Can Clinically Significant Prostate Cancer Be Detected with Multiparametric Magnetic Resonance Imaging? A Systematic Review of the Literature

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Abstract

Context: Detection of clinically significant prostate cancer (PCa) is a major challenge. It has been shown that multiparametric magnetic resonance imaging (mpMRI) facilitates localisation of PCa and can help in targeting prostate biopsy.

Objective: To systematically review the literature to determine the diagnostic accuracy of mpMRI in the detection of clinically significant PCa.

Evidence acquisition: The Pubmed, Embase, and Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (CENTRAL) databases were searched from January 1, 2000 to September 30, 2014, using the search criteria “prostate OR Pca OR PSA OR prostatic OR prostate cancer” AND “MR OR NMR OR NMRI OR MRI OR magnetic resonance OR ADC OR DWI OR DCE OR diffusion weighted OR dynamic contrast OR multiparametric OR MR1 OR MR spectroscopy”. Two reviewers independently assessed 1729 records. Two independent reviewers assessed the methodologic quality using the Quality Assessment of Diagnostic Accuracy Studies (QUADAS-2) 2 tool.

Evidence synthesis: Twelve articles were eventually selected. Patients had a median age of 62–65 yr (range 39–83 yr), a median prostate-specific antigen (PSA) level of 5.1–13.4 ng/ml (range 1.2–228 ng/ml), and Gleason score of 6–10. Various definitions of clinical significance were used, mainly based on maximum cancer core length and grade at biopsy, number of positive cores, and PSA. Detection of clinically significant PCa using mpMRI ranged from 44% to 87% in biopsy-naıve males and men with prior negative biopsies using prostate biopsy or definitive pathology of a radical prostatectomy specimen as the reference standard. The negative predictive value for exclusion of significant disease ranged from 63% to 98%.

Conclusions: mpMRI is able to detect significant PCa in biopsy-naıve males and men with prior negative biopsies. The negative predictive value of mpMRI is important to the clinician because mpMRI could be used to rule out significant disease. This may result in fewer or no systematic or targeted biopsies in patients with PSA suspicious for prostate cancer.

Patient summary: We reviewed the diagnostic accuracy of multiparametric magnetic resonance imaging (mpMRI) for the detection of clinically significant prostate cancer (PCa). We conclude that mpMRI is able to detect significant PCa and may used to target prostate biopsies.

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1. Introduction

A major concern related to prostate cancer (PCa) screening and early detection is overdiagnosis and overtreatment of indolent disease. Strategies to reduce overdiagnosis are necessary, as are strategies to differentiate indolent from aggressive tumours [1].

The conventional diagnostic pathway in men with elevated serum prostate-specific antigen (PSA) levels and/or abnormal digital rectal examination consists of a random systematic transrectal ultrasound (TRUS)-guided prostate biopsy (PB) [2]. The main disadvantages are that (1) TRUS-guided PB misses a substantial proportion of significant PCa (approx. 20%) because of sampling errors, especially in the anterior part of the prostate gland [3,4], and (2) a high proportion of men are diagnosed with clinically insignificant disease, which may result in subsequent overtreatment.

Owing to its high soft-tissue contrast, high resolution, and ability to simultaneously image functional parameters, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) provides the best visualisation of the prostate compared to other imaging methods. Over the past years, MRI use has shifted from staging purposes to detection and tumour localisation. PB based on MRI findings improves PCa detection over systematic TRUS-guided PB [5]. Functional techniques, such as diffusion-weighted MRI (DW-MRI), dynamic contrast-enhanced MRI (DCE-MRI), and/or MR spectroscopy imaging (MRSI) [6–10], in addition to conventional T2-weighted anatomical sequences (multiparametric MRI, mpMRI), have resulted in accurate PCa localisation [11–14] and allow image-guided targeted sampling to overcome the limitations of the traditional blind PB.

mpMRI detects both high-grade and larger tumours accurately, which means it may perform particularly well for detection of clinically significant disease [10]. Evidence is being gathered to identify cancers of significant volume. Moreover, these functional techniques may be used to differentiate between low- and intermediate/high-grade PCa [15–18]. These characteristics make MRI a potential tool for ruling out significant disease. The next step that will be taken is to identify cancers of significant grade (Gleason 4 or 5 component) independent of the volume. DW-MRI is the most promising technique for investigating not only tumour size but also aggressiveness [16].

The aim of the present study was to perform a systematic review of the literature to determine the diagnostic accuracy of mpMRI for the detection of clinically significant PCa.

