速自旋回波T2加权压脂序列(fast spin echo T2-weighted fat-suppressed sequence, FSE-T2W-FS),设置层内分辨率为0.4 mm \times 0.4 mm、层厚为2.5 mm,并通过2倍差值运算处理(K空间填零)将表观分辨率提升至0.2 mm \times 0.2 mm。5T MRI扫描总时长为10 min 24 s,3T MRI扫描总时长为16 min 38 s。具体扫描参数见表1。志愿者在扫描过程中出现任何不适症状均被记录。

表1 MRI扫描参数

Table 1 The imaging parameters of MRI

Imaging modality	Scanning direction	TR/ms	TE /ms	Time/s
5T MRI	Axial	2 498	78.4	208
	Sagittal	2 946	100.32	92
	Coronal	2 753	78.4	232
3T MRI	Axial	3 886	99.52	311
	Sagittal	3 588	99.52	188
	Coronal	3 886	99.52	311

TR: long repetition time; TE: long echo time; 5T MRI: 5T magnetic resonance imaging; 3T MRI: 3T magnetic resonance imaging

1.3 CBCT扫描

对上述6名同时接受5T MRI和3T MRI的志愿者,进一步使用CBCT(OP 3D VISION, Kavo, 德国)进行口腔扫描。扫描参数为:体素为0.25 mm,扫描视野(field of view, FOV) 160 mm \times 100 mm,平均有效剂量985.6 mGy \cdot cm²。

1.4 图像分析

由两名具有5年和11年临床经验的口腔科医师,分别对5T MRI、3T MRI和CBCT图像中每颗恒牙(除第三磨牙和经根管治疗的牙齿)的牙髓成像效果,以及每位志愿者的整体牙周膜的成像效果进行独立评分。评价者利用U_Viewer软件,主要从轴向、矢状位和冠状位3个层面对牙髓及牙周膜的完整性以及清晰度进行综合评判。评分标准采用文献常用的5级Likert量表^[27]:1分,完全看不清(无法识别牙髓或牙周膜结构);2分,较模糊(可以看见少部分牙髓或牙周膜);3分,一般(可以看见至少一半的牙髓或牙周膜);4分,较清晰(可以看见大部分牙髓或牙周膜);5分,非常清楚(显示完整连续的牙髓或牙周膜结构)。另外,两名评价者再对5T MRI、3T MRI和CBCT上每颗恒牙(除第三磨牙)的根管数目分别进行记录(以任一层面能观察到的最多根管数为准)。

1.5 统计学分析

本研究使用IBM SPSS Statistics 27进行数据统计与分析。采用加权kappa检验评价两名评分者在牙髓与牙周膜图像评分方面的一致性,采用组内相关系数(intraclass correlation coefficient, ICC)评价两者在根管数目记录方面的一致性。采用边际齐性检验(homogeneity test)比较5T MRI图像中牙髓与牙周膜之间的评分差异;以及不同扫描方式下牙髓与牙周膜的成像评分差异。采用弗里德曼检验(Friedman test)比较不同牙位的牙髓组织在5T MRI图像上的成像评分差异。采用Wilcoxon秩

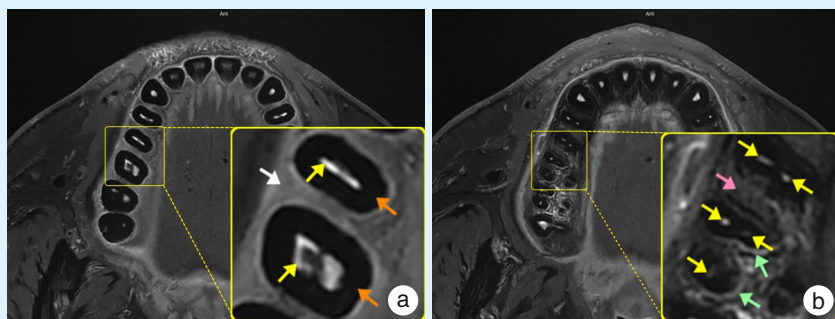
和检验评价不同扫描方式下检测到的根管数目是否存在差异。 $P<0.05$ 为差异具有统计学意义。

