Standardized MRI Protocol for Brain Tumor Clinical Trials

Benjamin M. Ellingson, Ph.D. Assistant Professor of Radiology at UCLA

Standardized MRI Protocol for Therapeutic Studies

- FDA Meeting in January 2014 highlighted the need to standardize MRI acquisition protocol
 - Needed to increase the FDA confidence in using imaging response as a surrogate for drug efficacy in brain tumors
 - Most clinical MRI sequences are T1 or T2 "weighted"
 - Lesion contrast is highly dependent on sequence parameters
 - Lesion size is subjective due to ability for reader (or algorithm) to generalize across levels of image quality
 - Comparisons and pooling across studies, drugs, etc.
 - Ethically important to limit number of patients on ineffective drugs

Brain Tumor Clinical Trials Endpoints Workshop I (Imaging) | January 30, 2014 Sponsored by Jumpstarting Brain Tumor Drug Development Coalition Jumpstarting Brain Tumor Drug Development Coalition



SNØ





- Reduce measurement variability due to protocol differences
 - Minor differences in hardware or sequence timing (e.g. TE/TR) can result in significant changes in image contrast



Bidim=7.53

TE=13ms; TR=560ms 2D Fast Spin Echo



Bidim=7.05

TE=3ms; TR=10ms 3D IR Gradient Echo

- Reduce variability due to contrast timing
 - Time between injection and imaging affects contrast enhancement
 - Contrast agent type, dose, and timing (4-8 min after admin is optimal (Akeson, Acta Radiol, 1997b))





Automated Volumetric Segmentation & Feature Extraction

 Difficulty in defining the exact margins and identifying the largest diameter or perpendicular diameter (Fornage, Radiology, 1993)



Automated Volumetric Segmentation & Feature Extraction

- Low Reproducibility in 1D/2D Measurements (Hopper, 1996; Lavin, 1980; Quiox, 1988; Thiesse, 1997; Warr, 1993)
- High Reproducibility in Volume Measurements
 - Kaus, Radiology, 2001 Interobserver COV = 2% (automated segmentation) and 13.6% (manual segmentation)
 - Salman, J Biomed Sci Eng, 2009 Interobserver COV = 2.5%-10% (automated)
 - Shah, Neuro Oncol, 2006 99.4% intraobserver correlation and 88.9% interobserver correlation (N=50 patients)



- Automated Volumetric Segmentation & Feature Extraction
 - Imaging Genomics & Atlas-Based Approaches for Response Characterization



Ellingson, Curr Neurol Neurosci Rep, 2015

Standardized MRI Protocol for Therapeutic Studies

• Large variety of imaging capabilities for large clinical trials:

- Small Outpatient Clinics & Imaging Centers Minimal Capabilities
- Community Medical Centers Basic Capabilities
- Academic Medical Centers Advanced Capabilities
- Need for 3 different & synergistic imaging protocols:
 - Minimal Standardized MRI Protocol
 - Designed for the small outpatient clinics and community imaging facilities
 - Large throughput, fast protocol, minimal chance for error (< 30 min)
 - Basic Standardized MRI Protocol
 - Designed to work for most community medical centers and most sites
 - Standard throughput, typical protocol (< 30 min)
 - Advanced Standardized MRI Protocol + Optional "Modules"
 - Designed for academic centers with expertise in advanced imaging
 - Optional "modules" allow for flexibility depending on needs for the trial

Consensus Recommendations for a

Standardized Brain Tumor Imaging Protocol (BTIP) in Clinical Trials

Benjamin M. Ellingson, Ph.D.^{1,2,†,§,¥,æ, Ω}, Martin Bendszus, M.D.^{3,β},

Jerrold Boxerman, M.D, Ph.D.^{4,¥, Ω, £}, Daniel Barboriak, M.D.^{5,¥, æ, Ω},

Bradley J. Erickson, M.D., Ph.D.^{6, (), a, Ω}, Whitney B. Pope, M.D., Ph.D.^{2, Ω},

Marion Smits, M.D.7, B, Sarah J. Nelson, Ph.D.8, §

Elizabeth Gerstner, M.D.^{9,†}, Brian Alexander, M.D.¹⁰,

Gregory Goldmacher, M.D., Ph.D.¹¹, Wolfgang Wick, M.D.^{12, β},

Michael Vogelbaum, M.D.^{13, ¢}, Michael Weller, M.D.¹⁴, Evanthia Galanis, M.D.^{15, ◊},

Jayashree Kalpathy-Cramer, Ph.D.16, Lalitha Shankar, M.D., Ph.D.17,

Michael V. Knopp, M.D., Ph.D.^{18, æ}, Soonme Cha, M.D.²⁰,

Martin .J. van den Bent, M.D.^{19, ß}, Susan Chang, M.D.²⁰,

W.K. Al Yung, M.D.²¹, Timothy F. Cloughesy, M.D.^{1,22},

Patrick Y. Wen, M.D.^{10,†}, Mark R. Gilbert, M.D.^{23, ¢},

[†]Representative of the Adult Brain Tumor Consortium (ABTC)

§ Representative of the Ivy Consortium for Early Phase Clinical Trials

[¥] Representative of the American College of Radiology Imaging Network (ACRIN) ^B Representative of the European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer (EORTC)

Representative of the Alliance for Clinical Trials in Oncology

^a Representative of the RSNA Quantitative Imaging Biomarker Alliance (QIBA)