2. Evidence acquisition

2.1. Search strategy

A literature search using the Medline and Embase databases, Cochrane reviews, and the Cochrane database of clinical trials was performed. The following inclusion criteria were used: humans; male gender; adult; English language and publication date from January 1, 2000 until September 30, 2014. The search terms used were “prostate OR PCa OR PSA OR prostatic OR prostate cancer” AND “MR OR NMR OR NMRI OR MRI OR magnetic resonance OR ADC OR DWI OR DCE OR diffusion weighted OR dynamic contrast OR multiparametric OR MRSI OR MR spectroscopy”. Abstracts were reviewed for relevance to the defined review question. If it was not clear from the abstract whether the paper might contain relevant data, the full paper was assessed. Other significant studies cited in the reference lists of the selected papers were evaluated, as were studies published after the systematic search. Moreover, reports from meetings were also considered, but review articles and editorials were excluded from the analysis. The systematic review was performed according to the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses (PRISMA) guidelines [19].

2.2. Study selection

We screened all retrieved records and included studies in which prostate MRI was performed with at least two functional MRI techniques (DW-MRI, DCE-MRI, or MRSI) in addition to anatomical T2-weighted MRI to detect clinically significant PCa, with PB or definitive pathology of a radical prostatectomy (RP) specimen as the reference standard. We excluded studies with a sample size of less than 50 patients. Two reviewers performed the first screening of titles and abstracts to select eligible studies, and then independently evaluated the records. Quality assessment of the included studies was performed by two independent reviewers using the Quality Assessment of Diagnostic Accuracy Studies (QUADAS-2) tool for diagnostic accuracy studies [20]. Interreviewer agreement was assessed using the Cohen k coefficient. Any disagreement was discussed and resolved by consensus. A flowchart showing the numbers of papers identified and included or excluded at each stage is presented in Figure 1.

2.3. Data extraction

A standardised form was used to extract data on patient characteristics, technical characteristics of the MRI equipment and imaging protocols, definitions of clinically significant disease, and methodologic characteristics.

The following data were extracted: year of publication, number of patients, patient age, PSA level, Gleason score, previous prostate biopsies, field strength, MRI vendor, use of phased array coils, use of endorectal coils, lesions per patient, MRI sequence(s) used to define the target, T2-weighted acquisition parameters, DW-MRI acquisition parameters, DCE-MRI acquisition parameters, information on prior PB, reference standard (cognitive or MRI/TRUS fusion transrectal PB, transperineal template prostate mapping, or definitive pathology of RP specimens), patient enrolment, study design, blinding, region of interest (whole gland, index lesion, or sectors), scoring of mpMRI data, MRI criteria for PB, overall detection rate, and definition of clinically significant disease. The standards of reporting for MRI-targeted biopsy (START) criteria were used for data extraction [21].
2.4. Definition of clinically significant disease

Currently, there is no universally accepted definition of clinically significant disease, either at PB or at definitive pathology after RP. To overcome this limitation, one research group used a number of other disease burden thresholds to define the target condition of the reference test for validation of mpMRI [22]. Therefore, we extracted the most commonly used definitions for data analysis.

2.5. Data synthesis and analysis

The population studied in the literature showed considerable heterogeneity. To avoid some of these heterogeneities, we included only papers in which the mpMRI protocol (two functional MRI techniques) was applied according to the European Society of Urogenital Radiology (ESUR) guidelines [23,24]. The methodology for targeting the suspicious area on mpMRI at PB varied. We documented the PB methodology.

Data necessary to complete 2 x 2 contingency tables were obtained from the studies regarding true positive, false positive, true negative, and false negative values. These data were used to calculate the sensitivity, specificity, negative predictive value, positive predictive value, and accuracy for each study.

We compared the rate of detection of significant disease among different PB approaches, because in almost all of the selected papers two or three different patients groups (PB-naive, active surveillance, and prior negative TRUS PB) were compared rather than the targeted biopsy approaches. PB approaches consisted of visual TRUS biopsy, MRI/TRUS fusion biopsy, in-bore MRI-guided biopsy, and transperineal template prostate mapping.

3. Evidence synthesis

The systematic literature search revealed 1729 records. The first step was to screen the titles and abstracts and remove duplicates, which yielded 525 potentially eligible studies that used MRI (Fig. 1). Another 188 studies were excluded because mpMRI was performed after PB, leaving 337 papers for full review. Of these 337 studies, 325 did not meet the inclusion criteria. Twelve studies were included for full analysis (Tables 1–6) [22,25–35]. The Cohen k value for inter-reviewer agreement was 0.82.