2 结果

本研究共纳入15名健康志愿者,共计413颗恒牙(包括177颗前牙、117颗前磨牙和119颗磨牙)。平均探诊深度1.57 mm,平均附着丧失0.02 mm。所有志愿者在接受MRI、CBCT扫描过程中均无出现不良反应与不适症状。

2.1 牙髓与牙周膜的5T MRI体内成像特点

5T MRI实现了对口腔硬组织(釉质、牙本质、牙槽骨)与软组织(牙髓、牙龈、牙周膜)的同步成像。位于牙齿中央的牙髓与环绕牙根的牙周膜均呈现高信号强度,其中牙髓与低信号强度的牙本质形成良好的对比度(图1)。一致性分析显示,两名评价者对5T MRI图像上的牙髓及牙周膜的评分均具有较高的一致性(牙髓 $\kappa=0.934$;牙周膜 $\kappa=0.737$)。此外,5T MRI对牙髓组织的平均成像评分为 3.78 ± 0.21 ,对牙周膜的平均成像评分为 2.53 ± 0.48 ,差异具有统计学意义($P<0.001$)。具体而言,在牙髓成像方面,5T MRI可观察到每颗牙齿的髓腔与根管中上段,以及大部分牙根尖1/3段的牙髓,且不同牙位的牙髓评分存在差异($P<0.001$),其中磨牙牙髓的评分普遍低于前磨牙和前牙。如图1显示,右上第二前磨牙的根髓成像清晰度明显优于右上第一磨牙。而在牙周膜成像方面,5T MRI虽可显示部分牙周膜影像,但难以显示完整且连续的牙周膜结构。



a: axial section at the cervical region of maxillary posterior teeth. The yellow box shows a partial enlarged view. The white arrow indicates the mesial gingiva of the right maxillary first molar. The yellow arrows point to the coronal pulp of the right maxillary first molar and second premolar. The orange arrows highlight the dentin of the right maxillary first molar and second premolar; b: axial section at the apical region of maxillary posterior teeth. The yellow box shows a partial enlarged view. The pink arrow indicates the mesial alveolar bone of the right maxillary first molar. The yellow arrows point to the radicular pulp of the mesial and distobuccal roots of the right maxillary first molar, as well as the radicular pulp of the right maxillary second premolar. The green arrows highlight the periodontal ligament of the mesial and distobuccal roots of the right maxillary first molar. 5T MRI: 5T magnetic resonance imaging