^Ω Representative of the American Society of Neuroradiology (ASNR)

^f Representative of the American Society of Functional Neuroradiology (ASFNR)

[¢] Representative of the Radiation Therapy Oncology Group (RTOG)

Jumpstarting Brain Tumor Drug Development Coalition



Patient-Focused Research on



ASFNR American Society of Functional Neuroradiology



American Society of Neuroradiology



Reshaping the future of patient care

Standardized MRI Protocol for Therapeutic Studies

- Designed to be aligned with the EORTC, ACRIN, Alliance, and ABTC
- Designed to work with almost all community medical centers and most sites in ACRIN, EORTC, and the Alliance
- Standard throughput, similar to "basic" EORTC protocol
 - Under 1 hour set up to take down (<30 min), little expertise necessary, no special equipment (e.g. power injector)

Balance Between Maximizing Compliance & Data Quality



	3D T1w Pre ^b	Ax 2D FLAIR ^j	Ax 2D DWI		Ax 2D T2w ^{h,i}	3D T1w Post ^b
Sequence	MPRAGE ^{e,f}	TSE ^c	SS-EPI ^g		TSE [◦]	MPRAGE ^{e,f}
Plane	Sagittal/	Axial	Axial		Axial	Sagittal/
	Axial					Axial
Mode	3D	2D	2D		2D	3D
TR [ms]	2100 ^m	>6000	>5000		>2500	2100 ^m
TE [ms]	Min	100-140	Min		80-120	Min
TI [ms]	1100 ⁿ	2000-2500 ^k				1100 ⁿ
Flip Angle	10-15	90/≥160	90/180		90/≥160	10-15
[Degrees]				a a		
Frequency	≥172	≥256	≥128	ctio	≥256	≥172
Phase	≥172	≥256	≥128	ŋje	≥256	≥172
NEX	≥1	≥1	≥1	t II	≥1	≥1
Frequency	A/P	A/P	R/L	ras	A/P	A/P
Direction						
FOV	256mm	240mm	240mm	Ŭ	240mm	256mm
Slice Thickness	≤1.5mm	≤4mm ^l	≤4mm ¹		≤4mm ¹	≤1.5mm
Gap/Spacing	0	0	0		0	0
Diffusion Options ^p			b = 0, 500,			
			1000 s/mm ²			
			≥3 directions			
Parallel Imaging	Up to 2x	Up to 2x	Up to 2x		Up to 2x	Up to 2x
Scan Time	5-10 min	4-8 min	2-4 min		4-8 min	5-10 min
(Approx)	[5:49 for	[3:22 for	[1:22 for 3		[5:10 for dual	[5:49 for 1mm
[Benchmarked on	1mm	2D FLAIR]	direction DWI		echo]	isotropic]
3T Skyra]	isotropic]		and 3 b-			
			values			

	3D T1w Pre ^b	Ax 2D FLAIR ^j	Ax 2D DWI		Ax 2D T2 $w^{n,i}_{\omega}$	3D T1w Post ^b
Sequence	MPRAGE ^{e,f}	TSE°	SS-EPI ^g		TSE℃	MPRAGE ^{e,f}
]		
Plane	Sagittal/ Axial	Axial	Axial		Axial	Sagittal/ Axial
Mode	3D	2D	2D	1	2D	3D
TR [ms]	2100 ^m	>6000	>5000		>2500	2100 ^m
TE [ms]	Min	100-140	Min	1	80-120	Min
TI [ms]	1100 ⁿ	2000-2500 ^k				1100 ⁿ
Flip Angle [Degrees]	10-15	90/≥160	90/180	nª	90/≥160	10-15
Frequency	≥172	≥256	≥128	iti	≥256	≥172
Phase	≥172	≥256	≥128	ıje	≥256	≥172
NEX	≥1	≥1	≥1	E	≥1	≥1
Frequency Direction	A/P	A/P	R/L	ontras	A/P	A/P
FOV	256mm	240mm	240mm	Ŭ	240mm	256mm
Slice Thickness	≤1.5mm	≤4mm ^l	≤4mm ¹]	≤4mm ¹	≤1.5mm
Gap/Spacing	0	0	0		0	0
Diffusion Options ^p			b = 0, 500, 1000 s/mm ² \geq 3 directions			
Parallel Imaging	Up to 2x	Up to 2x	Up to 2x		Up to 2x	Up to 2x
Scan Time (Approx) [Benchmarked on	5-10 min [5:49 for 1mm	4-8 min [3:22 for 2D FLAIR]	2-4 min [1:22 for 3 direction DWI		4-8 min [5:10 for dual echo]	5-10 min [5:49 for 1mm isotropic]
3T Skyraj	isotropic		and 3 b- values]			

- MPRAGE Pre- and Post
- 1-1.5mm isotropic
- Can be reformatted to 3mm slices (axial, sagittal, or coronal)
- Can be used for RANO
- Allows for T1 subtraction
- Allows for longitudinal registration
- Available from all 3 major vendors as part of ADNI
 - T1+C T1 Subt.



