

# IMAGING MODALITIES IN EPI

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# Disclosures

No relevant disclosures



Imaging has potential to be a non-invasive measure / correlate of pancreatic exocrine function

There is A LOT of work that needs to be done to identify and validate imaging measures



# Objectives

- Discuss imaging modalities relevant to the diagnosis (+/- staging) of EPI
- Provoke discussion / debate / argument around non-invasive (& invasive) assessment of EPI



# Caveat

There are techniques (e.g. elastography, ASL) that I am not going to talk about because there are no data (yet) linking to exocrine function



a

What is the accepted reference standard for diagnosis of EPI?

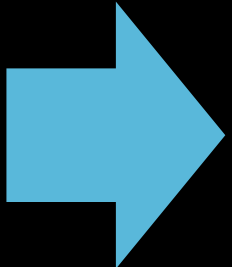


# Relevant Imaging Modalities

- Transabdominal US
- CT
- MRI
- Nuclear medicine
- Endoscopic US



# Relevant Imaging Modalities

- Transabdominal US
  - CT
  - MRI
  - Nuclear medicine
  - Endoscopic US
- 
- Parenchymal volume
  - Parenchymal quality
  - Duct quality
  - Secretory response





# Mixed / Confounded Measures

- Acinar cell loss
- Beta cell loss
- Fibrosis
- Steatosis
- Perfusion

- Acinar cell loss/dysfunction
- Duct patency
- Bicarbonate
- Enzymes

- Parenchymal volume
- Parenchymal quality
- Duct quality
- Secretory response

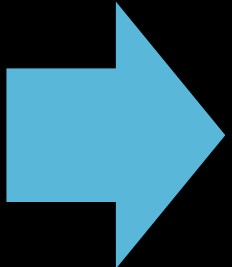


# Other Issues

- Reference standard
- Confounding
- Inter / intra-observer variability
- Technical / machine variability



# Relevant Imaging Modalities

- Transabdominal US
  - CT
  - MRI
  - Nuclear medicine
  - Endoscopic US
- 
- Parenchymal volume
  - Parenchymal quality
  - Duct quality
  - Secretory response



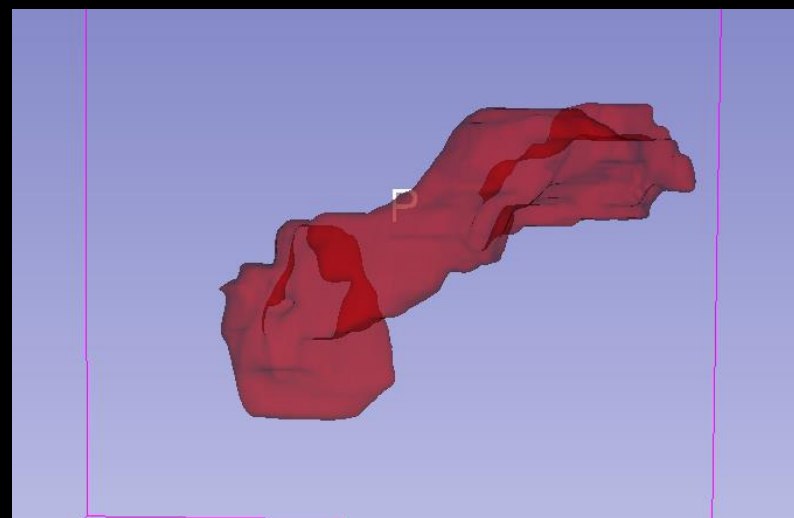
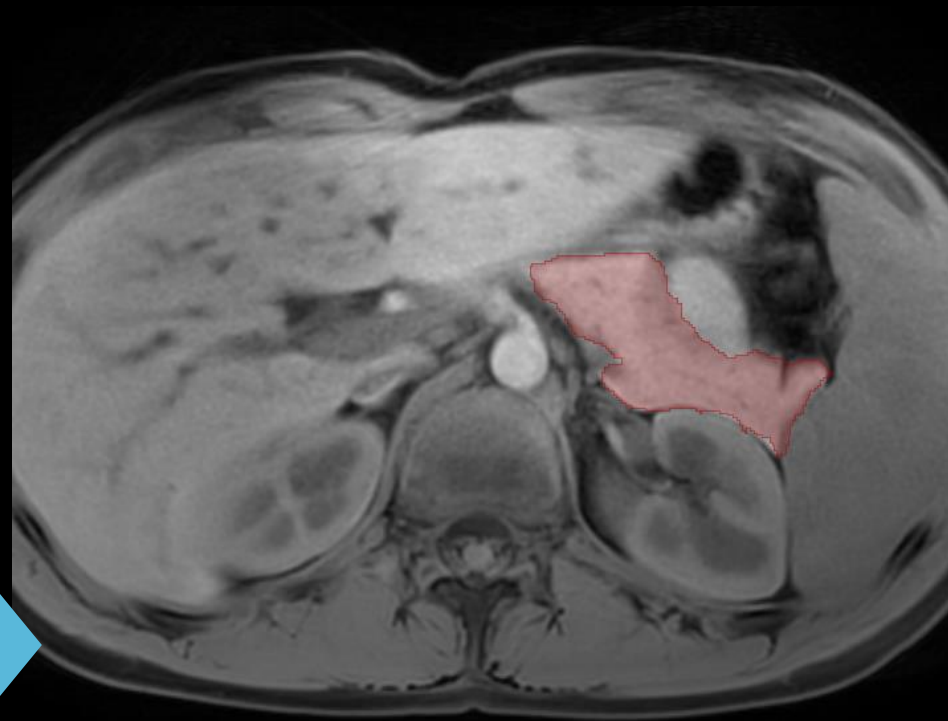
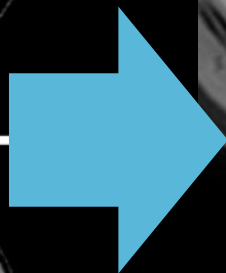
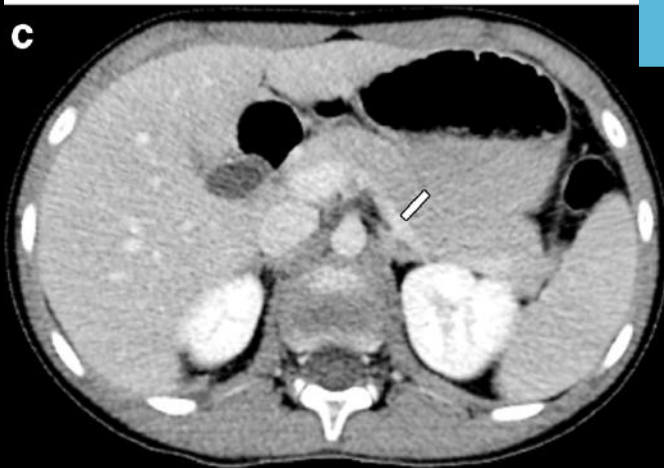
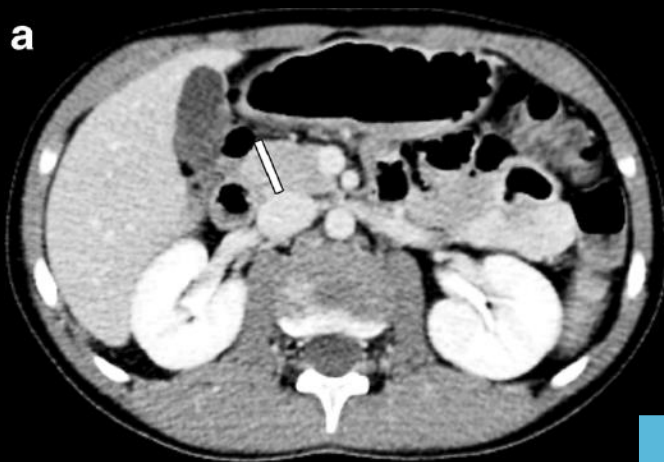
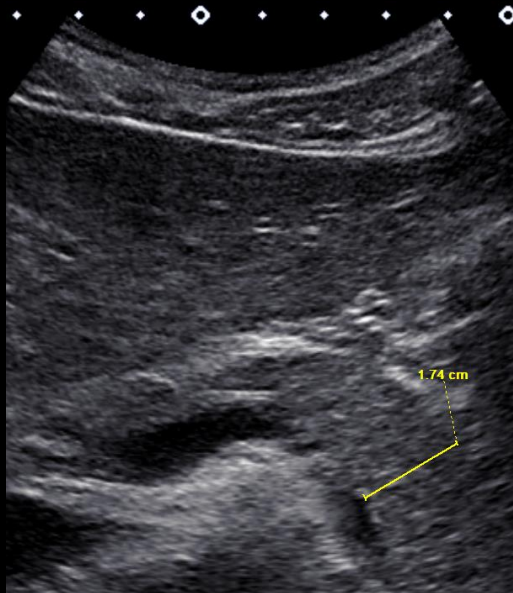
# Parenchymal Volume

~~Linear Thickness~~

- CT
- MRI
- ? 3D US ?

Need no gap imaging

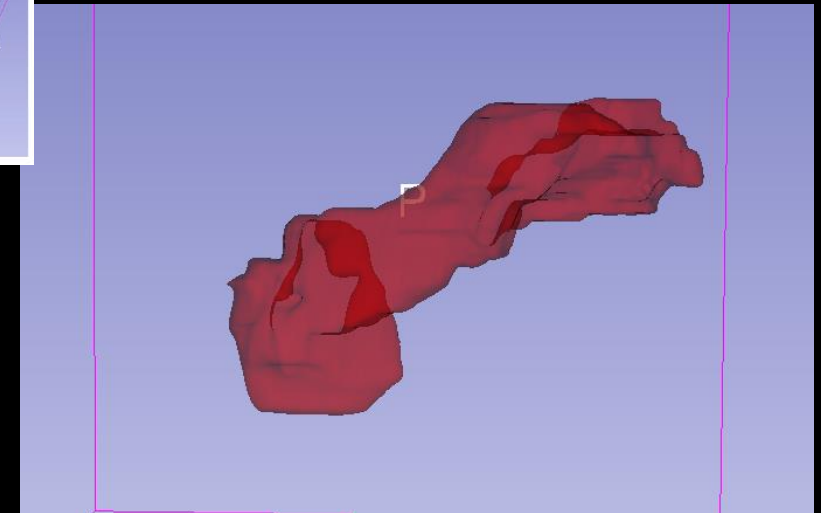
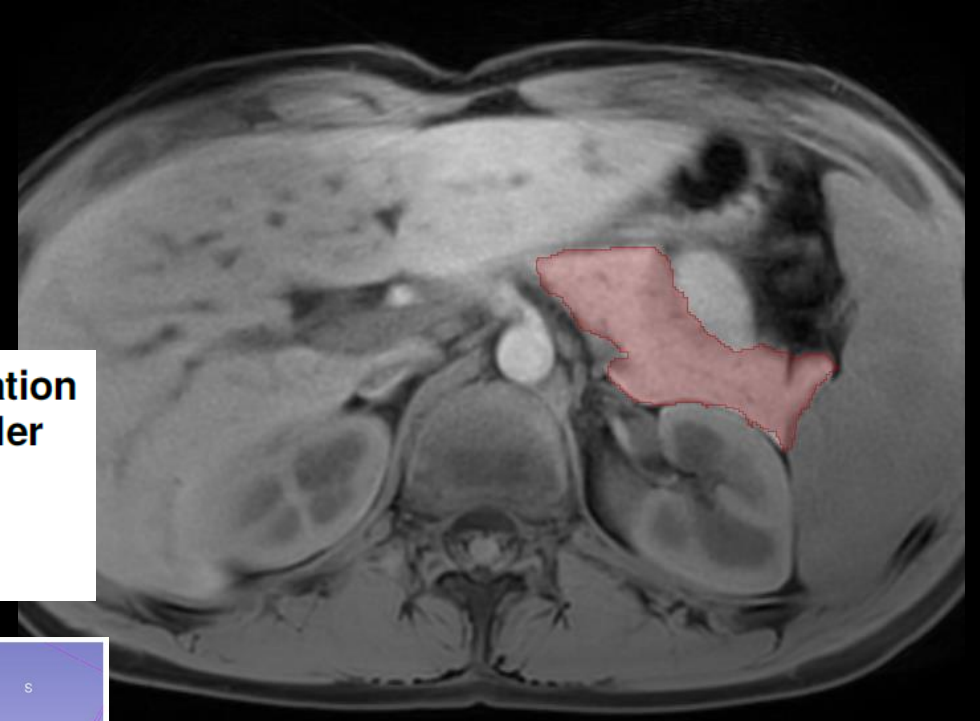
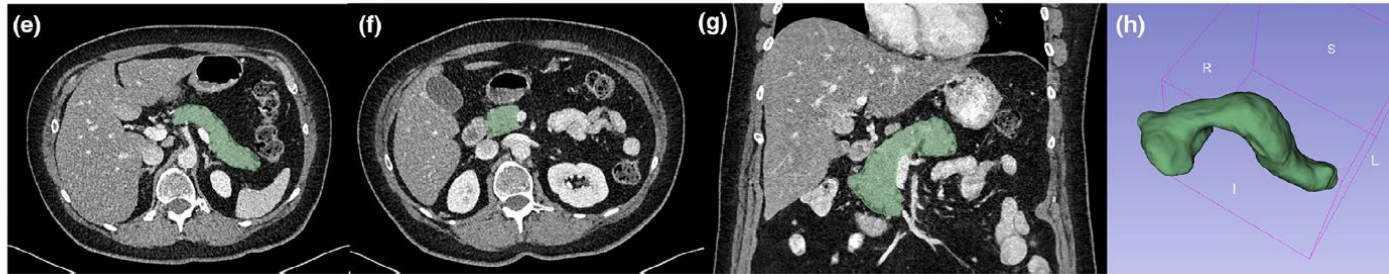