5T MRI: 5T magnetic resonance imaging

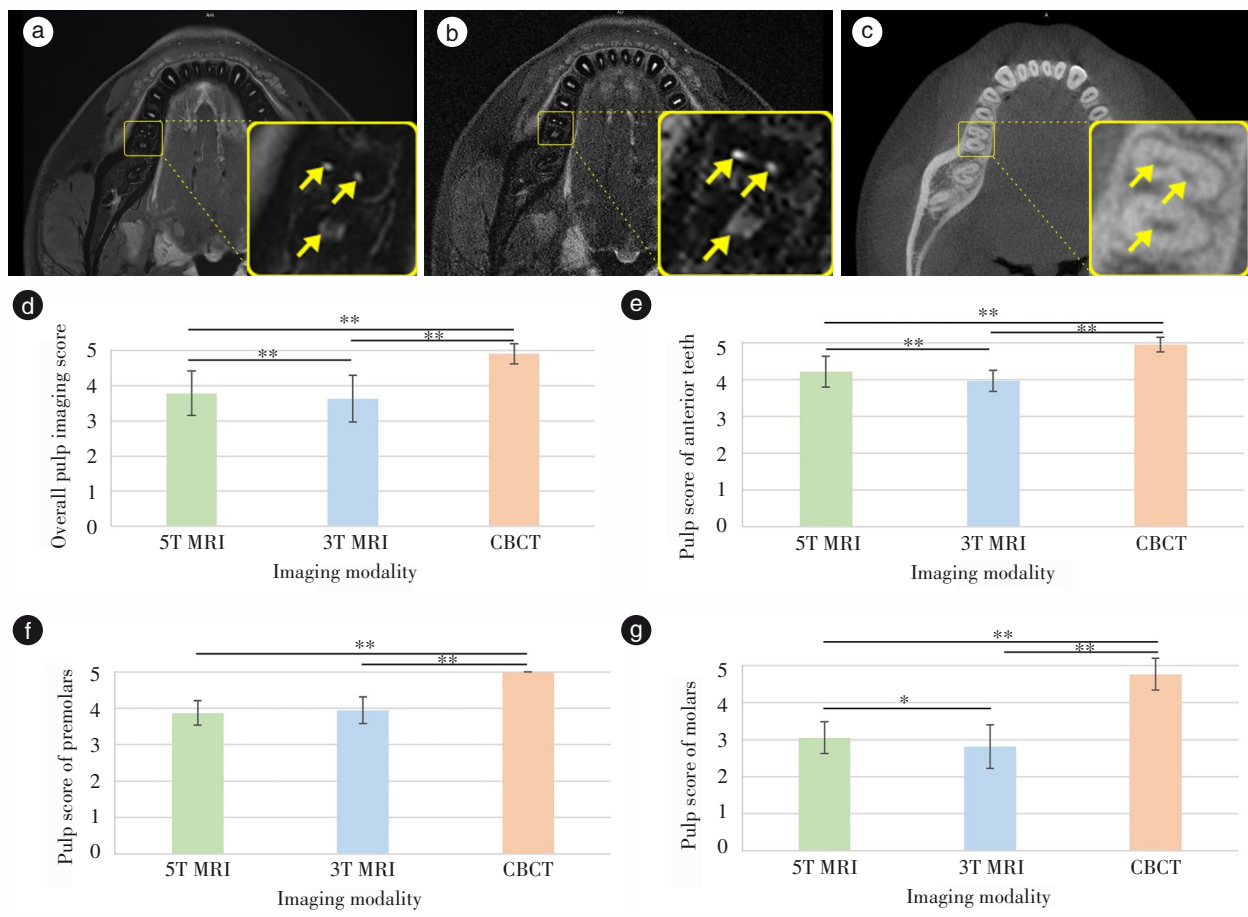
Figure 1 5T MRI images of oral tissues

图1 5T MRI对口腔组织的成像效果

2.2 5T MRI、3T MRI 与 CBCT 对牙髓的成像对比

对6名口腔健康者(男性3名,女性3名,平均年龄23.5岁)进行5T MRI、3T MRI 和 CBCT 扫描,共纳入168颗恒牙(包括72颗前牙、48颗前磨牙和48颗磨牙)。结果显示,5T MRI 和3T MRI 均可直接以高信号显示髓腔内的牙髓和部分根管内的牙髓,且5T MRI 所呈现的牙髓轮廓更为清晰、边缘更光滑。CBCT 无法直接显示牙髓,但可通过牙齿中央的低密度影间接反映髓腔与根管内的牙髓组织形态(图2)。两名评价者在3种成像方式下对牙

髓的评分均具有高度一致性(5T MRI 牙髓 $\kappa=0.971$, 3T MRI 牙髓 $\kappa=0.933$, CBCT 牙髓 $\kappa=0.964$)。从整体牙髓成像效果来看,CBCT 的牙髓成像评分显著高于5T MRI 和3T MRI,而5T MRI 的牙髓成像评分则显著高于3T MRI ($P<0.001$)。就不同牙位分别比较,对于磨牙、前磨牙与前牙,CBCT 的牙髓成像评分均显著高于5T MRI 和3T MRI ($P<0.001$); 5T MRI 对前牙和磨牙的牙髓成像评分显著高于3T MRI (前牙: $P<0.001$; 磨牙: $P=0.014$),但在前磨牙的评分中两者差异无统计学意义($P=0.194$)。



