

Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul

Faculdade de Medicina

Programa de Pós-Graduação em Ciências da Saúde: Ginecologia e Obstetrícia

**PERFORMANCE DA RESSONÂNCIA MAGNÉTICA EM PREDIZER DESFECHOS
MATERNOS ADVERSOS EM PACIENTES COM ALTO RISCO PARA ESPECTRO
DA PLACENTA ACRETA: UM ESTUDO TRANSVERSAL**

Cristiano Köhler Silva

Porto Alegre, 2022

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LISTA DE ABREVIATURAS

AP – Acretismo placentário

EPA – Espectro da Placenta Acreta

HCPA – Hospital de Clínica de Porto Alegre

HMV – Hospital Moinhos de Vento

MRI – *Magnetic Resonance Imaging*

OD - *Odds Ratio*

PAS – *Placenta Accreta Spectrum*

PI – Placenta Increta

PP – Placenta Prévia

RM – Ressonância Magnética

US – Ultrassonografia

UTI – Unidade de terapia intensiva

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RESUMO

Introdução: o espectro do acretismo placentário (EPA) é definido como um conjunto de anormalidades caracterizadas por implantação anormal da placenta na parede uterina. Esta condição está associada a um aumento significativo da morbimortalidade materna e fetal e requer um diagnóstico antenatal preciso com manejo multidisciplinar em centros de referência. A ultrassonografia (US) permanece como primeiro método de imagem na avaliação de pacientes com suspeita de acretismo placentário por sua ampla disponibilidade e baixo custo. A ressonância magnética (RM) tem papel crescente como avaliação complementar nos casos duvidosos, além de apresentar melhor performance em delimitar a topografia da invasão placentária e na estimativa do grau de invasão.

Métodos: este estudo retrospectivo avaliou todos os casos com suspeita de EPA avaliadas por RM nos Serviços de Ginecologia e Obstetrícia do Hospital de Clínicas de Porto Alegre (HCPA) e do Hospital Moinhos de Vento (HMV) entre os anos de 2016 e 2020. Foi avaliada a associação de oito achados da RM relacionados a acretismo placentário descritos na literatura com cinco desfechos maternos: realização de histerectomia, necessidade de transfusão sanguínea, necessidade de internação em unidade de terapia intensiva, tempo cirúrgico prolongado e sangramento maciço no parto.

Resultados: dos 60 casos avaliados, foram identificados 46 casos de EPA (76,7%) e 16 diagnósticos de placenta percreta (26,7%). Houve diferença estatisticamente significativa ($p=0,0013$) entre a idade materna do grupo com acretismo ($36,0 \pm 4,3$) e sem acretismo ($32,6 \pm 4,8$). A concordância entre a impressão do radiologista quanto a presença de acretismo e o padrão ouro foi substancial ($0,67$, $p<0,001$) e quase perfeita para a presença de placenta percreta ($0,87$, $p<0,001$). A presença de abaulamento do contorno externo uterino teve forte associação com percretismo, com sensibilidade de 87,5% e especificidade de 90,9%. Os sinais de RM que se associaram a um maior número de desfechos maternos adversos foram o afilamento do miométrio, com *OR* de 20,2 para sangramento maciço (IC 95% = 2,4 - 168,2), 4,0 para realização de histerectomia (IC 95% = 1,4 - 11,7), 4,8 para necessidade de

transfusão sanguínea (IC 95% = 1,2 - 19,4) e de 4,9 para tempo cirúrgico prolongado (IC 95% = 1,1 - 21,8), e o abaulamento do contorno externo do útero, com *odds ratio* de 11,9 para sangramento maciço (IC 95% = 3,0 - 47,6), 34,0 para realização de histerectomia (IC 95% = 4,1 - 282,2), 5,0 para necessidade de internação em UTI (IC 95% = 1,0 - 23,9) e 4,8 para necessidade de transfusão sanguínea (IC 95% = 1,3 - 17,1).