## Two-stage deep learning model for fully automated pancreas segmentation on computed tomography: Comparison with intra-reader and inter-reader reliability at full and reduced radiation dose on an external dataset

Ananya Panda, Panagiotis Korfiatis and Garima Suman  
*Department of Radiology, Mayo Clinic, 200 First Street SW, Rochester, MN 55905, USA*

Automated DL-Model  
Segmentation





Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](https://www.sciencedirect.com)

## Computer Methods and Programs in Biomedicine

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/cmpb](https://www.elsevier.com/locate/cmpb)



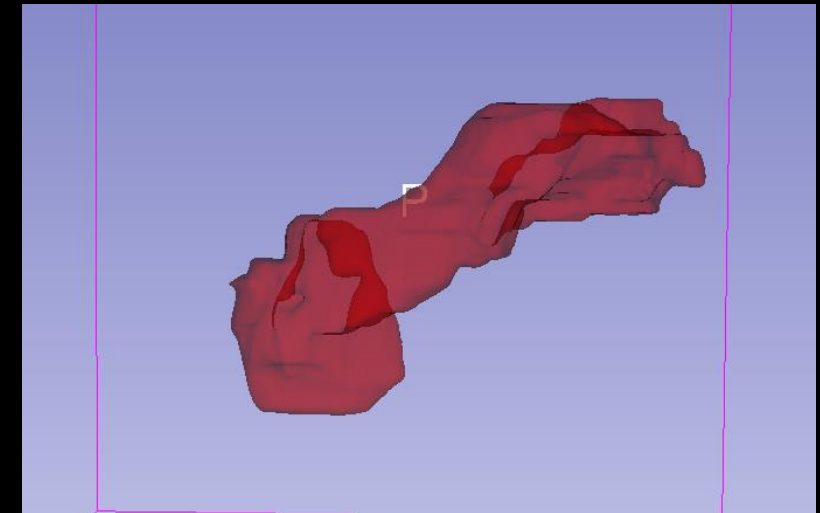
### Automated pancreas segmentation from computed tomography and magnetic resonance images: A systematic review

Haribalan Kumar<sup>a</sup>, Steve V. DeSouza<sup>b</sup>, Maxim S. Petrov<sup>b,\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Auckland Bioengineering Institute, University of Auckland, Auckland, New Zealand

<sup>b</sup> School of Medicine, University of Auckland, Auckland, New Zealand

Computer Methods and Programs in Biomedicine 178 (2019) 319–328



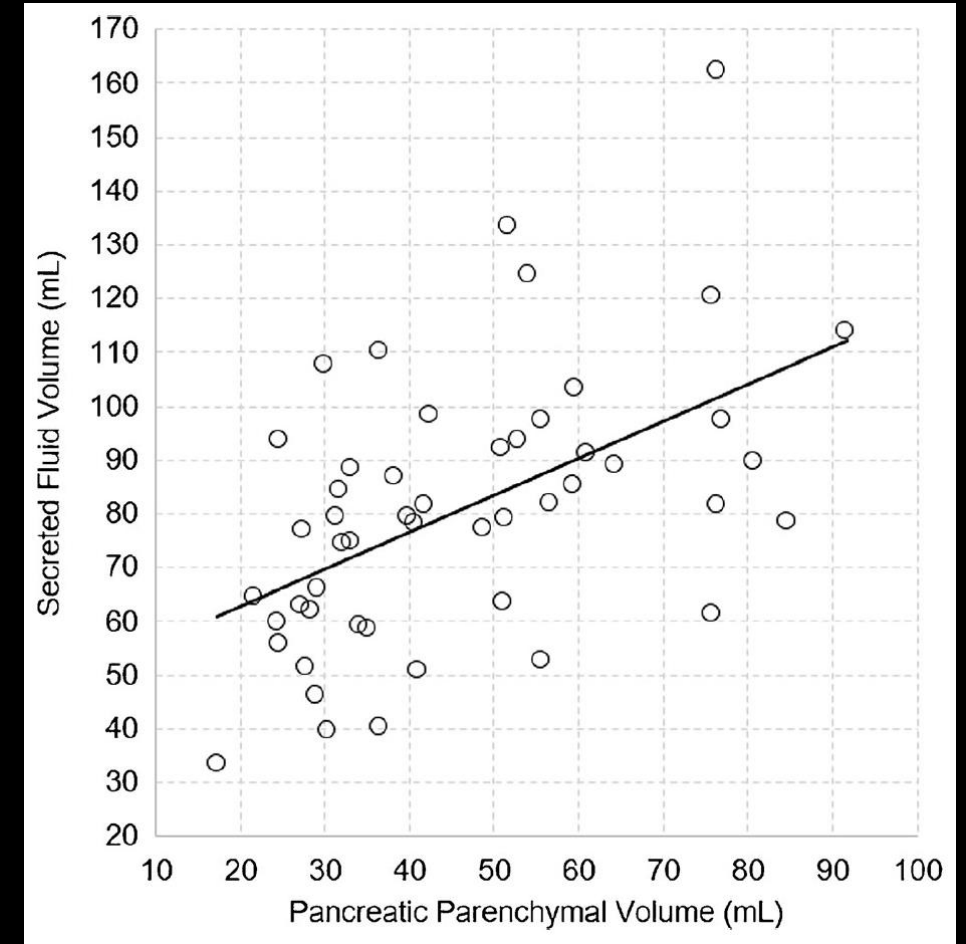
“The above findings indicate that the automation of pancreas segmentation represents a **considerable challenge** as the performance of current automated pancreas segmentation algorithms is **suboptimal**”



# Parenchymal Volume

Relationship between  
body size & pancreas size  
& secretory response

- 50 healthy children
- $r = 0.75$  (volume:BSA)
- $r = 0.51$  (volume:secreted)



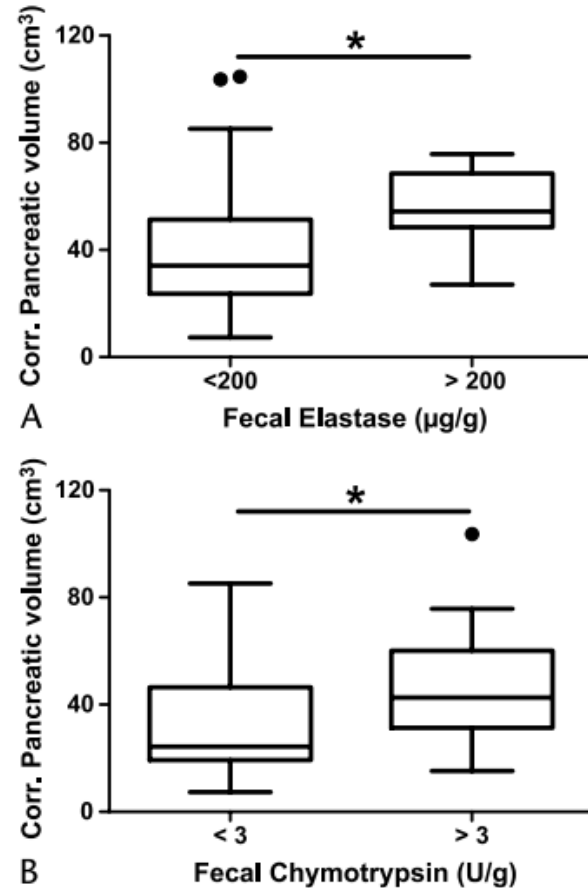


# Parenchymal Volume

- Currently not a lot of data for exocrine function in disease
- Data re: remnant function post whipple



# Parenchymal Volume



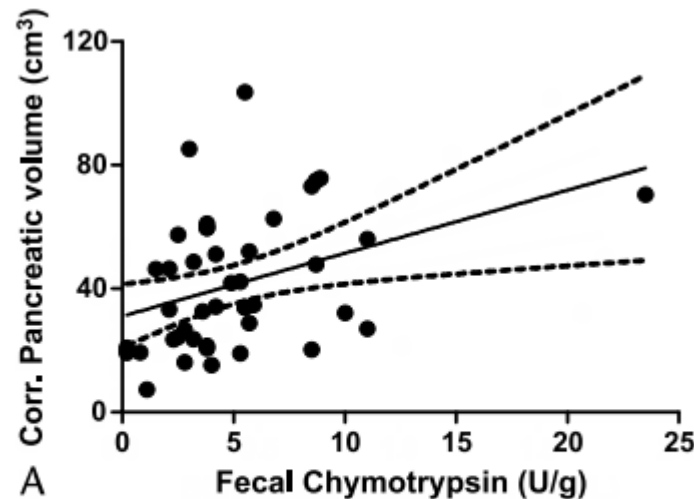
**FIGURE 2.** Pancreatic volume in (A) patients with low (<200 µg/g) compared with patients with normal (>200 µg/g) fecal elastase-1, (B) in patients with low (<3 U/g) compared with patients with normal (>3 U/g) fecal chymotrypsin. \* $P < 0.05$ .