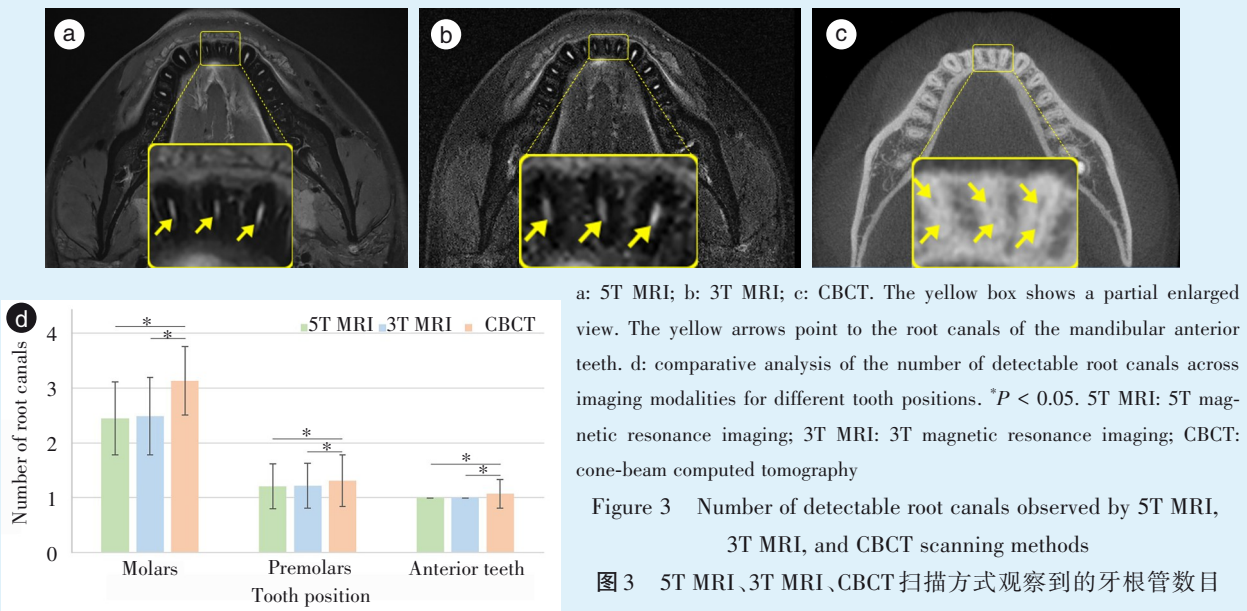
a: 5T MRI; b: 3T MRI; c: CBCT. CBCT cannot directly image the pulp tissue. Instead, the low-density shadow in the center of the tooth indirectly reflects the pulp within the pulp chamber and root canals. The yellow box shows a partial enlarged view. The yellow arrows indicate the pulp tissue in the right mandibular first molar. d: comparison of overall dental pulp imaging scores across different imaging modalities; e: comparison of dental pulp imaging scores for anterior teeth across different imaging modalities; f: comparison of dental pulp imaging scores for premolars across different imaging modalities; g: comparison of dental pulp imaging scores for molars across different imaging modalities. * $P < 0.05$; ** $P < 0.001$. 5T MRI: 5T magnetic resonance imaging; 3T MRI: 3T magnetic resonance imaging; CBCT: cone-beam computed tomography

Figure 2 Imaging performance of dental pulp observed by 5T MRI, 3T MRI, and CBCT scanning methods

图2 5T MRI、3T MRI、CBCT扫描方式下的牙髓成像效果

根管数目检测结果显示,两名评价者间同样具有高度一致性(5T MRI $ICC=0.995$; 3T MRI $ICC=0.990$; CBCT $ICC=0.997$)。在前牙、前磨牙及磨牙

中,CBCT能检出的根管数目均显著多于5T MRI 和3T MRI ($P<0.05$),而5T MRI 与3T MRI 检测到的根管数目差异无统计学意义($P>0.05$)(图3)。



a: 5T MRI; b: 3T MRI; c: CBCT. The yellow box shows a partial enlarged view. The yellow arrows point to the root canals of the mandibular anterior teeth. d: comparative analysis of the number of detectable root canals across imaging modalities for different tooth positions. * $P < 0.05$. 5T MRI: 5T magnetic resonance imaging; 3T MRI: 3T magnetic resonance imaging; CBCT: cone-beam computed tomography

Figure 3 Number of detectable root canals observed by 5T MRI, 3T MRI, and CBCT scanning methods