3.1. Quality of the studies

Two independent reviewers evaluated the methodologic quality of all the studies. The quality of the studies varied. Five of the 12 studies were performed in a prospective manner [28,32–35]. Risk of bias regarding patient selection was low in two studies [22,29], whereas nine studies had a high risk of bias for patient selection [25–28,30–34]. The high risk was caused by unavailability of data on patient inclusion and exclusion. The risk of bias regarding the index test was low in seven studies and high in four studies. In two studies the risk of bias was unclear because information about blinding was not provided [30]. The risk of bias regarding the reference standard was low in three studies [22,26,33] and high in nine studies because the reference test varied and included targeted TRUS PB [27,31,32,34,35], in-bore MRI PB

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Fig. 1 – Flow diagram of the process used to select studies for systematic review. We systematically searched Pubmed, Embase, and the Cochrane database of clinical trials. MRI = magnetic resonance imaging; mpMRI = multiparametric MRI.
The patients had a median age of 62–65 yr (range in this study set because five studies originated from one centre. We were unable to ascertain how many unique patients were included in this study set because five studies originated from one centre. The patients had a median age of 62–65 yr (range 39–83 yr), a median PSA level of 5.1–13.4 ng/ml (range 1.2–228 ng/ml), and a Gleason score ranging from 6 to 10.

Of the 12 studies, 11 incorporated both DW-MRI and DCE, and one study also added MR spectroscopy for functional imaging (Table 2). Seven studies used non-endorectal MRI at both 1.5 and 3 T. Eleven out of 12 studies included high b-value acquisition (b ≥1000 s/mm²; Table 3). DCE-MRI was acquired with a minimum temporal resolution of 17 s for at least 4.30 min.

The study characteristics are presented in Table 4. Nine studies included men with at least one previous negative PB. The reference test showed considerable heterogeneity across studies. Four studies originating from the same research group used transperineal template prostate mapping, one study used transperineal fusion PB, one used TRUS-guided PB, four used MRI/TRUS fusion biopsy, one applied in-bore MR-guided biopsy, and one used definitive histology after RP.

### Characteristics of the studies

Patient characteristics are presented in Table 1. We were uncertain as to how many unique patients were included in this study set because five studies originated from one centre. The patients had a median age of 62–65 yr (range 39–83 yr), a median PSA level of 5.1–13.4 ng/ml (range 1.2–228 ng/ml), and a Gleason score ranging from 6 to 10.

### Characteristics of the studies

#### Table 1 – Patient characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study (year)</th>
<th>Patients (n)</th>
<th>Patients with PCa (n)</th>
<th>Age (yr)</th>
<th>PSA (ng/ml)</th>
<th>Gleason score</th>
<th>Previous negative Bx (n)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Median or mean</td>
<td>Range</td>
<td>Median or mean</td>
<td>Range</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[25] (2014) a</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>141 b</td>
<td>62 (median)</td>
<td>41–82</td>
<td>5.8 (median)</td>
<td>1.2–20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[26] (2014)</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>60.8 (mean)</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>4.1–10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[27] (2013)</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>65 (median)</td>
<td>59–70</td>
<td>7.5 (median)</td>
<td>5–1.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[28] (2014) a</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>64 (median)</td>
<td>39–75</td>
<td>10 (median)</td>
<td>2–23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[29] (2013) a</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>62 (mean)</td>
<td>40–76</td>
<td>8.2 (mean)</td>
<td>2.1–43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[30] (2012)</td>
<td>182</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>63.0 (mean)</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>6.2 (median)</td>
<td>4.7–10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[31] (2013)</td>
<td>265</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>66 (median)</td>
<td>61–69</td>
<td>11.4 (median)</td>
<td>8.6–18.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[32] (2011) a</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>63.6 (median)</td>
<td>41–83</td>
<td>13.4 (median)</td>
<td>0–228</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[33] (2014)</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>62.4 (median)</td>
<td>55–66.4</td>
<td>5.6 (median)</td>
<td>4.5–7.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[34] (2014)</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>56.3–71</td>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>3.5–7.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[35] (2014)</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>59.5–72.4</td>
<td>9.7</td>
<td>5.2–10.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PCa = prostate cancer; PSA = prostate-specific antigen; Bx = biopsy; NR = not reported.

a Publications from the same centre.
b The prostate was divided into two sectors.