## ORIGINAL ARTICLE

*Pancreas* • Volume 40, Number 3, April 2011

### Pancreatic Volume and Endocrine and Exocrine Functions in Patients With Diabetes

Marie-France Philippe, MD,\*† Salim Benabadi, MD,†‡ Laurence Barbot-Trystram, MD,§  
Dominique Vadrot, MD,†‡ Christian Boitard, MD,\*† and Etienne Langer, MD, PhD\*†||




**FIGURE 3.** Scatter plot of pancreatic volume and (A) fecal chymotrypsin  
Chymotrypsin: correlation coefficient, 0.39,  $P = 0.01$

n = 28 T1 DM  
n = 24 T2 DM



# Parenchymal Quality

- Trans-abd US
  - MRI
  - CT
  - EUS
- 
- Steatosis
  - Perfusion
  - Other

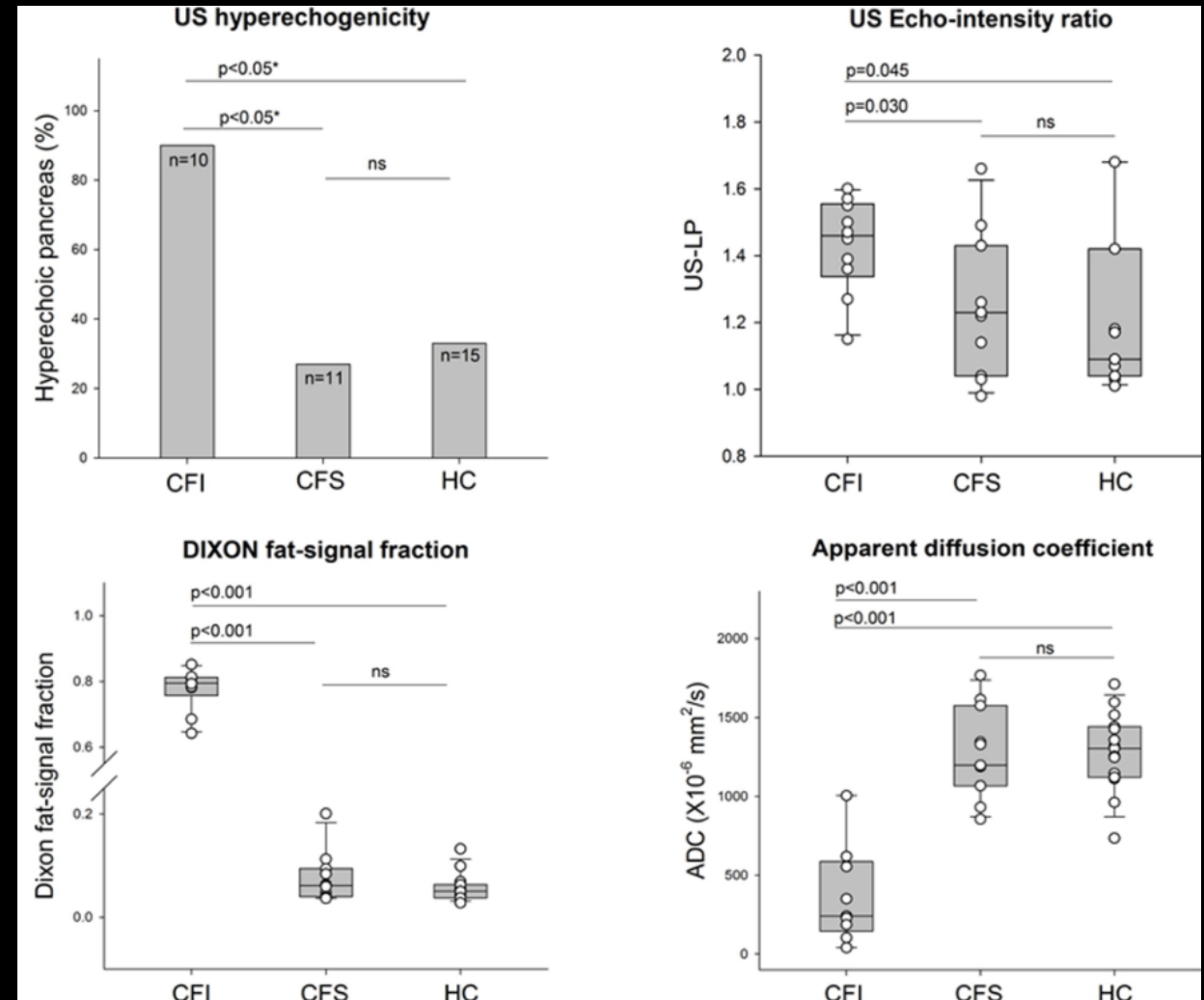


# Parenchymal Quality

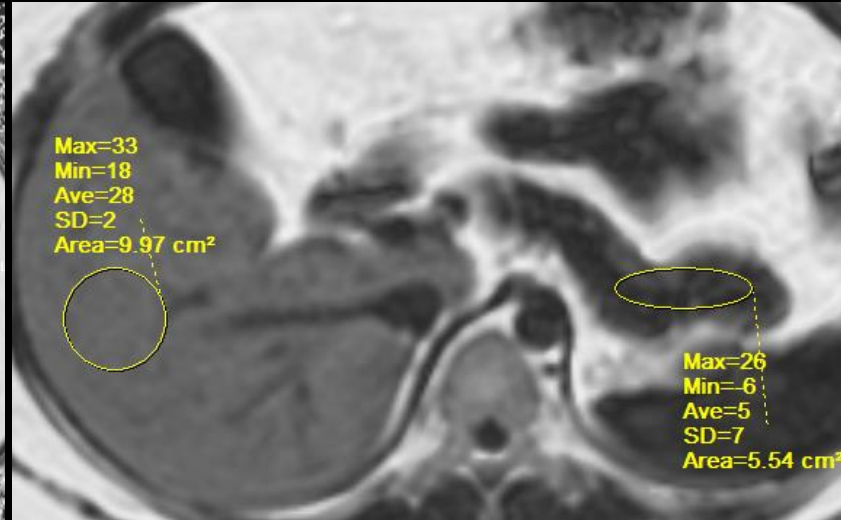
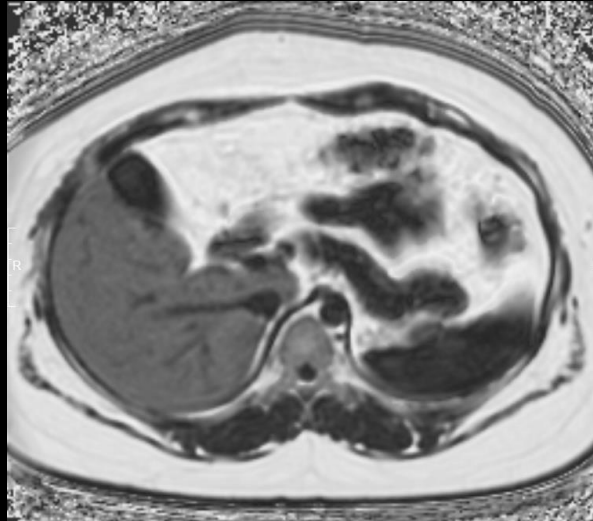


CFI = CF, insuff  
CFS = CF, suff  
HC = healthy control

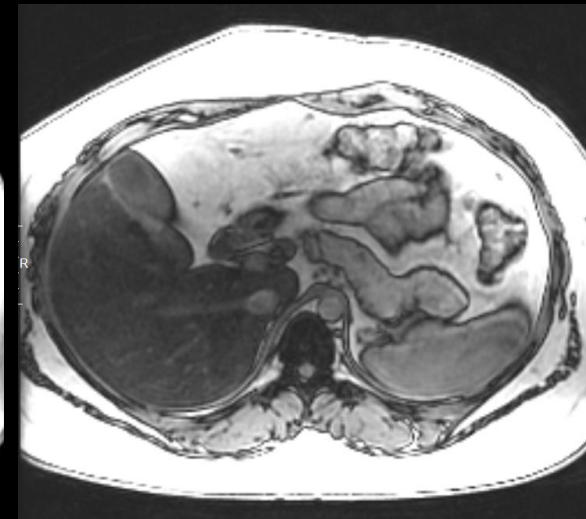
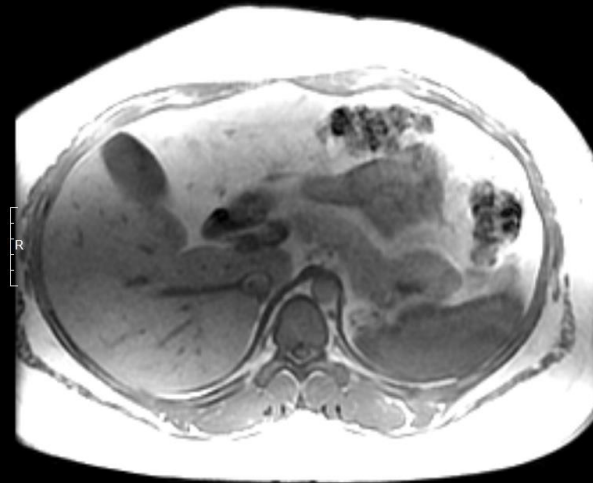
n = 36



# MRI Quantification of Fat



PDFFF



Chemical  
Shift



# Parenchymal Quality

## ORIGINAL ARTICLE

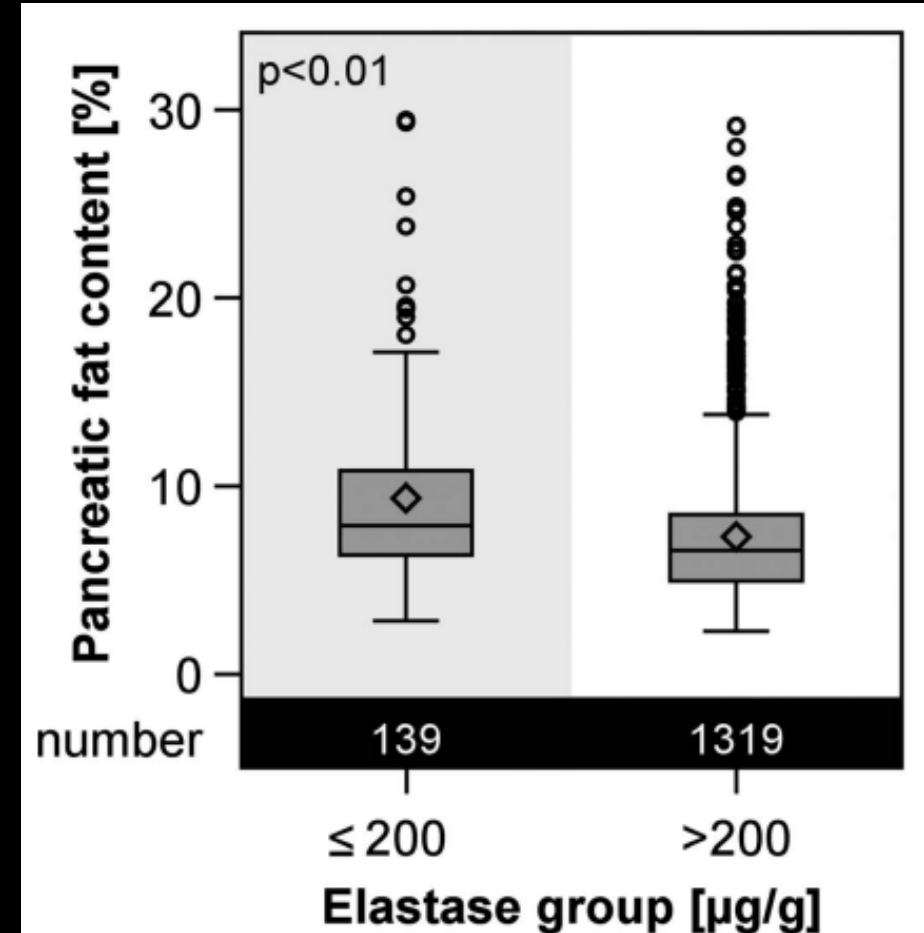
*Investigative Radiology* • Volume 54, Number 7, July 2019

### Pancreatic Steatosis Is Associated With Impaired Exocrine Pancreatic Function

Marie-Luise Kromrey, MD,\* Nele Friedrich, PhD,† Ralf-Thorsten Hoffmann, MD,‡ Robin Bülow, MD,\*  
Henry Völzke, MD,§ Frank U. Weiss, PhD,|| Markus M. Lerch, MD,||  
Utaroh Motosugi, MD, PhD,¶ and Jens-Peter Kühn, MD\*‡

MRI-PDFF

n = 1458  
139 abnl



**FIGURE 1.** Boxplots of pancreatic fat content by exocrine pancreatic function assessed by fecal elastase levels in the whole study population. The black circles within the box indicate group means. Kruskal-Wallis test was used to compare the elastase groups.