图3 5T MRI、3T MRI、CBCT扫描方式观察到的牙根管数目

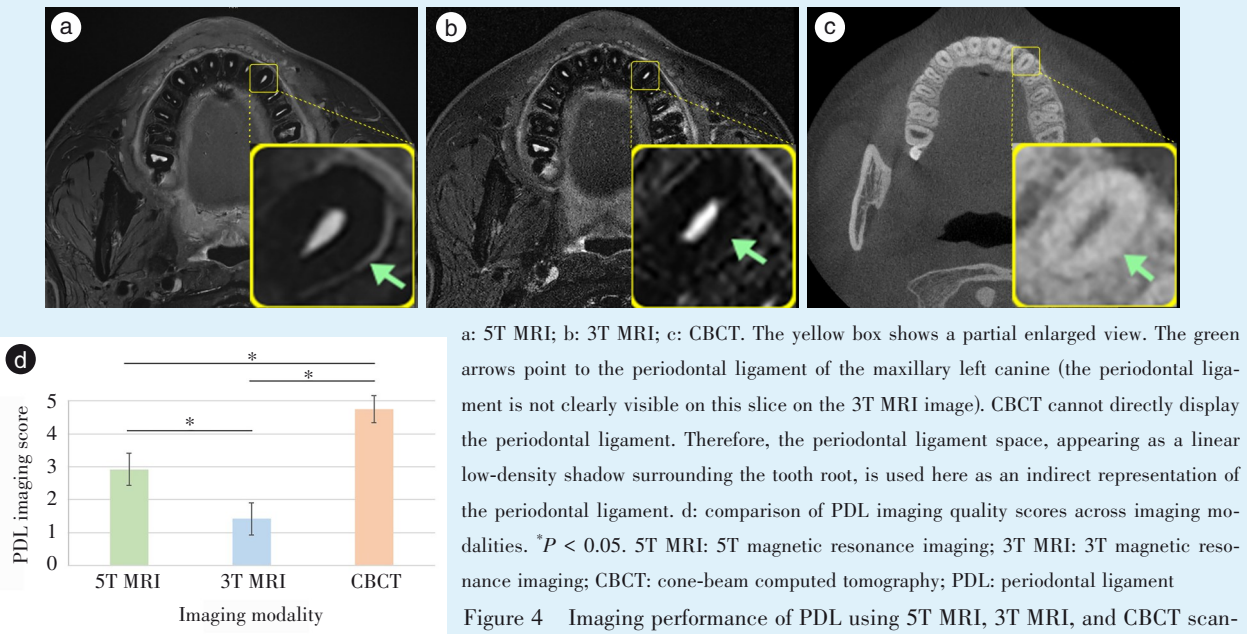
2.3 5T MRI、3T MRI与CBCT对牙周膜的成像对比

对6名口腔健康者的扫描图像进行分析显示, 5T MRI和3T MRI均能以较高信号强度显示部分环绕牙根周围的牙周膜。CBCT虽无法直接显示牙周膜,但可通过牙根周围线状低密度影(牙周膜间隙)间接反映牙周膜。两名评价者对牙周膜的评分具有较高的一致性(5T MRI牙周膜 $\kappa=0.625$, 3T MRI牙周膜 $\kappa=0.667$, CBCT牙周膜 $\kappa=0.571$)。CBCT对牙周膜的成像评分显著高于5T MRI($P=$

0.02)和3T MRI($P=0.017$),且5T MRI对牙周膜的成像评分也显著高于3T MRI($P=0.022$)(图4)。

3 讨论

鉴于目前大多数关于3T以上MRI对牙髓及牙周软组织成像的报道为体外离体牙实验,本研究立足于体内研究视角,评估5T MRI对人体牙髓及牙周膜的实际成像效果。结果表明,虽然牙髓和牙周膜属于口腔内极其细微的软组织结构,但5T



a: 5T MRI; b: 3T MRI; c: CBCT. The yellow box shows a partial enlarged view. The green arrows point to the periodontal ligament of the maxillary left canine (the periodontal ligament is not clearly visible on this slice on the 3T MRI image). CBCT cannot directly display the periodontal ligament. Therefore, the periodontal ligament space, appearing as a linear low-density shadow surrounding the tooth root, is used here as an indirect representation of the periodontal ligament. d: comparison of PDL imaging quality scores across imaging modalities. * $P < 0.05$. 5T MRI: 5T magnetic resonance imaging; 3T MRI: 3T magnetic resonance imaging; CBCT: cone-beam computed tomography; PDL: periodontal ligament