- Suto, Comput Assist Tomogr, 1989 Subtracted synthetic images on Gd-DTPA enhanced MRI
- Lloyd, Br J Radiol, 1993 Subtraction Gd-enhanced MR for head/neck imaging
- Lee, AJR, 1996 Digital subtraction for brain lesions or hemorrhage
- Gaul, AJNR, 1996 Enhancing brain lesions vs. hemorrhage
- Melhem, JMRI, 1999 Enhancing brain lesions

Pre-Contrast T1



59 y.o. Female with Thyroid Carcinoma + Headaches

Ring Enhancing Lesion Adjacent to Ventricle



T1+C

T1 Subtraction

Extent of Resection



• Phase II, Multicenter Trial of Bev vs. Bev+CPT11 in Recurrent GBM (BRAIN Trial)

(Ellingson, Radiology, 2014)



• Phase II, Multicenter Trial of Bev vs. Bev+CPT11 in Recurrent GBM (BRAIN Trial)

(Ellingson, *Radiology*, 2014)





• BRAIN Trial (Ellingson, Radiology, 2013)



- BRAIN Trial (Ellingson, Radiology, 2013)
- Further improved by "confirmatory scan"



 Phase III, Multicenter Trial of TMZ+RT+Bev vs. TMZ+RT in Newly Diagnosed GBM (AVAglio Trial)



 Phase III, Multicenter Trial of TMZ+RT+Bev vs. TMZ+RT in Newly Diagnosed GBM (AVAglio Trial)



• Phase III, Newly Diagnosed GBM with DC Vaccination



	3D T1w Pre ^b	Ax 2D FLAIR ^j	Ax 2D DWI		Ax 2D T2w ^{h,i}	3D T1w Post ^b
Sequence	MPRAGE ^{e,f}	TSE°	SS-EPI ^g		TSE℃	MPRAGE ^{e,f}
Plane	Sagittal/ Axial	Axial	Axial		Axial	Sagittal/ Axial
Mode	3D	2D	2D		2D	3D
TR [ms]	2100 ^m	>6000	>5000		>2500	2100 ^m
TE [ms]	Min	100-140	Min		80-120	Min
TI [ms]	1100 ⁿ	2000-2500 ^k				1100 ⁿ
Flip Angle [Degrees]	10-15	90/≥160	90/180	n ^a	90/≥160	10-15
Frequency	≥172	≥256	≥128	ctio	≥256	≥172
Phase	≥172	≥256	≥128	nje	≥256	≥172
NEX	≥1	≥1	≥1	t I	≥1	≥1
Frequency Direction	A/P	A/P	R/L	ontras	A/P	A/P
FOV	256mm	240mm	240mm	Ŭ	240mm	256mm
Slice Thickness	≤1.5mm	≤4mm ¹	≤4mm ¹		≤4mm ¹	≤1.5mm
Gap/Spacing	0	0	0		0	0
Diffusion Options ^p			b = 0, 500, 1000 s/mm ² ≥3 directions			
Parallel Imaging	Up to 2x	Up to 2x	Up to 2x		Up to 2x	Up to 2x
Scan Time (Approx) [Benchmarked on 3T Skyra]	5-10 min [5:49 for 1mm isotropic]	4-8 min [3:22 for 2D FLAIR]	2-4 min [1:22 for 3 direction DWI and 3 b- values]		4-8 min [5:10 for dual echo]	5-10 min [5:49 for 1mm isotropic]

- 2D T2w TSE (Dual Echo PD/T2 TSE Recommended)
- Can be used for current
 RANO evaluations
- Available on all scanners as part of ADNI
- Part of ACR scanner accred.
- Allows for quantification of T2 within clinically feasible scan times







3-5% Variability Across Scanner Measurements of T_2^{eff}







125ms < T_2^{eff} < 250ms has 60-70% sensitivity and 80-90% specificity for containing NET



125ms < T_2^{eff} < 250ms has 60-70% sensitivity and 80-90% specificity for containing NET



1.5T GE Signa HDx

1.5T Siemens Avanto

T₂^{eff} –defined NET volume is predictive of PFS and OS After Radiation Therapy (new GBM), Radiation Therapy and Concurrent Temozolomide (new GBM), and Bevacizumab (recurrent GBM)



	3D T1w Pre ^b	Ax 2D FLAIR ^j	Ax 2D DWI		Ax 2D T2 $w^{h,i}_{\tilde{\omega}}$	3D T1w Post ^b
Sequence	MPRAGE ^{e,f}	TSE°	SS-EPI ^g		TSE℃	MPRAGE ^{e,f}
Plane	Sagittal/ Axial	Axial	Axial		Axial	Sagittal/ Axial
Mode	3D	2D	2D		2D	3D
TR [ms]	2100 ^m	>6000	>5000		>2500	2100 ^m
TE [ms]	Min	100-140	Min		80-120	Min
TI [ms]	1100 ⁿ	2000-2500 ^k				1100 ⁿ
Flip Angle [Degrees]	10-15	90/≥160	90/180	n ^a	90/≥160	10-15
Frequency	≥172	≥256	≥128	ctio	≥256	≥172
Phase	≥172	≥256	≥128	ŋje	≥256	≥172
NEX	≥1	≥1	≥1	t Iı	≥1	≥1
Frequency Direction	A/P	A/P	R/L	ontras	A/P	A/P
FOV	256mm	240mm	240mm	Ŭ	240mm	256mm
Slice Thickness	≤1.5mm	≤4mm ^l	≤4mm ¹		≤4mm ¹	≤1.5mm
Gap/Spacing	0	0	0		0	0
Diffusion Options ^p			b = 0, 500, 1000 s/mm^2 $\geq 3 \text{ directions}$			
Parallel Imaging	Up to 2x	Up to 2x	Up to 2x		Up to 2x	Up to 2x
Scan Time (Approx) [Benchmarked on 3T Skyra]	5-10 min [5:49 for 1mm isotropic]	4-8 min [3:22 for 2D FLAIR]	2-4 min [1:22 for 3 direction DWI and 3 b-		4-8 min [5:10 for dual echo]	5-10 min [5:49 for 1mm isotropic]
			values			