# Parenchymal Quality

- $n = 45$  (25 CF, 20 HC)
- Longer MTT, lower BF, lower BV in pts w/ EPI (decreased perfusion)
- Moderate correlation w/ ePFT (bicarb)
  - MTT: -0.58
  - BF: 0.44
  - BV: 0.45

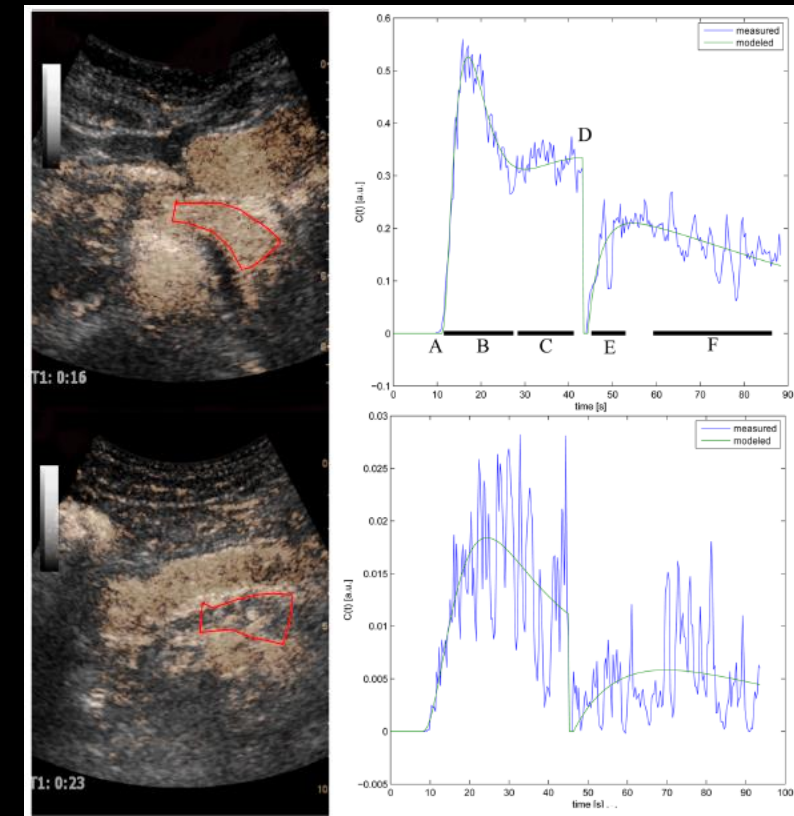
RESEARCH ARTICLE

Open Access



## Contrast-enhanced ultrasonography of the pancreas shows impaired perfusion in pancreas insufficient cystic fibrosis patients

Trond Engjom<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Kim Nylund<sup>2</sup>, Friedemann Erchinger<sup>1,3</sup>, Marcus Stangeland<sup>1</sup>, Birger Norderud Lærum<sup>4,5</sup>, Martin Mézl<sup>6</sup>, Radovan Jiřík<sup>7</sup>, Odd Helge Gilja<sup>1,2</sup> and Georg Dimcevski<sup>1</sup>





# Parenchymal Quality

## ORIGINAL ARTICLE

*Pancreas* • Volume 36, Number 1, January 2008

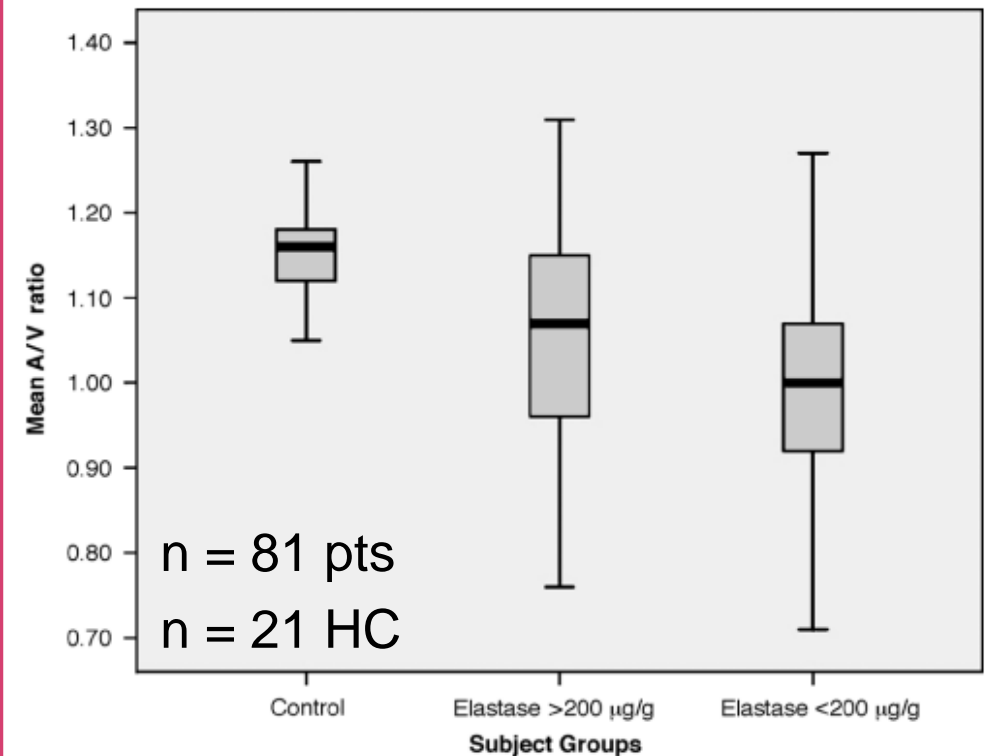
### Magnetic Resonance Imaging and Magnetic Resonance Cholangiopancreatography Findings Compared With Fecal Elastase 1 Measurement for the Diagnosis of Chronic Pancreatitis

Mehmet Bilgin, MD,\*† Sabriye Bilgin, MD,\*† N. Cem Balci, MD,‡ Amir Javad Momtahn, MD,‡ Yaşar Bilgin, MD,†§ Hans-Ulrich Klör, MD,†§ and Wigbert S. Rau, MD\*

### Serial Contrast-Enhanced MRI of the Pancreas: Correlation With Secretin-Stimulated Endoscopic Pancreatic Function Test<sup>1</sup>

N. Cem Balci, MD, Samer Alkaade, MD, Isin E. Akduman, MD, Mehmet Bilgin, MD  
Christopher P. Murdock, DO, Frank R. Burton, MD

*Acad Radiol* 2006; 13:1367–1372



**FIGURE 6.** Relationship between arterial enhancement ratio and pancreatic function determined by fecal elastase 1.





# Parenchymal Quality

## ORIGINAL ARTICLE

*Pancreas* • Volume 36, Number 1, January 2008

### Magnetic Resonance Imaging and Magnetic Resonance Cholangiopancreatography Findings Compared With Fecal Elastase 1 Measurement for the Diagnosis of Chronic Pancreatitis

*Mehmet Bilgin, MD,\*† Sabriye Bilgin, MD,\*† N. Cem Balci, MD,‡ Amir Javad Momtahn, MD,‡ Yaşar Bilgin, MD,†§ Hans-Ulrich Klör, MD,†§ and Wigbert S. Rau, MD\**

### Serial Contrast-Enhanced MRI of the Pancreas: Correlation With Secretin-Stimulated Endoscopic Pancreatic Function Test<sup>1</sup>

*Acad Radiol* 2006; 13:1367–1372

N. Cem Balci, MD, Samer Alkaade, MD, Isin E. Akduman, MD, Mehmet Bilgin, MD  
Christopher P. Murdock, DO, Frank R. Burton, MD

**Table 2**  
Correlation of CEMRI and ePFT for Pancreatitis\*

ePFT (cut off 80 dEq/L)	CEMRI	
	Normal	Pancreatitis
Normal	12	7
Pancreatitis	2	9



\*Numbers in the crosstab cells represent number of patients.

n = 30



# Parenchymal Quality

## Other MRI measures

- T1  – Protein content
  - SIR
  - T1 relaxation time
- Diffusion  – Perfusion & structure



# Parenchymal Quality – T1 SIR

**Abdominal Radiology**

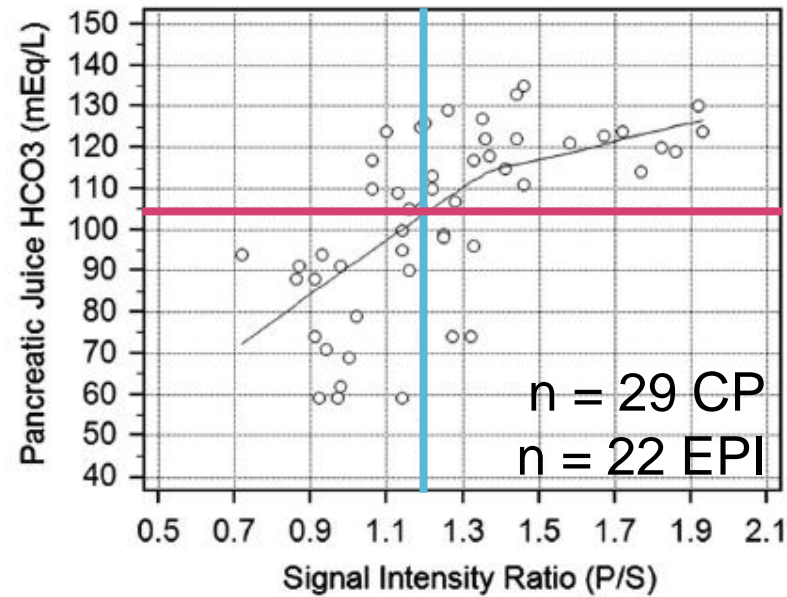
Springer Science+Business Media New York 2016  
Published online: 23 September 2016

Abdom Radiol (2017) 42:544–551  
DOI: 10.1007/s00261-016-0917-2

**Detection of exocrine dysfunction by MRI in patients with early chronic pancreatitis**

Temel Tirkes,<sup>1</sup> Evan L. Fogel,<sup>2</sup> Stuart Sherman,<sup>2</sup> Chen Lin,<sup>1</sup> Jordan Swensson,<sup>1</sup> Fatih Akisik,<sup>1</sup> Kumaresan Sandrasegaran<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Radiology and Clinical Sciences, Indiana University School of Medicine, 550 N. University Blvd. Suite 0663, Indianapolis, IN 46202, USA  
<sup>2</sup>Division of Gastroenterology, Department of Medicine, Indiana University School of Medicine, Indianapolis, IN, USA