Figure 4 Imaging performance of PDL using 5T MRI, 3T MRI, and CBCT scanning methods

图4 5T MRI、3T MRI、CBCT扫描方式下的牙周膜成像效果

MRI 仍可对大部分牙髓组织以及部分牙周膜组织实现高精度成像。本研究将 5T MRI 扫描时间控制在约 10 min, 15 名志愿者均能较好地配合完成, 且未出现文献曾报道的高场 MRI 扫描可能带来的短暂不良反应(恶心、眩晕等)^[28-29], 综上, 本研究初步表明, 5T MRI 用于检测人体牙髓与牙周膜组织具备临床实际应用的可行性。

在 FSE-T2W-FS 序列下, 牙髓组织在 5T MRI 图像上表现为位于牙齿中央的高信号影, 与周围低信号影的牙本质形成明显的对比。通过不同牙位比较发现, 5T MRI 对前牙和前磨牙的牙髓成像效果普遍优于磨牙。这可能是因为磨牙的牙髓更加细小, 需要更高的分辨率才能识别, 同时上颌窦底部周围的脂肪高信号影也对上颌磨牙的成像造成一定干扰。牙周膜组织在 5T MRI 图像上主要表现为环绕牙根周围的细线状较高信号影, 其图像特点与以往 3T MRI 报道一致^[30]。但由于牙周膜整体结构相较牙髓更加细微, 本研究中所用 5T MRI 仅能观察到部分牙齿周围的牙周膜组织。为了进一步研究 5T MRI 在牙髓与牙周膜成像方面是否存在优势, 笔者对同一批受试者的 5T MRI 图像和 3T MRI 图像进行了对比。在相同分辨率条件下, 5T MRI 对前牙和磨牙牙髓组织的成像评分以及对牙周膜的成像评分均优于 3T MRI。推测可能是随着磁场强度的提升, 图像信噪比相应增高, 使得整体图像质量都有了明显提高。此外, 3T MRI 扫描时间更长, 受试者更易在扫描过程中发生移动, 导致运动伪影的产生。

除了 3T MRI, 本研究亦将 5T MRI 图像与临床常用的 CBCT 图像进行比较。结果显示, 在牙髓成像效果、根管数目检测及牙周膜成像效果方面, 分辨率更高的 CBCT 均优于 5T MRI。然而需强调的是, CBCT 无法像 MRI 那样对牙髓和牙周膜这一类软组织进行直接成像, 临床上以及本研究中只是通过 CBCT 检测到的髓腔根管系统与牙周膜间隙间接指代牙髓与牙周膜。所以, 尽管 CBCT 对牙髓和牙周膜具有更好的“间接成像”效果, 但相比 MRI 的直接成像功能仍存在一些弊端。例如, 对于牙周炎患者, 由于牙槽骨吸收的存在, CBCT 观察到的牙周膜间隙并不能完全代表牙周膜宽度。更重要的是, 具有多参数成像功能的 MRI 还能实现对牙髓与牙周膜组织成分的直接成像, 而 CBCT 则无法实现这一点。已有研究采用 9.4 T MRI 对根管充填后的离体牙进行扫描, 发现高场强 MRI 不仅

能反映根充不严密的部分, 还能提示空隙内残留的组织成分, 为后续是否需采取根管再治疗提供依据^[3]。此外, 多篇文献报道指出, MRI 可根据牙髓信号强度辨别其活力状态^[9], 并有助于区分根尖周囊肿与根尖周肉芽肿^[31-32]。综上, 尽管目前 5T MRI 对健康牙髓与牙周膜的成像效果尚不及 CBCT, 但其直接成像特点与多参数成像能力, 使其在未来牙髓与牙周相关疾病的辅助诊疗中具备 CBCT 所不具备的独特优势。