- Timing of Contrast & T2
- Timing between pre- and post-contrast T1w images is <u>critical</u> to ensure extravasation

	3D T1w Pre ^b	Ax 2D FLAIR ^j	Ax 2D DWI		Ax 2D T2 $w^{h,i}_{\sim}$	3D T1w Post ^b
Sequence	MPRAGE ^{e,f}	TSE ^c	SS-EPI ^g	1	TSE°	MPRAGE ^{e,f}
				1		
Plane	Sagittal/ Axial	Axial	Axial		Axial	Sagittal/ Axial
Mode	3D	2D	2D	1	2D	3D
TR [ms]	2100 ^m	>6000	>5000		>2500	2100 ^m
TE [ms]	Min	100-140	Min		80-120	Min
TI [ms]	1100 ⁿ	2000-2500 ^k				1100 ⁿ
Flip Angle [Degrees]	10-15	90/≥160	90/180	nª	90/≥160	10-15
Frequency	≥172	≥256	≥128	ij:	≥256	≥172
Phase	≥172	≥256	≥128	ijĕ	≥256	≥172
NEX	≥1	≥1	≥1	1.	≥1	≥1
Frequency Direction	A/P	A/P	R/L	Intras	A/P	A/P
FOV	256mm	240mm	240mm	Ŭ	240mm	256mm
Slice Thickness	≤1.5mm	≤4mm ^l	≤4mm ¹	1	≤4mm ¹	≤1.5mm
Gap/Spacing	0	0	0	1	0	0
Diffusion Options ^p			b = 0, 500, 1000 s/mm ² \geq 3 directions			
Parallel Imaging	Up to 2x	Up to 2x	Up to 2x		Up to 2x	Up to 2x
Scan Time (Approx) [Benchmarked on	5-10 min [5:49 for 1mm	4-8 min [3:22 for 2D FLAIR]	2-4 min [1:22 for 3 direction DWI		4-8 min [5:10 for dual echo]	5-10 min [5:49 for 1mm isotropic]
31 Skyra]	isotropic		and 3 b- values]			

- T2w FLAIR
- Used for RANO evaluations
- Similar to ACRIN, EORTC, and Alliance Protocols
- 3D FLAIR is optional

FLAIR and T2 TSE @ 3mm for 1.5T & 3T



GE 1.5T Signa

3mm no skip



Siemens 1.5T Sonata 3mm no skip





Siemens 3T Trio 3mm no skip





FLAIR

T2w

FLAIR and T2 TSE @ 3mm for 1.5T & 3T



FLAIR

T2w

FLAIR and T2 TSE @ 3mm for 1.5T & 3T



FLAIR

T2w

	AD T1	4-00				1D TII Death
	3D TIW	AX 2D	AX 2D DWI		AX 2D $12W^{n,n}_{\sim}$	SD TTW Post ^b
	Pre	FLAIK				
Sequence	MPRAGE ^{e,f}	TSE ^c	SS-EPI ^g		TSE ^c	MPRAGE ^{e,f}
Plane	Sagittal/	Axial	Axial		Axial	Sagittal/
	Axial					Axial
Mode	3D	2D	2D		2D	3D
TR [ms]	2100 ^m	>6000	>5000		>2500	2100 ^m
TE [ms]	Min	100-140	Min		80-120	Min
TI [ms]	1100 ⁿ	2000-2500 ^k				1100 ⁿ
Flip Angle	10-15	90/≥160	90/180		90/≥160	10-15
[Degrees]				n a		
Frequency	≥172	≥256	≥128	ctio	≥256	≥172
Phase	≥172	≥256	≥128	nje	≥256	≥172
NEX	≥1	≥1	≥1	it IJ	≥1	≥1
Frequency	A/P	A/P	R/L	ras	A/P	A/P
Direction				J		
FOV	256mm	240mm	240mm	Ŭ	240mm	256mm
Slice Thickness	≤1.5mm	≤4mm ¹	≤4mm ^l		≤4mm ¹	≤1.5mm
Gap/Spacing	0	0	0		0	0
Diffusion Options ^p			b = 0, 500,			
			1000 s/mm ²			
			≥3 directions			
Parallel Imaging	Up to 2x	Up to 2x	Up to 2x		Up to 2x	Up to 2x
Scan Time	5-10 min	4-8 min	2-4 min		4-8 min	5-10 min
(Approx)	[5:49 for	[3:22 for	[1:22 for 3		[5:10 for dual	[5:49 for 1mm
[Benchmarked on	1mm	2D FLAIR]	direction DWI		echo]	isotropic]
3T Skyra]	isotropic]		and 3 b-			
			values]			

- Diffusion Weighted Imaging
- Uses recommendations by the ISMRM/NCI Diffusion Consensus Mtg. 2008
- 3 b-values (0, 500, 1000 s/mm²) are recommended

^a 0.1 mmol/kg dose injection with a Gadolinium chelated contrast agent. Use of a power injector is desirable at an injection rate of 3-5cc/sec.