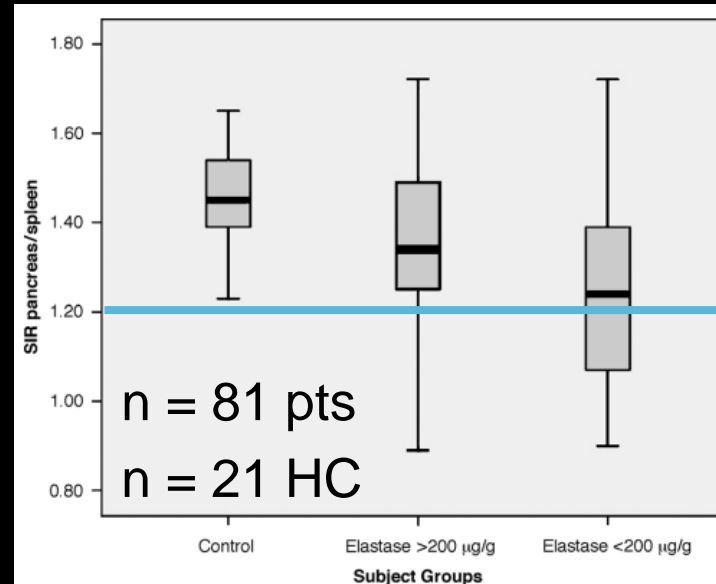
Intraductal stim test

**ORIGINAL ARTICLE**

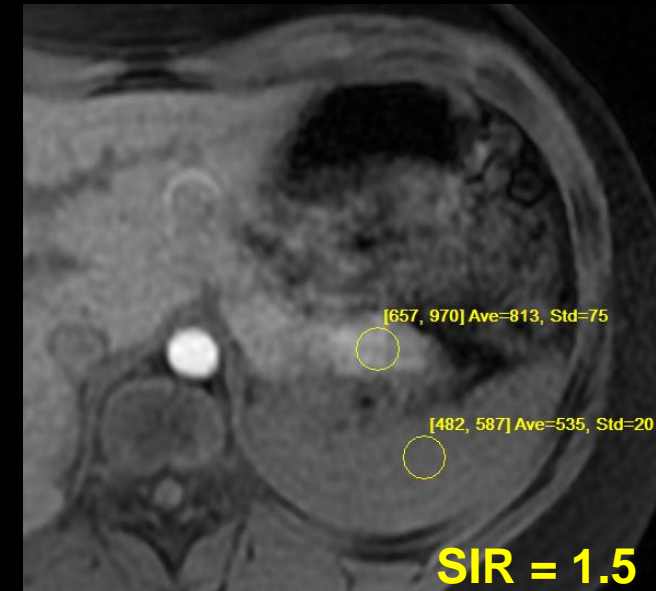
Pancreas • Volume 36, Number 1, January 2008

**Magnetic Resonance Imaging and Magnetic Resonance Cholangiopancreatography Findings Compared With Fecal Elastase 1 Measurement for the Diagnosis of Chronic Pancreatitis**

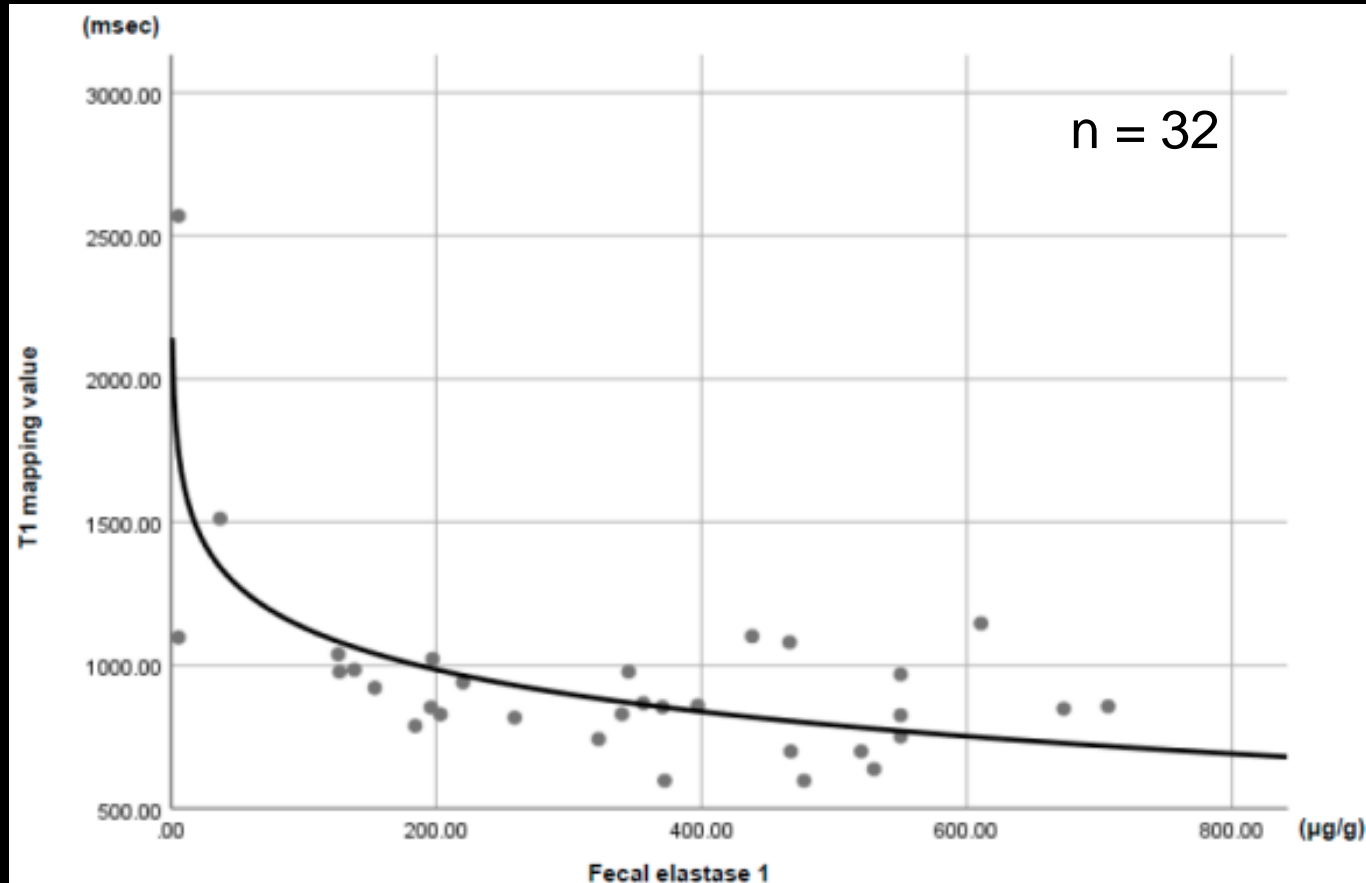
Mehmet Bilgin, MD,\*† Sabriye Bilgin, MD,\*† N. Cem Balci, MD,‡ Amir Javad Momtahan, MD,‡ Yaşar Bilgin, MD,†§ Hans-Ulrich Klör, MD,†§ and Wigbert S. Rau, MD\*



**FIGURE 7.** Relationship between pancreatic parenchymal signal and pancreatic function determined by fecal elastase 1.



# Parenchymal Quality – T1



**Figure 1.** A significant correlation was seen between the T1 mapping values and fecal elastase 1 ( $r = -0.715$ ;  $R^2 = 0.512$ ;  $p < 0.001$ ).



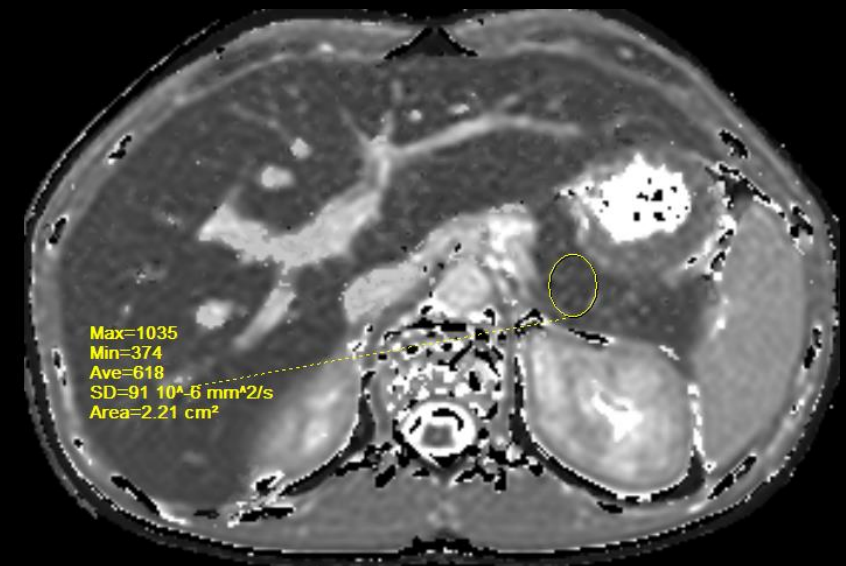
Journal of  
Clinical Medicine



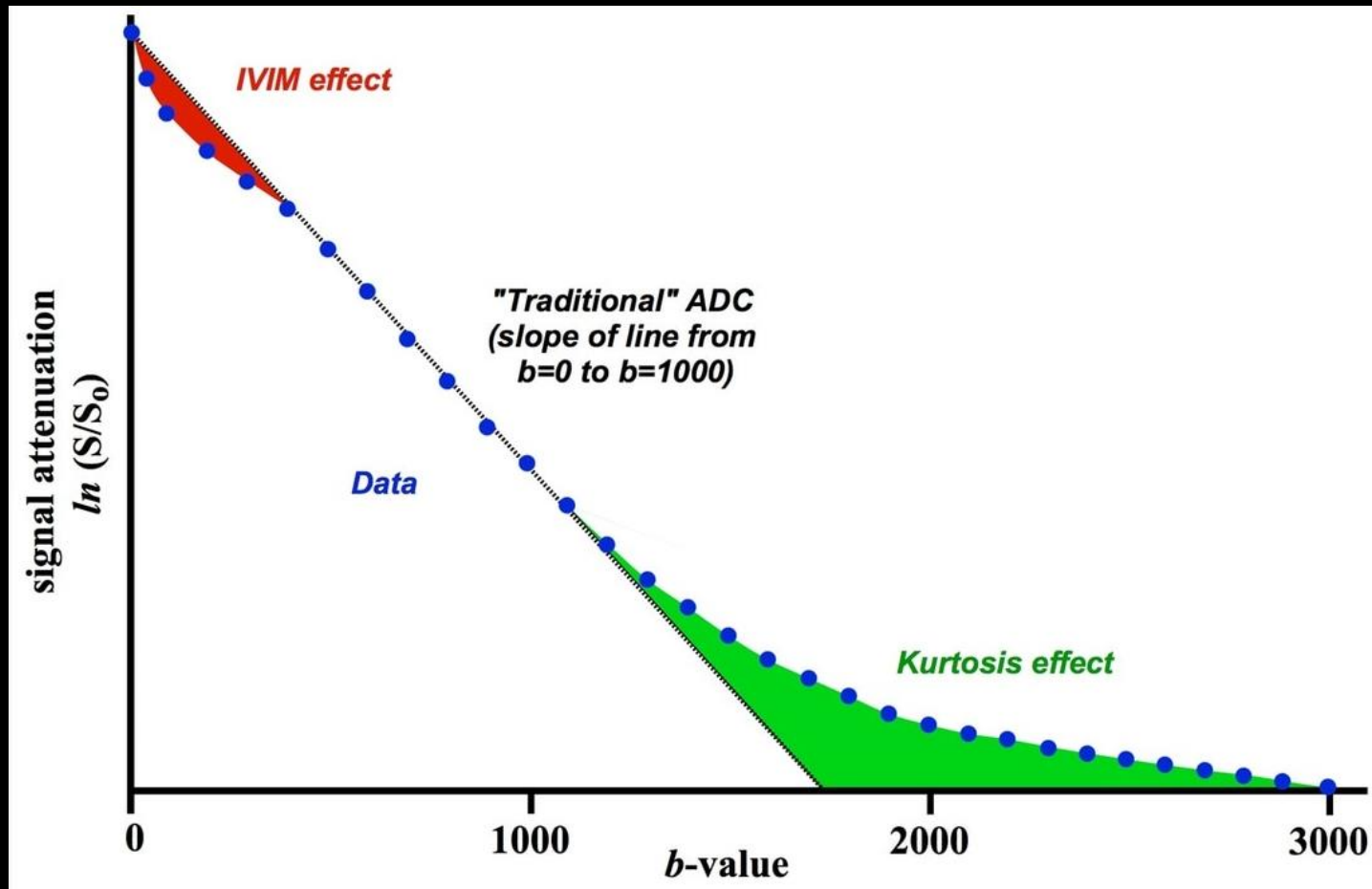
Article

## Correlation of Pancreatic T1 Values Using Modified Look-Locker Inversion Recovery Sequence (MOLLI) with Pancreatic Exocrine and Endocrine Function