### Technical characteristics of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) equipment

#### Table 2 – Technical characteristics of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) equipment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study (year)</th>
<th>Field strength</th>
<th>MRI vendor</th>
<th>Coil</th>
<th>Lesions/patient, n (range)</th>
<th>Sequence used to define target</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>[25] (2014) a</td>
<td>1.5 T (n = 113)</td>
<td>Siemens Avanto (1.5 T)</td>
<td>PPA</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>T2 / DWI / DCE / high b value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[26] (2014)</td>
<td>3 T (n = 16)</td>
<td>Philips Achieva (3 T)</td>
<td>PPA</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>T2 / DWI / DCE / high b value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[27] (2013)</td>
<td>Siemens Trio</td>
<td>ER</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>T2 / DWI / DCE / high b value</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[28] (2014) a</td>
<td>3 T (n = 49)</td>
<td>Siemens Avanto (1.5 T)</td>
<td>PPA</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>T2 / DWI / DCE / high b value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[29] (2013) a</td>
<td>3 T (n = 5)</td>
<td>Siemens Avanto / Symphony</td>
<td>PPA</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>T2 / DWI / DCE / high b value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[31] (2013)</td>
<td>Siemens Avanto</td>
<td>Philips Achieva (1.5 T)</td>
<td>PPA</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>T2 / DWI / DCE / high b value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[32] (2013) a</td>
<td>1.5 T</td>
<td>Philips Achieva</td>
<td>PPA</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>T2 / DWI / DCE / high b value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[33] (2014)</td>
<td>3 T (n = 70)</td>
<td>Siemens Avanto</td>
<td>PPA</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>T2 / DWI / DCE / high b value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[34] (2014)</td>
<td>Siemens TRIO</td>
<td>PPA</td>
<td>1.4 (1–2)</td>
<td>T2 / DWI / DCE / high b value</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[35] (2014)</td>
<td>Siemens Verio</td>
<td>ER-PPA</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>T2 / DWI / DCE / high b value</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PPA = pelvic phased-array coil; ER = endorectal coil; T2 = T2-weighted; DW = diffusion-weighted; DCE = dynamic contrast-enhanced; high b value = b value of >1000 s/mm²; MRSI = magnetic resonance spectroscopic imaging; NR = not reported.

a Publications from the same centre.
All studies used a 5-point scale to score each MRI sequence. The Likert scoring system was applied in two studies [22,29] and the ESUR guidelines in five studies [25,28,33–35], whereas different criteria were applied for lesion definition in the remaining five studies. In five studies, all lesions were biopsied independently from the lesion score. Three studies biopsied lesion with a score of ≥ 3, whereas lesions with a score of ≥ 2 were biopsied in two studies. MR spectroscopy was used in one study [36]. The MRI criteria or final lesion definition for performing targeted PB were diverse, which may have influenced the outcome (Table 4). DW-MRI is a promising technique for evaluating aggressiveness because it can discriminate between significant and nonsignificant cancers in the peripheral zone [16,37].

### 3.3. Detection of clinically significant disease

Detection of clinically significant disease using mpMRI varied considerably among the studies (Table 5). The accuracy, sensitivity, and specificity ranges were 44–87%, 58–96%, and 23–87%, respectively. The ability of mpMRI to rule out significant disease (negative predictive value) improved with higher thresholds for the definition of clinically insignificant disease (Table 6) [22]. However, the positive predictive value decreased with increasing threshold for clinically significant disease. For example, a region of interest with cancer classified as positive on imaging might be classified as false-positive if the threshold is set slightly higher for the target condition [23]. The negative predictive value and positive predictive value for detection of clinically significant disease using mpMRI are shown in Table 5.
Table 4 – Study characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study (year)</th>
<th>Prior prostate Bx</th>
<th>Reference test</th>
<th>Patient enrolment</th>
<th>Study design</th>
<th>Number of readers</th>
<th>Blinding</th>
<th>Region of interest</th>
<th>Scoring of mpMRI data MRI criteria for Bx</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>[25] (2014)</td>
<td>Bx-naïve</td>
<td>TPM</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>Retro</td>
<td>5 (ind)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>WG</td>
<td>5PS  5PS  5PS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[26] (2014)</td>
<td>Bx proven</td>
<td>WMS</td>
<td>Consecutive</td>
<td>Retro</td>
<td>2 (con)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Index</td>
<td>NR  NR  NR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[27] (2013)</td>
<td>Prior –Bx</td>
<td>Fusion Bx</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>Retro</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>Index</td>
<td>5PG  5PG  5PG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[28] (2014)</td>
<td>Prior –Bx</td>
<td>TPM</td>
<td>Consecutive</td>
<td>Pros</td>
<td>8 (ind)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>WG</td>
<td>5PS  5PS  5PS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[29] (2013)</td>
<td>Bx-naïve</td>
<td>TPM</td>
<td>Consecutive</td>
<td>Retro</td>
<td>3 (ind)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>4 sectors</td>
<td>5PS  5PS  5PS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[31] (2013)</td>
<td>Bx-naïve</td>
<td>Fusion Bx</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Lesion</td>
<td>NR  NR  NR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[32] (2011)</td>
<td>Prior –Bx</td>
<td>Targeted TRUS-Bx</td>
<td>Consecutive</td>
<td>Pros</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Sextants</td>
<td>Overall 5PS  Overall 5PS  Overall 5PS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[33] (2014)</td>
<td>Bx-naïve</td>
<td>Fusion TPM</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>Pros</td>
<td>2 (ind)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>5PS  5PS  5PS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[34] (2014)</td>
<td>Bx-naïve</td>
<td>Fusion Bx + 12-core TRUS-Bx</td>
<td>Consecutive</td>
<td>Pros</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>Lesion</td>
<td>Overall 5PS  Overall 5PS  Overall 5PS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[35] (2014)</td>
<td>Prior –Bx</td>
<td>Fusion Bx + 12-core TRUS-Bx</td>
<td>Consecutive</td>
<td>Pros</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>Lesion</td>
<td>5PS  5PS  5PS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