^b Post-contrast 3D T1-weighted images should be collected with equivalent parameters to pre-contrast 3D T1-weighted images

^c TSE = turbo spin echo (Siemens & Philips) is equivalent to FSE (fast spin echo; GE, Hitachi, Toshiba)

^d FL2D = two-dimensional fast low angle shot (FLASH; Siemens) is equivalent to the spoil gradient recalled echo (SPGR; GE) or T1- fast field echo (FFE; Philips), fast field echo (FastFE; Toshiba), or the radiofrequency spoiled steady state acquisition rewound gradient echo (RSSG; Hitachi). A fast gradient echo sequence without inversion preparation is desired.

^e MPRAGE = magnetization prepared rapid gradient-echo (Siemens & Hitachi) is equivalent to the inversion recovery SPGR (IR-SPGR or Fast SPGR with inversion activated or BRAVO; GE), 3D turbo field echo (TFE; Philips), or 3D fast field echo (3D Fast FE; Toshiba).

^f A 3D acquisition without inversion preparation will result in different contrast compared with MPRAGE or another IR-prepped 3D T1-weighted sequences and therefore should be avoided.

^g In the event of significant patient motion, a radial acquisition scheme may be used (e.g. BLADE [Siemens], PROPELLER [GE], MultiVane [Philips], RADAR [Hitachi], or JET [Toshiba]); however, this acquisition scheme is can cause significant differences in ADC quantification and therefore should be used only if EPI is not an option. Further, this type of acquisition takes considerable more time.

^h Dual echo PD/T2 TSE is optional for possible quantification of tissue T2.

ⁱ Advanced sequences can be substituted into this time slot, so long as 3D post-contrast T1-weighted images are collected between 4 and 8 min after contrast injection.

^j 3D FLAIR is an optional alternative to 2D FLAIR, with sequence parameters as follows per EORTC guidelines: 3D TSE/FSE acquisition; TE=90-140ms; TR=6000-10000ms; TI=2000-2500ms (chosen based on vendor recommendations for optimized protocol and field strength); GRAPPA \leq 2; Fat Saturation; Slice thickness \leq 1.5mm; Orientation Sagittal or Axial; FOV \leq 250 mm x 250 mm; Matrix \geq 244x244.

^k Choice of TI should be chosen based on the magnetic field strength of the system (e.g. $TI \approx 2000$ ms for 1.5T and $TI \approx 2500$ ms for 3T).

¹In order to ensure comparable SNR older 1.5T MR systems can use contiguous (no interslice gap) images with 5mm slice thickness or increase NEX for slice thickness ≤ 4 mm.

ⁿ For Siemens and Hitachi scanners. GE, Philips, and Toshiba scanners should use a TI = 400-450ms for similar contrast.

^m For Siemens and Hitachi scanners. GE, Philips, and Toshiba scanners should use a TR = 5-15ms for similar contrast.

^p Older model MR scanners that are not capable of >2 *b*-values should use b = 0 and 1000 s/mm².

Acronyms:

Ax = Axial; ADC = apparent diffusion coefficient. FLAIR = fluid attenuated inversion recovery; DWI = diffusion-weighted imaging; 3D = three dimensional; TSE = turbo spin echo; EPI = echo planar imaging; SS-EPI = single-shot echo planar imaging; GE-EPI = gradient echo echo planar imaging; 2DFL = two-dimensional FLASH (fast low angle shot) gradient recalled echo; MPRAGE = magnetization prepared rapid gradient-echo; A/P = anterior to posterior; R/L = right to left; NEX = number of excitations or averages; FOV = field of view; TE = echo time; TR = repetition time; TI = inversion time; PD = proton density; DSC = dynamic susceptibility contrast

^a 0.1 mmol/kg dose injection with a Gadolinium chelated contrast agent. Use of a power injector is desirable at an injection rate of 3-5cc/sec.

^b Post-contrast 3D T1-weighted images should be collected with equivalent parameters to pre-contrast 3D T1-weighted images

^c TSE = turbo spin echo (Siemens & Philips) is equivalent to FSE (fast spin echo; GE, Hitachi, Toshiba)

^d FL2D = two-dimensional fast low angle shot (FLASH; Siemens) is equivalent to the spoil gradient recalled echo (SPGR; GE) or T1- fast field echo (FFE; Philips), fast field echo (FastFE; Toshiba), or the radiofrequency spoiled steady state acquisition rewound gradient echo (RSSG; Hitachi). A fast gradient echo sequence without inversion preparation is desired.

^e MPRAGE = magnetization prepared rapid gradient-echo (Siemens & Hitachi) is equivalent to the inversion recovery SPGR (IR-SPGR or Fast SPGR with inversion activated or BRAVO; GE), 3D turbo field echo (TFE; Philips), or 3D fast field echo (3D Fast FE; Toshiba).

^f A 3D acquisition without inversion preparation will result in different contrast compared with MPRAGE or another IR-prepped 3D T1-weighted sequences and therefore should be avoided.

^g In the event of significant patient motion, a radial acquisition scheme may be used (e.g. BLADE [Siemens], PROPELLER [GE], MultiVane [Philips], RADAR [Hitachi], or JET [Toshiba]); however, this acquisition scheme is can cause significant differences in ADC quantification and therefore should be used only if EPI is not an option. Further, this type of acquisition takes considerable more time.

^h Dual echo PD/T2 TSE is optional for possible quantification of tissue T2.

ⁱ Advanced sequences can be substituted into this time slot, so long as 3D post-contrast T1-weighted images are collected between 4 and 8 min after contrast injection.