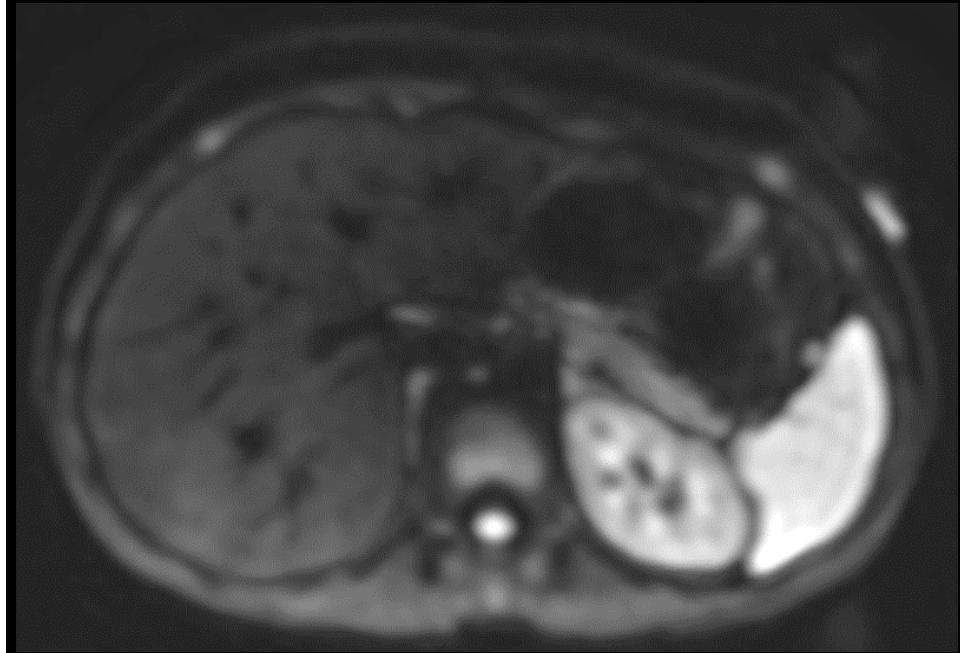
Norihiro Ashihara <sup>1,\*</sup>, Takayuki Watanabe <sup>1</sup>, Satoko Kako <sup>1</sup>, Yasuhiro Kuraishi <sup>1</sup>, Makiko Ozawa <sup>1</sup>, Shohei Shigefuji <sup>2</sup>, Keita Kanai <sup>1</sup>, Yoko Usami <sup>2</sup>, Akira Yamada <sup>3</sup>, Takeji Umemura <sup>1</sup> and Yasunari Fujinaga <sup>3</sup>



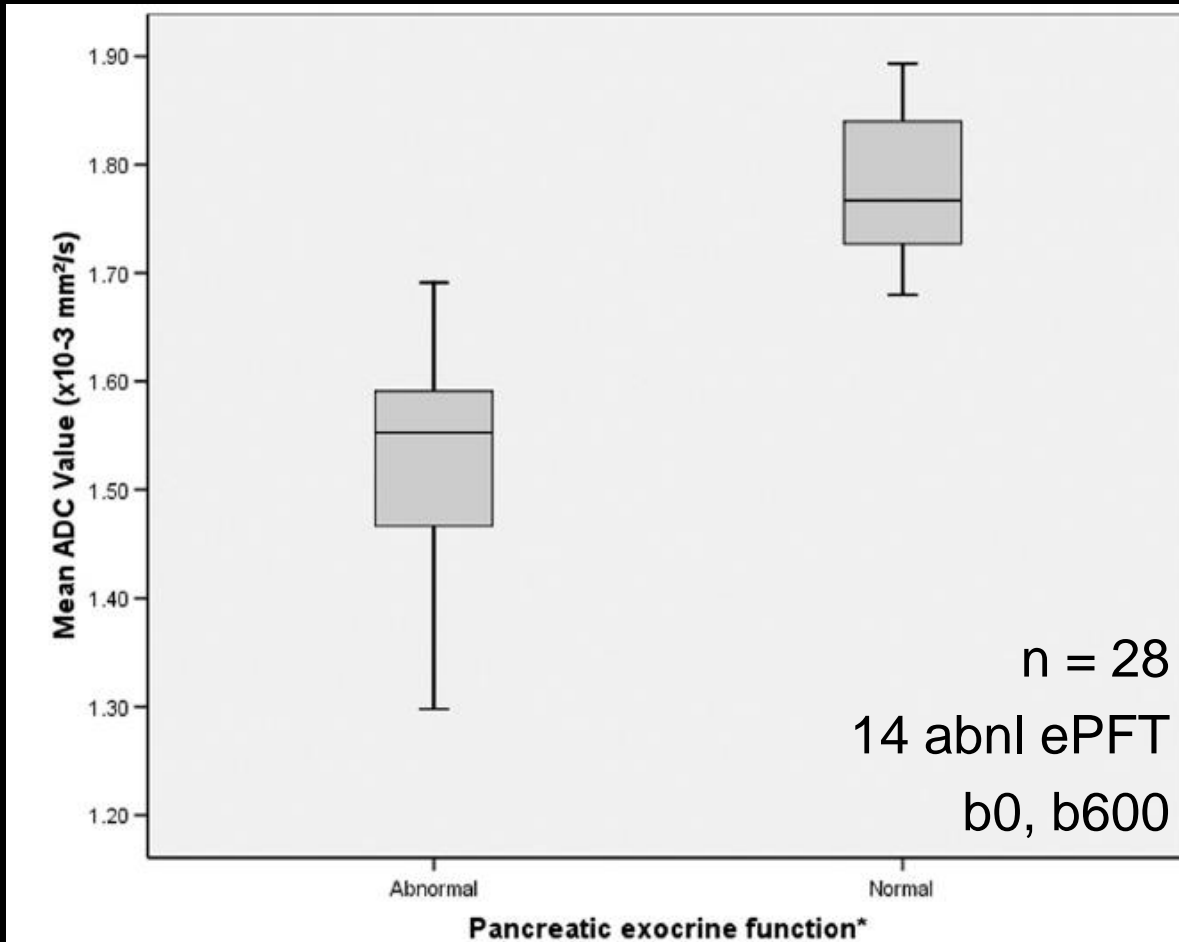
# Parenchymal Quality - Diffusion



<http://mriquestions.com/ivim.html>



# Parenchymal Quality - Diffusion



\* 80 mEq/L is the cut off value for normal pancreatic exocrine function.

**Figure 1.** Correlation between mean apparent diffusion coefficient (ADC) values in groups with normal and abnormal pancreatic exocrine function.

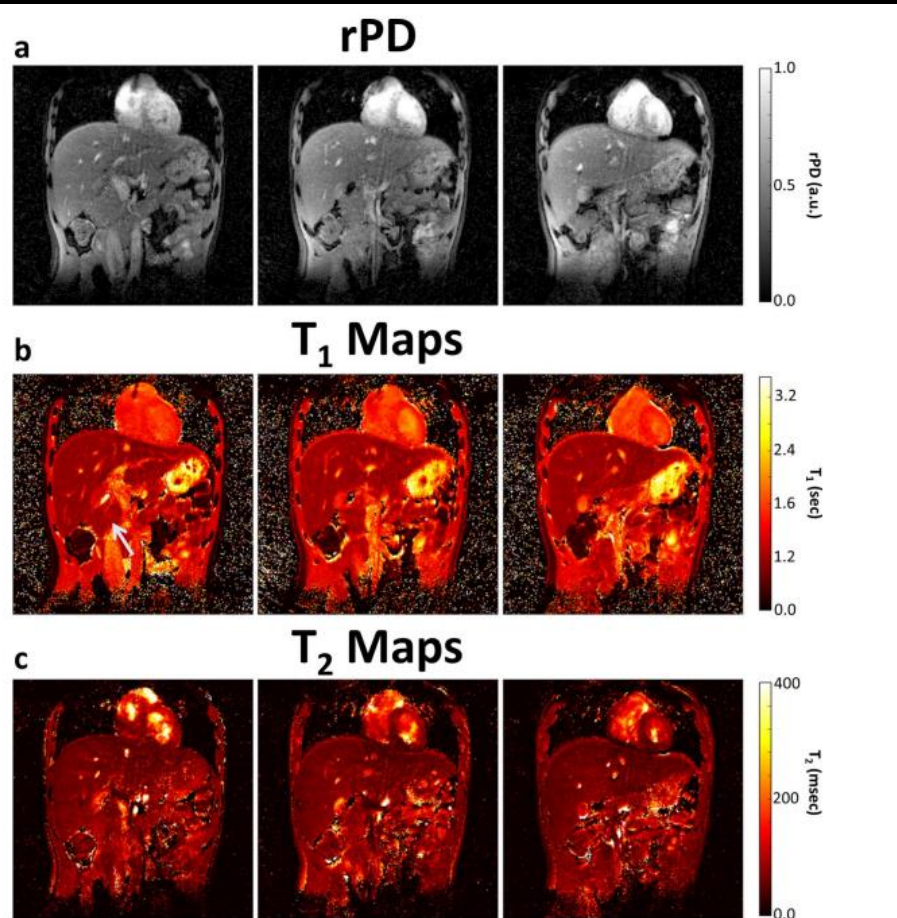
## Diffusion-weighted MRI of the Pancreas: Correlation with Secretin Endoscopic Pancreatic Function Test (ePFT)<sup>1</sup>

N. Cem Balci, MD, Amir Javad Momtahan, MD, E. Isin Akduman, MD, Samer Alkaade, MD, Mehmet Bilgin, MD  
Frank R. Burton, MD





# Parenchymal Quality - Future?



**Figure 3.** MRF-derived maps of (a) relative proton density (rPD), (b)  $T_1$ , and (c)  $T_2$  of three consecutive slices (posterior to anterior) within the abdomen at 1.5 T. These images show the ability of MRF to obtain multiple slices through the abdomen with reasonable anatomical detail and low motion artefact. The pancreas (arrowed) has homogeneous signal throughout in both  $T_1$  and  $T_2$  maps, and is distinguishable due to fat/water boundaries at its periphery.

