Contrast ultrasound dispersion imaging in prostate cancer: an update
Mischi, M.; Turco, S.; van Sloun, R.J.G.; Schalk, S.G.; Demi, L.; Wijkstra, H.

Published: 01/01/2016

Document Version
Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of Record (includes final page, issue and volume numbers)

Please check the document version of this publication:
• A submitted manuscript is the author's version of the article upon submission and before peer-review. There can be important differences between the submitted version and the official published version of record. People interested in the research are advised to contact the author for the final version of the publication, or visit the DOI to the publisher's website.
• The final author version and the galley proof are versions of the publication after peer review.
• The final published version features the final layout of the paper including the volume, issue and page numbers.

Link to publication

General rights
Copyright and moral rights for the publications made accessible in the public portal are retained by the authors and/or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing publications that users recognise and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.

• Users may download and print one copy of any publication from the public portal for the purpose of private study or research.
• You may not further distribute the material or use it for any profit-making activity or commercial gain
• You may freely distribute the URL identifying the publication in the public portal?

Take down policy
If you believe that this document breaches copyright please contact us providing details, and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate your claim.
Contrast ultrasound dispersion imaging in prostate cancer: an update

M. Mischi¹, S. Turco¹, R. van Sloun¹, S. Schalk¹, L. Demi¹, H. Wijkstra¹,²

Biomedical Diagnostics Lab, Electrical Engineering Dept, Eindhoven University of Technology, the Netherlands

Urology Dept, Academic Medical Center University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands

In Western countries, Prostate Cancer (PCa) is the most common form of cancer in men, accounting for 26% of new cancer cases and 9% of cancer-related deaths; yet the available diagnostic options are limited by the lack of reliable imaging solutions [1]. Dynamic Contrast-Enhanced Ultrasound (DCE-US) is a diagnostic tool that is suitable for analysis of the vascularization, by imaging an intravenously-injected bolus of ultrasound contrast agents. The localization of angiogenic vascularization associated with cancer growth is of particular interest for the diagnosis of aggressive cancer [2]. Recently, methods for the analysis of the bolus convective-dispersion process have shown promise to localize angiogenesis. These are implemented by fitting the modified local density random walk model to time-intensity curves (TICs) measured at each pixel [3], or by estimating the similarity between neighboring TICs [4-6]. Several similarity measures have been adopted ranging from spectral coherence [4-5], to temporal correlation [6], up to nonlinear measures such as mutual information [7]. More recently, extension to 3D has also been shown, enabling the analysis of the full prostate volume by the injection of a single bolus of ultrasound contrast agents [8].

By all these methods, independent estimation of dispersion was not possible due to the ambiguity between convection and dispersion. Here a new method is presented that provides the separate estimation of convection and dispersion by identification of the local (linear) dilution system. To this end, model-based parameter estimation is employed. The method also permits generating maps of the Péclet number (Pe), a physics parameter characterizing the dilution system [9]. Clinical evaluation using data recorded from 25 patients (61 planes) at the Academic Medical Center, University of Amsterdam (the Netherlands), shows that the proposed method can be applied effectively to DCE-US, and is able to locally characterize the hemodynamics, yielding promising results for prostate cancer localization. Comparison of the resulting Pe maps with the histological results following radical prostatectomy showed an area under the ROC curve of 0.84, superior to all the other methods.

In addition, use and modeling of ultrasound contrast agents that are targeted to angiogenic expressions (BR55, Bracco Suisse), such as the vascular endothelial growth factor receptor 2 (VEGF-R2), are tested in rat models of human prostate cancer. A convective-dispersion model is used to describe the kinetics of circulating bubbles while a single-compartment model is used to describe bubble binding/unbinding kinetics. Identification of the proposed analytical model enables the assessment of both vascular and molecular features, determined by the dispersion and binding kinetics of the agent, showing promise for future applications aimed at PCa localization. In general, the proposed methods for angiogenesis imaging are not specific to prostate cancer only, and future extension to other types of cancer can also be envisaged.