mpMRI = multiparametric magnetic resonance imaging; TRUS = transrectal ultrasound; Bx = biopsy; –Bx = negative TRUS-guided Bx; TPM = transperineal template prostate mapping; NR = not reported; Retro = retrospective; Pros = prospective; WG = whole gland; WMS = whole-mount section histopathology; ind = independent; con = in consensus reading; index = index lesion; fusion Bx = MRI-US fusion biopsy; MR-Bx = magnetic resonance-guided Bx; CSR = cancer-suspicious region; T2 = T2-weighted; DW = diffusion-weighted; DCE = dynamic contrast-enhanced; 5PS = 5-point scale; 5PG = 5-point grade.

a Publications from the same centre.

b Blinded for biopsy results but not for clinical parameters.

c University College London definition 2 used (Table 6).

Table 5 – Performance characteristics of multiparametric magnetic resonance imaging for detection and ruling out of clinically significant cancer

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study (year)</th>
<th>Patients</th>
<th>Overall cancer detection rate, n/N (%)</th>
<th>Reference Analysis</th>
<th>Accuracy, n/N (%)</th>
<th>Clinically significant disease</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>TP (n)</td>
<td>TN (n)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[25] (2014)</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>141/258 (55)</td>
<td>Biopsy Region</td>
<td>114/258 (44)</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[26] (2014)</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>RP Patient</td>
<td>75/104 (72)</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[27] (2013)</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>36/105 (34)</td>
<td>Biopsy Patient</td>
<td>24/48 (50)</td>
<td>NR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[28] (2014)</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>34/54 (63)</td>
<td>Biopsy Region</td>
<td>57/108 (53)</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[29] (2013)</td>
<td>182</td>
<td>144/182 (79)</td>
<td>Biopsy Patient</td>
<td>103/182 (57)</td>
<td>103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[31] (2013)</td>
<td>538</td>
<td>316/538 (59)</td>
<td>Biopsy Patient</td>
<td>128/196 (65)</td>
<td>NR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[32] (2011)</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>68/114 (60)</td>
<td>Biopsy Region</td>
<td>21/252 (86)</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[33] (2014)</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>92/150 (61)</td>
<td>Biopsy Patient</td>
<td>49/150 (33)</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[34] (2014)</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>45/125 (36)</td>
<td>Biopsy Region</td>
<td>21/28 (75)</td>
<td>NR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[35] (2014)</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>91/140 (65)</td>
<td>Biopsy Region</td>
<td>67/140 (48)</td>
<td>NR</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RP = radical prostatectomy; TP = true positives; TN = true negatives; FN = false negatives; FP = false positives; Sens = sensitivity; Spec = specificity; PPV = positive predictive value; NPV = negative predictive value.

a Publications from the same centre.

b Prostate was divided in halves.

c University College London definition 2 used (Table 6).
significant PCa ranged from 63% to 98% and from 34% to 68%, respectively. One study yielded high negative (98%) and positive (68%) predictive values, but patients were included with PSA up to 228 ng/ml (median 13.4 ng/ml), which may have introduced some selection bias [32]. Other potentially influential factors may be the selection of PB targets and the PB method. In three studies, all lesions were targeted with either visual or image fusion PB, whereas in four studies the entire prostate was sampled. This may have affected the positive predictive value; this can be illustrated by a lesion that is missed using mpMRI and is subsequently not sampled, whereas the lesion may have been found using template mapping.

