Radiologic-pathologic validation of transmission ultrasound tomography using microscopy with UV surface excitation

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Visualizing breast anatomy in transmission ultrasound

- Transmission ultrasound tomography is a relatively new modality, now FDA-approved for breast imaging.
- Essentially multimodal imaging: provides both transmission and reflection properties.
- Compares well with breast MR and CT images.

We show that the features delineated by ultrasound tomography identify actual breast tissue type – compared to ground truth.





QT Scanner – transmission and reflection ultrasound





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QT speed of sound and reflection images



3D image volume of speed of sound and reflection



Speed of Sound

Reflection

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Segmented tissue volumes



Whole breast



Skin



Fat



Connective tissue

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Glands



Ducts

Malik et al, Sci Reports 6, 38857 (2016)

Comparative imaging of cadaver breasts



Comparative imaging of cadaver breasts





Microscopy with ultraviolet surface excitation (MUSE)



- Rapid slide-free histology
- Requires minimal tissue prep
- Images resembling those obtained from conventional H&E histology
- Has no impact on downstream molecular assays (e.g. FISH and sequencing)



MUSE of cadaver breast tissue



- Cadaver tissue section divided into four slices to fit the imaging area
- Rhodamine-Hoechst solution for staining
- Immersed in stain for 20 seconds following by rinsing with DI water for 20 seconds.
- Tissue section immediately placed on sapphire plate of the microscope

QT correlation with ground truth using UV microscopy







Histology image generated by UV microscopy

Correlation with ground truth – ducts





QT speed of sound image

Anatomy as identified by MUSE



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Correlation with ground truth – glandular tissue



QT speed of sound image



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Correlation with ground truth – blood vessels



Ground truth for quantitative breast density (QBD) - phantom



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Ground truth for quantitative breast density – breast tissue

QT speed of sound image

Segmented high speed tissue

Segmented fibroglandular tissue



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Quantitative Breast Density – amount of fibroglandular tissue



QT speed of sound image – QBD= 34.7%



MUSE image – equivalent breast density = 37.9%

Quantitative Breast Density agreement using H&E



QT speed of sound image - QBD = 45.1 %

H&E image – equivalent breast density = 42.3 %

However, H&E process requires multiple days. MUSE process requires minutes to hours.

- Full 3D transmission ultrasound has a remarkable ability in identification of breast anatomical structures.
- Multimodality comparison shows that transmission ultrasound tomography can be useful in understanding breast anatomy and physiology.

Next Steps:

• Comparison of volumetric images generated by QT and MUSE

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