^j 3D FLAIR is an optional alternative to 2D FLAIR, with sequence parameters as follows per EORTC guidelines: 3D TSE/FSE acquisition; TE=90-140ms; TR=6000-10000ms; TI=2000-2500ms (chosen based on vendor recommendations for optimized protocol and field strength); GRAPPA \leq 2; Fat Saturation; Slice thickness \leq 1.5mm; Orientation Sagittal or Axial; FOV \leq 250 mm x 250 mm; Matrix \geq 244x244.

^k Choice of TI should be chosen based on the magnetic field strength of the system (e.g. $TI \approx 2000$ ms for 1.5T and $TI \approx 2500$ ms for 3T).

¹In order to ensure comparable SNR older 1.5T MR systems can use contiguous (no interslice gap) images with 5mm slice thickness or increase NEX for slice thickness ≤ 4 mm.

ⁿ For Siemens and Hitachi scanners. GE, Philips, and Toshiba scanners should use a TI = 400-450ms for similar contrast.

^m For Siemens and Hitachi scanners. GE, Philips, and Toshiba scanners should use a TR = 5-15ms for similar contrast.

^p Older model MR scanners that are not capable of >2 *b*-values should use b = 0 and 1000 s/mm².

Acronyms:

Ax = Axial; ADC = apparent diffusion coefficient. FLAIR = fluid attenuated inversion recovery; DWI = diffusion-weighted imaging; 3D = three dimensional; TSE = turbo spin echo; EPI = echo planar imaging; SS-EPI = single-shot echo planar imaging; GE-EPI = gradient echo echo planar imaging; 2DFL = two-dimensional FLASH (fast low angle shot) gradient recalled echo; MPRAGE = magnetization prepared rapid gradient-echo; A/P = anterior to posterior; R/L = right to left; NEX = number of excitations or averages; FOV = field of view; TE = echo time; TR = repetition time; TI = inversion time; PD = proton density; DSC = dynamic susceptibility contrast

Recommended 3T Protocol

	3D T1w Pre	Ax 2D FLAIR	Ax 2D DWI		Ax 2D T2w	3D T1w Post ^b
Sequence	MPRAGE ^{d,e}	TSE℃	EPI ^f		TSE [◦]	MPRAGE ^{d,e}
Plane	Sagittal/Axial	Axial	Axial		Axial	Axial/Sagittal
Mode	3D	2D	2D		2D	3D
TR [ms]	2100 ^g	>6000	>5000		>2500	2100 ^g
TE [ms]	Min	100-140	Min		80-120	Min
TI [ms]	1100 ^h	2500		8		1100 ^h
Flip Angle	10-15	90/≥160	90/180	ion	90/≥160	10-15
Frequency	256	≥256	128	ect	≥256	256
Phase	256	≥256	128	Inj	≥256	256
NEX	≥1	≥1	≥1	ast	≥1	≥1
Frequency Direction	A/P	A/P	R/L	l ii	A/P	A/P
FOV		240mm	240mm	C.	240mm	256mm
Slice Thickness	1mm	3mm	3mm		3mm	1mm
Gap/Spacing	0	0	0		0	0
Diffusion Options			b = 0,500, and			
			1000 s/mm ²			
			≥3 directions			
Parallel Imaging	Up to 2x	Up to 2x	Up to 2x		Up to 2x	Up to 2x
Scan Time	5-8 min	4-5 min	3-5 min		3-5 min	5-8 min
(Approx)						

^a 0.1 mmol/kg or up to 20cc (single, full dose) of MR contrast.

^b Post-contrast 3D axial T1-weighted images should be collected with identical parameters to pre-contrast 3D axial T1-weighted images

^c TSE = turbo spin echo (Siemens & Philips) is equivalent to FSE (fast spin echo; GE, Hitachi, Toshiba)

^d MPRAGE = magnetization prepared rapid gradient-echo (Siemens & Hitachi) is equivalent to the inversion recovery SPGR (IR-SPGR or Fast SPGR with inversion activated; GE), 3D turbo field echo (TFE; Philips), or 3D fast field echo (3D Fast FE; Toshiba).

^e A 3D acquisition without inversion preparation will result in different contrast compared with MPRAGE or another IR-prepped 3D T1-weighted sequences and therefore should be avoided.

^f In the event of significant patient motion, a radial acquisition scheme may be used (e.g. BLADE [Siemens], PROPELLER [GE], MultiVane [Philips], RADAR [Hitachi], or JET [Toshiba]); however, this acquisition scheme is can cause significant differences in ADC quantification and therefore should be used only if EPI is not an option.

^g For Siemens and Hitachi scanners. GE, Philips, and Toshiba scanners should use a TR = 5-15ms for similar contrast.

^h For Siemens and Hitachi scanners. GE, Philips, and Toshiba scanners should use a TI = 400-450ms for similar contrast.