当然, 本研究也从体内层面揭示了 5T MRI 在实际应用中仍需改进之处。首先, 为了控制扫描时间并兼顾受试者配合度, 本研究最终采用的 5T MRI 参数为层内分辨率 0.4 mm×0.4 mm、层厚 2.5 mm。尽管利用差值处理法适当提高了图像的表观分辨率(0.2 mm×0.2 mm), 但仍然不足以对细小根管内的牙髓以及根尖部牙髓实现清晰成像, 也难以观察到连续完整的牙周膜结构。为了进一步提高分辨率、减小层厚, 同时不以牺牲信噪比、延长扫描时间为代价, 除了提高场强, 还可从改进线圈设计入手^[33-34]。本研究采用的头颈部线圈固定方式简单、稳定性好, 受试者无明显不适, 但该口外线圈与口腔内组织仍存在一定距离, 而距离增大会影响图像的分辨率与信噪比。因此, 有研究者提出采用贴合口腔解剖结构的口内线圈, 尽可能缩小线圈与目标组织间的距离, 从而获得更清晰的高质量图像^[30, 35-36]。

其次, 本研究采用了临床上最常使用的 FSE-T2W-FS 序列, 虽然长 TR、长 TE 的序列特点通常被认为对软组织具有较好的成像效果^[37], 且前期预试验中 T2 加权对牙髓及牙周软组织的成像效果也优于 T1 加权和质子密度(proton density, PD)加权, 但实际图像质量仍有提升空间, 且存在上颌窦周围压脂效果不佳、无法达到三维成像等局限。近年来, 关于口腔组织 MRI 扫描序列的体外研究报告日益增多^[38]。Hilgenfeld 等^[39]比较了 8 种序列在离体牙 3T MRI 上的成像效果, 发现 DESS 序列(double echo steady state)对根管系统的成像效果与 CBCT 相当。Idiyatullin 等^[23]提出的 SWIFT 序列(sweep imaging with fourier transform)可实现牙齿及其周围软硬组织的同步成像。Timme 等^[40]则利用 3D UTE 序列(ultrashort echo time)检测了 32 颗离体牙的髓腔体积, 并与 CBCT 检测结果达到较好的一致性。但是, 这些针对口腔开发的专用序列在体内应用的研究仍然有限。在推动高场 MRI 投入未

来临床应用的道路上,还需要同步开发适合临床实际应用的口腔专用序列,从而更好地发挥出高场MRI高精度成像优势。

此外,本研究也存在一些局限性。第一,作为首次应用5T MRI对人体口腔细微软组织进行体内成像的初探研究,样本量有限且仅纳入口腔健康的青年人群,尚难以体现出5T MRI对组织在生理状态与病理状态下的鉴别能力,以及对不同年龄人群的成像差异。基于此研究结果,后续计划扩大样本量,并比较不同年龄段健康与感染牙髓、健康与炎性牙周膜在5T MRI图像上的结构变化与信号强度差异,更深入展现高场MRI在牙髓与牙周疾病诊疗中的应用价值。第二,本研究中采用的5级Likert量表评分法和根管数目统计法均存在一定的客观性,缺少图像定量分析指标。尽管文献中常使用图像信噪比与相对信噪比进行定量评估,但计算中扫描层面与感兴趣区的选取同样受主观影响^[34]。因此,未来拟结合人工智能图像分割技术,建立更为客观的图像质量定量评价体系。

综上所述,本研究从体内研究的角度评估了5T MRI对人体牙髓及牙周膜的成像效果。结果表明,5T MRI能够直接显示大部分牙髓组织,尤其在前牙和前磨牙中成像效果较好,同时也能展现部分牙齿周围的牙周膜组织。与目前临床常用的3T MRI相比,5T MRI在牙髓和牙周膜成像方面均表现更优。与口腔临床诊疗中常用的CBCT相比,5T MRI对牙髓和牙周膜实现了真正意义上的“直接成像”。后续研究将在5T MRI设备基础上,通过优化线圈与扫描序列进一步提升图像分辨率与信噪比,并扩大样本量、纳入更具疾病代表性的临床人群,推动高磁场MRI在牙体牙髓病、牙周病乃至修复种植、颌面外科等口腔疾病诊疗中的应用发展。

【Author contributions】 Qi ZN, Cao YT analyzed the data and wrote the article. Wang YW, Song QB, Zhang PR, Sun ST analyzed the data and revised the article. Wang DB, Tang ZS conceptualized and reviewed the article. All authors read and approved the final manuscript as submitted.

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