

Combined BOLD fMRI and Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation Study: Evaluation of Ipsilateral Motor Pathway of Stroke Patients

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목적 : In this study, we investigated the possible motor pathways of hemiplegic stroke patients using combined TMS and BOLD fMRI approach and evaluated the correlation between TMS and fMRI methods.

대상 및 방법 : Four subjects, who demonstrated left hemiplegia after stroke, are included. TMS was performed using a Dantec Mag2 stimulator (Dantec Company, USA) in single pulse mode with figure eight-shaped coil. Following TMS localization, the BOLD T2*-weighted images were acquired with echo planar imaging sequence (TR = 1.2 sec, TE = 60 msec, and flip angle = 90). Motor activation was studied by means of a repetitive finger flexion-extension task. The stimulation protocol comprised 10 cycles of alternating activation and rest (10 images per cycle). Total 60 cycles were performed and each cycle takes about 1.5 sec. The resulting images were then analyzed with STIMULATE (CMRR, University of Minnesota) to generate functional maps using a student t-test ($p < 0.0005$) and cluster analysis.

결과 : For hemiplegic left finger task, it was found from fMRI that primary motor areas on both right and left hemispheres showed activation. For a hemiplegic left APB muscle, TMS revealed that there were two ipsilateral MEPs on the left hemisphere and one contralateral MEP on the right hemisphere. The TMS results therefore suggest that both contralateral and ipsilateral motor pathways are involved in hemiplegic left hand. Since TMS has been known to have very high functional specificity, our TMS findings strongly support the ipsilateral motor activation of affected left hand found with fMRI. Therefore, our results using TMS and fMRI clearly indicate ipsilateral motor pathway for hemiplegic left hand in addition to contralateral pathway in all patients and a strong correlation between two techniques for brain mapping.

결론 : Combining the anatomical accuracy of fMRI with the functional specificity of TMS will likely constitute a useful brain mapping methodology for more accurate investigation of involved motor pathways in patients of brain injury.