Acronyms:

Ax = Axial; ADC = apparent diffusion coefficient. FLAIR = fluid attenuated inversion recovery; DWI = diffusion-weighted imaging; 3D = three dimensional; TSE = turbo spin echo; EPI = echo planar imaging; MPRAGE = magnetization prepared rapid gradient-echo; A/P = anterior to posterior; R/L = right to left; NEX = number of excitations or averages; FOV = field of view

Recommended 1.5T Protocol

	3D T1w Pre	Ax 2D FLAIR	Ax 2D DWI		Ax 2D T2w	3D T1w Post ^b
Sequence	MPRAGE ^{d,e}	TSE ^c	EPIf		TSE°	MPRAGE ^{d,e}
Plane	Sagittal/Axial	Axial	Axial		Axial	Sagittal/Axial
Mode	3D	2D	2D		2D	3D
TR [ms]	2100 ^g	>6000	>5000		>3500	2100 ^g
TE [ms]	Min	100-140	Min		100-120	Min
TI [ms]	1100 ^h	2200				1100 ^h
Flip Angle	10-15	90/≥160	90/180	8	90/180	10-15
Frequency	≥172	≥256	128	tion	≥256	≥172
Phase	≥172	≥256	128	ject	≥256	≥172
NEX	≥1	≥1	≥1	E.	≥1	≥1
Frequency	A/P	A/P	R/L	ast	A/P	A/P
Direction				ntr		
FOV	256mm	240mm	240mm	చి	240mm	256mm
Slice	≤1.5mm	≤4mm	≤4mm		≤4mm	≤1.5mm
Thickness						
Gap/Spacing	0	0	0		0	0
Diffusion			b = 0, 500, and			
Options			1000 s/mm ²			
			≥3 directions			
Parallel	Yes-If	Yes-If	Yes-If Available		Yes-If	Yes-If
Imaging	Available	Available			Available	Available
Scan Time	5-8 min	4-5 min	3-5 min		3-5 min	5-8 min
(Approx)						

^a 0.1 mmol/kg or up to 20cc (single, full dose) of MR contrast.

^b Post-contrast 2D axial T1-weighted images should be collected with identical parameters to pre-contrast 2D axial T1-weighted images

^c TSE = turbo spin echo (Siemens & Philips) is equivalent to FSE (fast spin echo; GE, Hitachi, Toshiba)

^d MPRAGE = magnetization prepared rapid gradient-echo (Siemens & Hitachi) is equivalent to the inversion recovery SPGR (IR-SPGR or Fast SPGR with inversion activated; GE), 3D turbo field echo (TFE; Philips), or 3D fast field echo (3D Fast FE; Toshiba).

^e A 3D acquisition without inversion preparation will result in different contrast compared with MPRAGE or another IR-prepped 3D T1-weighted sequences and therefore should be avoided.

^f In the event of significant patient motion, a radial acquisition scheme may be used (e.g. BLADE [Siemens], PROPELLER [GE], MultiVane [Philips], RADAR [Hitachi], or JET [Toshiba]); however, this acquisition scheme is can cause significant differences in ADC quantification and therefore should be used only if EPI is not an option.

^g For Siemens and Hitachi scanners. GE, Philips, and Toshiba scanners should use a TR = 5-15ms for similar contrast.

^h For Siemens and Hitachi scanners. GE, Philips, and Toshiba scanners should use a TI = 400-450ms for similar contrast.

ⁱ Older model MR scanners that are not capable of >2 *b*-values should use b = 0 and 1000 s/mm².

Examples of Compatible Protocols

Standard Protocol + DCE

	3D T1w Pre ^b	Ax 2D FLAIR ^j	Ax 2D DWI	Ax 2D T2w ^{h,i}	T1 Map	DCE ^a	3D T1w Post ^b
Sequence	MPRAGE ^{e,f}	TSE°	SS-EPI ^g	TSE°	3D-FLASH	3D-FLASH	MPRAGE ^{e,f}
Plane	Sagittal/	Axial	Axial	Axial	Axial	Axial	Sagittal/
	Axial						Axial
Mode	3D	2D	2D	2D	3D	2D	3D
TR [ms]	2100 ^m	>6000	>5000	>2500	5	5	2100 ^m
TE [ms]	Min	100-140	Min	80-120	Min	Min	Min
TI [ms]	1100 ⁿ	2000-2500 ^k					1100 ⁿ
Flip Angle	10-15	90/≥160	90/180	90/≥160	5/10/15	15	10-15
[Degrees]					/30		
Frequency	≥172	≥256	≥128	≥256	256	256	≥172
Phase	≥172	≥256	≥128	≥256	192	192	≥172
NEX	≥1	≥1	≥1	≥1	2	NEX=1	≥1
						(130 Reps)	
						6.5sec/rep	
						(10 baseline	
						points)	
Frequency Direction	A/P	A/P	R/L	A/P	R/L	R/L	A/P
FOV	256	240	240	240	240	240	256
Slice Thickness	≤1.5mm	≤4mm ¹	≤4mm ¹	≤4mm ¹	5mm	5mm	≤1.5mm
Gap/Spacing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diffusion Options ^p			<i>b</i> = 0, 500,				
			1000 s/mm ²				
			≥3 directions				
Parallel Imaging	Up to 2x	Up to 2x	Up to 2x	Up to 2x	Yes-If	Yes-If	Up to 2x
					Available	Available	
Scan Time	5-10 min	4-8 min	2-4 min	4-8 min	< 1 min ea	10 min	5-10 min
(Approx)	[5:49 for	[3:22 for	[1:22 for 3	[5:10 for dual			[5:49 for
[Benchmarked on	1mm	2D FLAIR]	direction DWI	echo]			1mm
3T Skyra]	isotropic		and 3 b-				isotropic
			values				