www.nature.com/scientificreports

**scientific reports**

**OPEN** Magnetic resonance fingerprinting of the pancreas at 1.5 T and 3.0 T

Eva M. Serrao<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Dimitri A. Kessler<sup>1,2</sup>, Bruno Carmo<sup>1,2</sup>, Lucian Beer<sup>1,2</sup>, Kevin M. Brindle<sup>3</sup>, Guido Buonincontri<sup>4</sup>, Ferdia A. Gallagher<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Fiona J. Gilbert<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Edmund Godfrey<sup>1</sup>, Martin J. Graves<sup>1,2</sup>, Mary A. McLean<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Evis Sala<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Rolf F. Schulte<sup>5</sup> & Joshua D. Kaggie<sup>1,2</sup>✉

Check for updates



# Secretory Response

- Trans-abd US
- MRI
- Nuc Med
- EUS



- Secreted fluid volume in bowel



Pre-secretin



Post-secretin





# Secretory Response - US

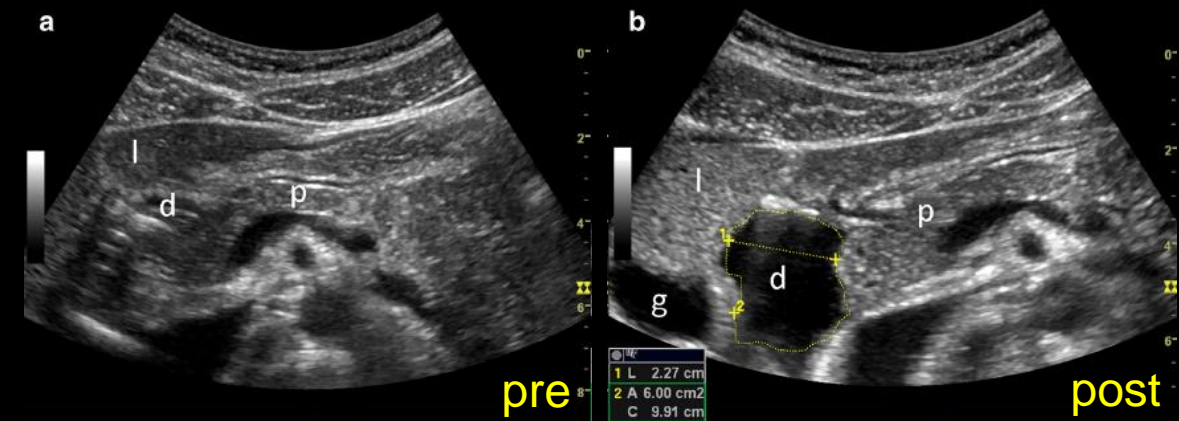
- n = 33 (11 CF suff, 10 CF insuff, 12 HC)
- Moderate correlation between US & ePFT ( $r = 0.63$ )

Eur Radiol (2018) 28:1495–1503  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s00330-017-5115-2>

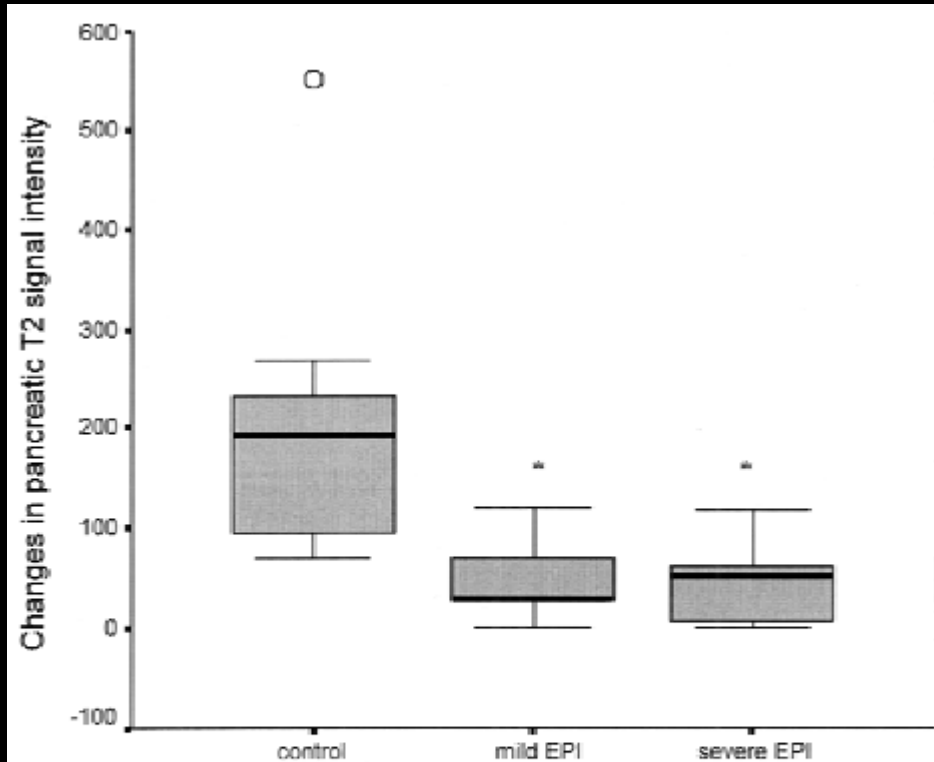
## GASTROINTESTINAL

### Secretin-stimulated ultrasound estimation of pancreatic secretion in cystic fibrosis validated by magnetic resonance imaging

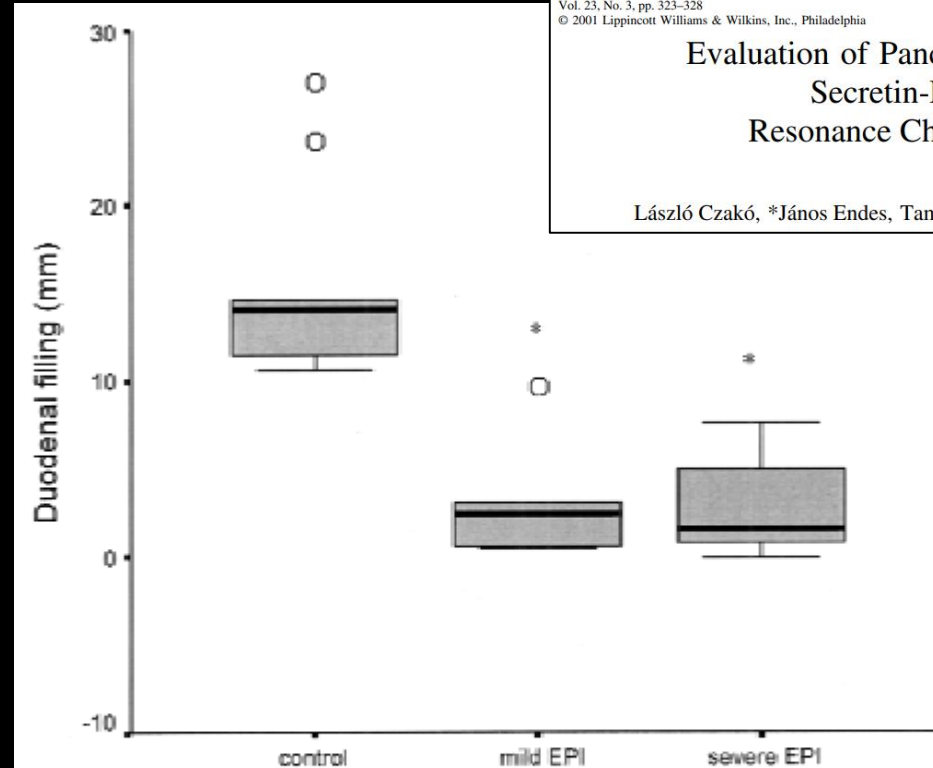
Trond Engjom<sup>1,2</sup> • Erling Tjora<sup>3,4</sup> • Gaute Wathe<sup>5</sup> • Friedemann Erchinger<sup>1,6</sup> • Birger N. Lærum<sup>4</sup> • Odd H. Gilja<sup>1,7</sup> • Ingrid Salvesen Haldorsen<sup>1,5</sup> • Georg Dimcevski<sup>1,2</sup>



# Secretory Response - MRI



**FIG. 3.** Distribution of pancreatic T2 signal intensity changes after the injection of 0.5 IU/kg secretin in control volunteers and in patients with mild or severe exocrine pancreatic insufficiency (EPI). Each box extends between the upper and lower quartile with a central line at the median and whiskers out to the largest and smallest values. \*Significant difference ( $p < 0.05$ ) versus control group.



**FIG. 4.** Distribution of duodenal filling after the injection of 0.5 IU/kg secretin in control volunteers and in patients with mild or severe exocrine pancreatic insufficiency (EPI). Each box extends between the upper and lower quartile with a central line at the median and whiskers out to the largest and smallest values. \*Significant difference ( $p < 0.05$ ) versus control group.

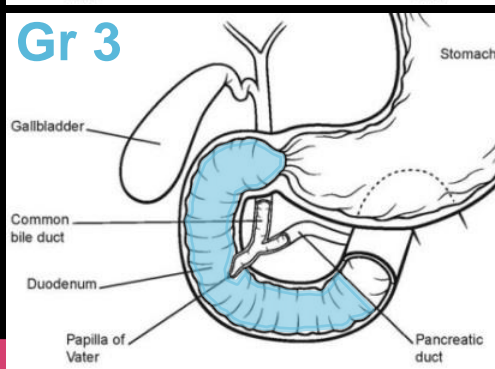
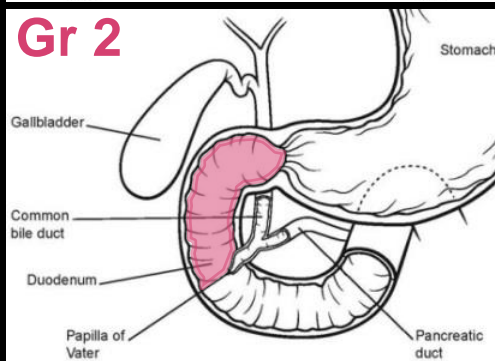
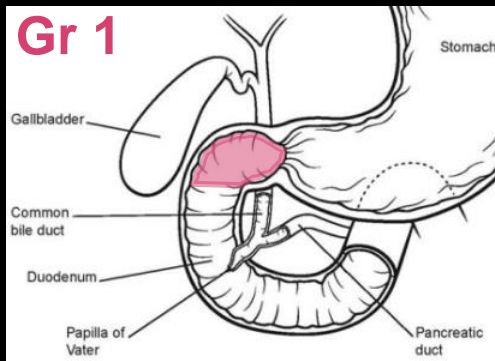
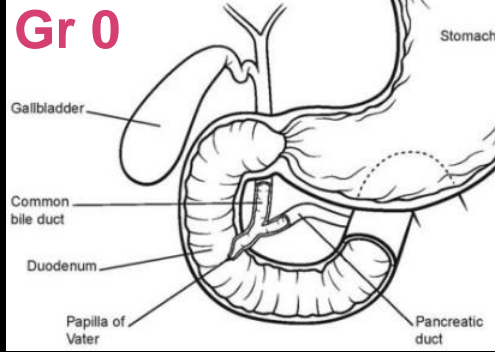
*Pancreas*  
Vol. 23, No. 3, pp. 323-328  
© 2001 Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, Inc., Philadelphia

## Evaluation of Pancreatic Exocrine Function by Secretin-Enhanced Magnetic Resonance Cholangiopancreatography

László Czákó, \*János Endes, Tamás Takács, †Krisztina Boda, and János Lonovics

n = 20 pts  
n = 10 HC





Olivier Cappeliez, MD  
Myriam Delhay, MD  
Jacques Devière, MD  
Olivier Le Moine, MD  
Thierry Metens, PhD  
Nicole Nicaise, MD  
Michel Cremer, MD  
Julien Stryuven, MD  
Celso Matos, MD

# Chronic Pancreatitis: Evaluation of Pancreatic Exocrine Function with MR Pancreatography after Secretin Stimulation<sup>1</sup>

Radiology 2000; 215:358-364

n = 49 pts

n = 28 HC

**TABLE 3**

PPJ Parameters according to Grade of Duodenal Filling

Duodenal Filling Grade	Maximal Secretory Volume (mL/min)	Total Secretory Volume (mL/10 min)	Maximal Bicarbonate Concentration (mEq/L)	Maximal Bicarbonate Output (μEq/min)
1	0.7 ± 0.2*	4.5 ± 1.2*	63.0 ± 5.0*	38.4 ± 15.2*
2	2.6 ± 0.8	21.4 ± 6.9	96.0 ± 4.2	241.5 ± 84.0
3	3.7 ± 0.5	28.7 ± 3.9	105.2 ± 3.8	387.1 ± 71.3

Note.—Data are the mean plus or minus the standard error.