3.4. Discussion

mpMRI of the prostate can detect clinically significant disease. The rate of detection of clinically significant disease ranged from 44% to 87%, which is higher than the rate reported for blind TRUS PB. According to our review findings, it is anticipated that MRI-targeted PB is two to three times better than the practice standard [38].

The ideal study design to address our research question would include mpMRI before PB and definitive pathology for whole-mount sections of RP specimens as the reference standard. However, such a study design is not applicable in clinical practice because of the costs, patient recruitment, and the use of RP as the gold standard. An alternative approach is to use transperineal template prostate mapping PBs. This technique has sufficiently high accuracy and may be the best available reference standard [39,40]. Transperineal template prostate mapping outperforms TRUS-guided PB, showing an average upgrading in 33% of patients and a change from unilateral to bilateral disease in more than 50% of patients [40]. Template prostate mapping detected more than 95% of lesions of >0.5 ml and the maximum cancer core length was ≥6 mm. This technique may provide an effective method for risk stratification of men with localised prostate cancer [41]. Furthermore, a strategy of targeted PBs alone in prebiopsy MRI-suspicious areas is an attractive potential alternative to extended systematic PBs for detection of significant PCa [42]. However, the studies included only performed targeted PB of MRI-visible targets, which may have introduced a selection bias. Nevertheless, this approach may be used to select patients for PB because of the high negative predictive value. In the case of negative MRI, it remains unclear if much significant PCa is being missed by mpMRI. Transperineal prostate mapping has been used to overcome this uncertainty.

The accuracy for detection of clinical significant disease varied widely between studies (44–87%). Nonetheless, we did not observe any trends (other than the threshold for clinically significant PCa) across the study variables of biopsy method, study design, number of readers, scoring system, field strength and coil use, and PSA. This may be explained by the small number of studies currently available in the literature. For example, it is expected that 3 T (with an endorectal coil) should tend to yield better results than 1.5 T, but our systematic review did not identify evidence supporting this hypothesis.

Some limitations need to be discussed. First, only 12 papers were eligible for this standardised review and there was considerable heterogeneity among the studies included in terms of patient characteristics, MRI criteria for PB, reference standard, and biopsy status (PB-naïve and previous negative PB). Seven of the 12 studies used targeted PB with or without 12-core TRUS PB, which is limited compared to whole-mount section histopathology. Second, the MRI acquisition (temporal resolution for DCE-MRI and b values for DW-MRI) and technical parameters (coil type, field strength) differed among the studies. For example, use of a high b-value image is diagnostically superior to images acquired at b <1000 s/mm² for PCa detection [43]. There is some evidence that high b-values (>1000 s/mm²) are better at detecting intermediate- or high-risk PCa compared to standard b values (50–1000 s/mm²) [44]. Third, the scoring
systems or image interpretations were not similar in all studies (Likert vs Prostate Imaging-reporting and Data System). Fourth, meta-analysis was not possible because of the wide heterogeneity across studies. Fifth, we did not categorise lesions in peripheral and transition zones because adequate information on this issue was not provided in any of the studies. Finally, the studies demonstrated diversity in the definition of clinical significance, which may have hampered comparison of outcome parameters. This makes it difficult to combine the results of such varied definitions for generalisation to clinical practice.

Nevertheless, our finding of a high negative predictive value for mpMRI is important for clinicians, because mpMRI could be used to rule out significant disease. This may result in fewer or no systematic or targeted PBs. Nevertheless, the negative predictive value may be affected to a greater extent than sensitivity and specificity in heterogeneous studies. DW-MRI is able to differentiate among low-, intermediate-, and high-grade cancer in the peripheral zone [17,37]. However, there is still considerable overlap among these groups using the apparent diffusion coefficient as a cutoff value. Further research is needed to optimise this sequence and to evaluate this technique for the detection of clinically significant PCa.

4. Conclusions

mpMRI is able to detect significant PCa in biopsy-naıve males and men with prior negative biopsies. The high negative predictive value of mpMRI is important because mpMRI could be used to rule out significant disease. This may result in fewer or no systematic or targeted biopsies in patients with PSA suspicious for prostate cancer.

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