Examples of Compatible Protocols

Standard Protocol + DTI + DSC Perfusion

	3D T1 Pre ^b	Ax 2D FLAIR	Ax DTI	Pre-Load Contrast Injection ^k	Dual Echo Ax PD/T2	DSC Perfusion ⁱ	3D T1 Post ^b
Sequence	MPRAGE ^{e,f}	TSE ^c	SS-EPI ⁸		TSE℃	GE-EPI	MPRAGE ^{e,f}
Plane	Sagittal	Axial	Axial		Axial	Axial	Sagittal
Mode	3D	2D	2D		2D	2D	3D
TR [ms]	2100	>6000	>5000		>2500	< 2000	2100
TE [ms]	5	100-140	Min		PD=5-50 T2=80-120	30	5
TI [ms]	1100	2500					1100
Flip Angle [Degrees]	15	90/160	90/180		90/160	60	15
Frequency	256	256	128		256	128	256
Phase	256	256	128		256	128	256
NEX	1	1	1		1	NEX=1 (90 Reps) Inject after 30sec (~15 pts)	1
Frequency Direction	A/P	A/P	R/L		A/P	A/P	A/P
FOV	256	240	240		240	240	256
Slice Thickness	1mm	3mm	3mm		3mm	5mm	1mm
Gap/Spacing	0	0	0		0	0mm	0
Diffusion Options			b = 0 and 1000 s/mm ² (64 directions)				
Parallel Imaging	Up to 2x	Up to 2x	Yes-If Available		Up to 2x	Up to 2x	Up to 2x
Scan Time (Approx)	5 min	5 min	15 min		7 min	< 3 min	5 min

Examples of Compatible Protocols

Standard Protocol + Site Specific Sequences

	3D T1w Pre ^b	Ax 2D FLAIR ^j	Ax 2D DWI	Contrast Injection ^a	Ax 2D T2w ^{h,i}	3D T1w Post ^b	Ax 2D T1w TSE
Sequence	MPRAGE ^{e,f}	TSE°	SS-EPI ^g		TSE℃	MPRAGE ^{e,f}	TSE
Plane	Sagittal/ Axial	Axial	Axial		Axial	Sagittal/ Axial	Axial
Mode	3D	2D	2D		2D	3D	2D
TR [ms]	2100	>6000	>5000		>2500	2100	500
TE [ms]	Min	100-140	Min		80-120	Min	min
TI [ms]	1100	2000-2500 ^k				1100	
Flip Angle [Degrees]	10-15	90/≥160	90/180		90/≥160	10-15	90
Frequency	≥172	≥256	≥128		≥256	≥172	≥256
Phase	≥172	≥256	≥128		≥256	≥172	≥256
NEX	≥1	≥1	≥1		≥1	1	≥1
Frequency Direction	A/P	A/P	R/L		A/P	A/P	A/P
FOV	256	240	240		240	256	240
Slice Thickness	≤1.5mm	≤4mm	≤4mm		≤4mm	≤1.5mm	≤4mm
Gap/Spacing	0	0	0		0	0	0
Diffusion Options			b = 0, 500, 1000 s/mm ² \geq 3 directions				
Parallel Imaging	Up to 2x	Up to 2x	Up to 2x		Up to 2x	Up to 2x	Up to 2x
Scan Time (Approx) [Benchmarked on 3T Skyra]	5-10 min [5:49 for 1mm isotropic]	4-8 min [3:22 for 2D FLAIR]	2-4 min [1:22 for 3 direction DWI and 3 b- values]		4-8 min [5:10 for dual echo]	5-10 min [5:49 for 1mm isotropic]	2-4 min [2:22]

Siemens Versions Available for Download

http://www.ellingsonbiomedical.com/Ellingson Biomedical/MRI PROTOCOLS.html

	3D T1 Preb	Ax 2D FLAIR	Ax DWI	Pre-Load Contrast Injection ^k	Dual Echo Ax PD/T2	DSC Perfusion ⁱ	3D T1 Post ^b
Sequence	MPRAGE ^{e,f}	TSE ^c	SS-EPI#		TSE ^c	GE-EPI	MPRAGE
Plane	Sagittal	Axial	Axial		Axial	Axial	Sagittal
Mode	3D	2D	2D		2D	2D	3D
TR [ms]	2100	>6000	>5000		>2500	< 2000	2100
TE [ms]	5	100-140	Min		PD=5-50 T2=80-120	30	5
TI [ms]	1100	2500					1100
Flip Angle [Degrees]	15	90/160	90/180		90/160	60	15
Frequency	256	256	128		256	128	256
Phase	256	256	128		256	128	256
NEX	1	1	1		1	NEX=1 (90 Reps) Inject after 30sec (~15 pts)	1
Frequency Direction	A/P	A/P	R/L		A/P	A/P	A/P
FOV	256	240	240		240	240	256
Slice Thickness	lmm	3mm	3mm		3mm	5mm	lmm
Gap/Spacing	0	0	0		0	0mm	0
Diffusion Options			b = 0, 500, 1000 s/mm ²				
Parallel Imaging	Up to 2x	Up to 2x	Up to 2x		Up to 2x	Up to 2x	Up to 2x
Scan Time (Approx)	5-10 min	4-8 min	2-4 min		5-8 min	< 3 min	5-10 min

DI DDOTOCOIS DDIZED DDA AOD

SIEMENS DOWNLOADABLE PROTOCOLS (EDX FILES)

- 1.5T Siemens Avanto
- 1.5T Siemens Sonata
- **3T Siemens Trio**
- **3T Siemens Verio**
- **3T Siemens Skyra**
- **3T Siemens Prisma**