\* Parameter was significantly lower than that in patients with grade 2 or 3 duodenal filling ( $P < .05$ ).



## MRI and S-MRCP Findings in Patients With Suspected Chronic Pancreatitis: Correlation With Endoscopic Pancreatic Function Testing (ePFT)

N. Cem Balci, MD,<sup>1\*</sup> Adam Smith, MD,<sup>1</sup> Amir Javad Momtahn, MD,<sup>1</sup>  
Samer Alkaade, MD,<sup>2</sup> Rana Fattahi, MD,<sup>1</sup> Syed Tariq, MD,<sup>2</sup>  
and Frank Burton, MD<sup>2</sup>

Table 3  
Frequency of Findings on S-MRCP

	Normal Pancreatic Exocrine Function HCO <sub>3</sub> **			Diminished Pan- creatic Exocrine Function HCO <sub>3</sub> **		
Baseline MRCP*						
Cambridge 1	15	62%	112	5	42%	65
Cambridge 2	3	12.60%	108	4	33%	73
Cambridge 3	3	12.60%	113			
Cambridge 4	3	12.60%	115	3	25%	60
Cambridge 5						
Duodenal Filling on S-MRCP						
Grade 1				1	9%	38
Grade 2				11	91%	68
Grade 3	24	100%	112			

\*Cambridge Classification.

\*\*mEq/L.



World Journal of  
Gastroenterology

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BRIEF ARTICLE

## Quantification of pancreatic exocrine function of chronic pancreatitis with secretin-enhanced MRCP

Yun Bian, Li Wang, Chao Chen, Jian-Ping Lu, Jia-Bao Fan, Shi-Yue Chen, Bing-Hui Zhao

Table 2 Results in normal and reduced duodenal filling

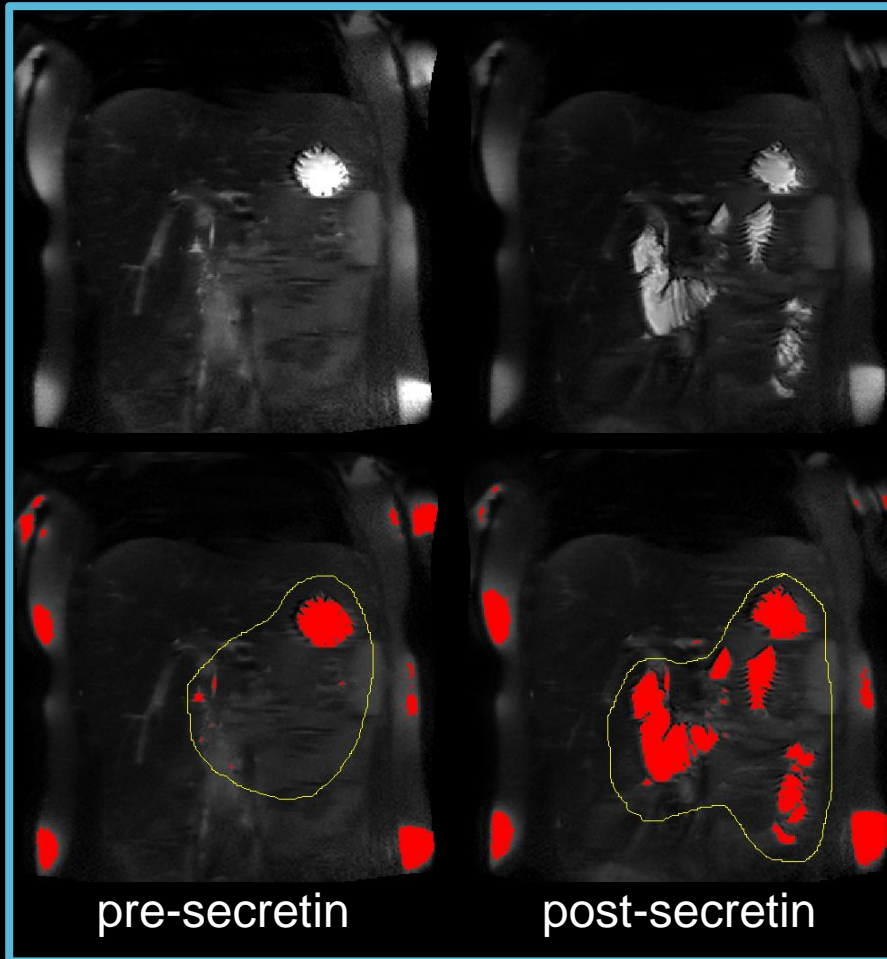
	<i>n</i>	FE-1 (μg/g)	PFR (mL/min)	PT (min)
Normal DF ( grade 3)	40	453.64 ± 162.74	7.16 ± 2.34	7.28 ± 2.56
Reduced DF ( grade 1, 2)	13	285.59 ± 158.03	4.71 ± 1.92	9.61 ± 3.57
<i>P</i> value		0.002	0.001	0.012

FE-1: Fecal elastase-1; PFR: Pancreatic flow output rate; PT: Peak time; DF: Duodenal filling.





# Secretory Response - Volume



## Norms exist

Gastrointestinal Imaging • Original Research

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Philip Messner<sup>1</sup>  
Julia Mayerle<sup>2</sup>  
Gabriele Fluhr<sup>2</sup>  
Henry Völzke<sup>3</sup>  
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Till Ittermann<sup>3</sup>  
Jens-Peter Kühn<sup>1</sup>

**Secretin-Stimulated MRCP  
in Volunteers: Assessment of  
Safety, Duct Visualization, and  
Pancreatic Exocrine Function**

AJR:202, January 2014

Prospective Assessment of Normal Pancreatic  
Secretory Function Measured by MRI in a Cohort  
of Healthy Children

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PANCREAS

## Secretion correlated with size & parenchymal volume



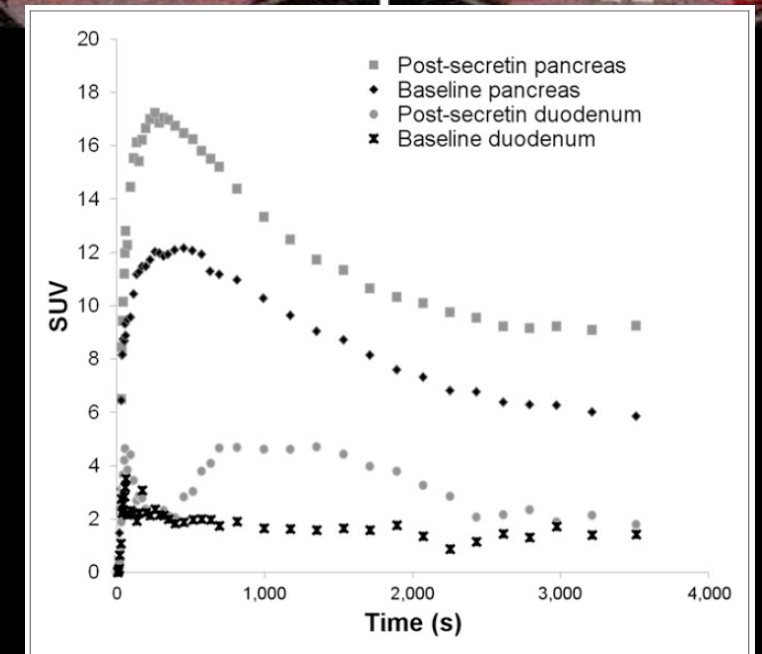
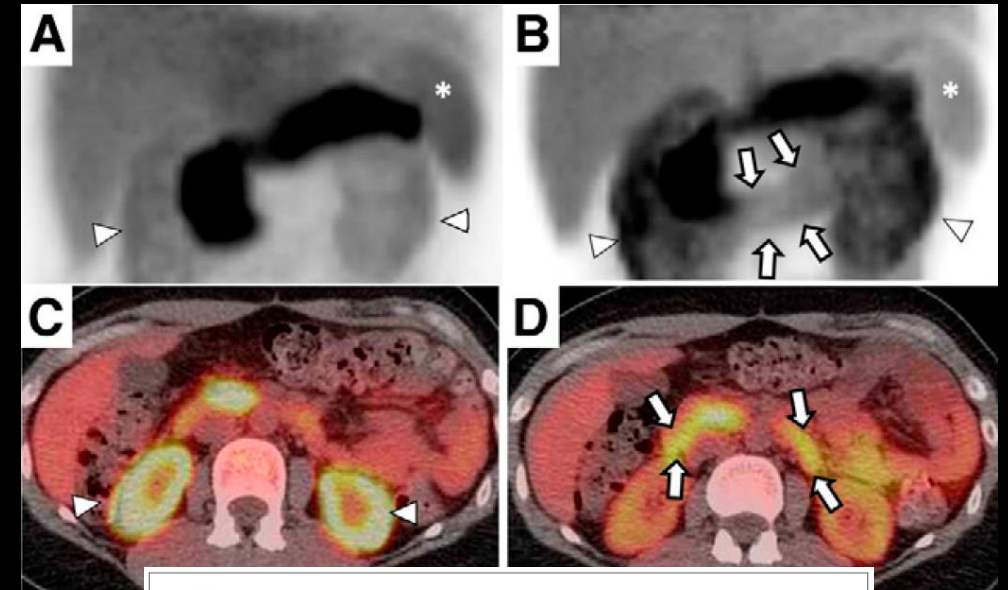
# Secretory Response

## BRIEF COMMUNICATION

### An Exocrine Pancreatic Stress Test with $^{11}\text{C}$ -Acetate PET and Secretin Stimulation

Joo Hyun O<sup>1</sup>, Martin A. Lodge<sup>1</sup>, Sanjay Jagannath<sup>2</sup>, Jonathan M. Buscaglia<sup>3</sup>, Yetunde Olagbemi<sup>1</sup>, and Richard L. Wahl<sup>1</sup>

- Pilot study (n=5)
- C-11 Acetate converted to bicarb
- Post secretin
  - ↑ parenchymal SUV (?perfusion)
  - ↑ duodenal SUV (excretion)



**FIGURE 2.** Time-activity curves: changes in SUV over time derived from dynamic  $^{11}\text{C}$ -acetate PET studies before and after secretin stimulation in healthy volunteer.



# Summary

- Multiple imaging methods / options to understand exocrine function
- Need clarity on reference standard
- Relationships not clean
- Likely will need multiparametric approach
- Lots of work to be done!



# THANK YOU