Conclusão: os achados de RM avaliados se correlacionam com acretismo placentário e tiveram associação com desfechos adversos maternos periparto. A presença de abaulamento do contorno externo uterino demonstrou elevada acurácia na predição da presença de placenta percreta.

Palavras-chave: placenta acreta, invasão placentária, imagem da placenta, histerectomia, ressonância magnética.

ABSTRACT

Introduction: Placenta accreta spectrum (PAS) is defined as the abnormal placental adhesion to the uterine wall. This disorder is associated with a significant increase in maternal and fetal morbimortality, requiring accurate antenatal diagnosis and a multidisciplinary approach in specialized centers. Ultrasonography remains as the primary diagnostic modality for antenatal diagnosis, given its low cost and high availability. Placental magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) is emerging as complementary diagnostic tool when ultrasound evaluation is inconclusive, offering better performance predicting the depth and topography of placental invasion.

Methods: This retrospective study included all cases of suspected placental adhesion disorder evaluated at the Gynecology and Obstetrics Services of the Hospital de Clínicas de Porto Alegre and Hospital Moinhos de Vento of Porto Alegre between the years 2016 and 2020. Eight MRI parameters described in the literature were recorded and compared with five maternal outcomes: severe bleeding, cesarean hysterectomy, prolonged operation time, need for blood transfusion and need for intensive care unit (ICU) admission.

Results: Of 60 women evaluated, the study identified 46 cases of PAS disorder (76.7%) and a diagnosis of placenta percreta was made in 16 cases (26.7%). A statistically significant difference in maternal age was detected between groups. The maternal age mean \pm SD in the group with no PAS disorder was 32.6 ± 4.8 , whereas in the group with PAS disorder it was 36.0 ± 4.3 ($p=0.013$). The presence of a placental bulge was highly associated with placenta percreta, with sensitivity of 87.5% and specificity of 90.9%. The MRI signs that associated with more adverse maternal outcomes were myometrial thinning, with significant odds ratio for severe blood loss (20.2, 95% IC = 2,4 - 168,2), need for hysterectomy (4,0, 95% IC 1,4 - 11,7), need for blood transfusion (4,8, 95% IC 1,0 - 23,9) and prolonged surgery time (4,9, 95% IC 1,1 - 21,8), and uterine bulging, with significant odds ratio for severe blood loss (11,9, 95% IC = 3,0 - 47,6), need for hysterectomy (34,0, 95% IC = 4,1 - 282,2), need for ICU stay (5,0, 95% IC = 1,0 - 23,9) and need for blood transfusion (4,8, 95% IC = 1,3 - 17,1).

Conclusion: MRI signs significantly correlated with invasive placenta and were independently associated with adverse maternal peripartum outcomes. The presence of a placental bulge was highly accurate in predicting placenta percreta.

Keywords: placenta accreta, placental invasion, placental imaging, cesarean hysterectomy, magnetic resonance imaging.

INTRODUÇÃO

O espectro do acretismo placentário (EPA) é definido como um conjunto de anormalidades caracterizadas por implantação anormal da placenta na parede uterina, podendo ser subdividido em três tipos, de acordo com o seu grau de invasão: placenta acreta, quando há adesão da placenta ao miométrio sem interposição da decídua basal; placenta increta (PI), quando o tecido placentário penetra o miométrio; e placenta percreta (PP), quando há invasão da serosa uterina, podendo se estender aos órgãos e demais estruturas pélvicas adjacentes (1), conforme ilustrado na Figura 1.

O EPA é uma entidade que carrega alta morbidade materna, constituindo atualmente a principal causa de histerectomia periparto nos países desenvolvidos, superando a atonia uterina. Acarreta aumento do risco de hemorragia, coagulopatia disseminada, insuficiência renal aguda, e disfunção respiratória aguda (2). A necessidade de transfusão de hemocomponentes é de 82% em placentas percretas e incretas e 71% nos casos de placenta acreta, sendo necessário histerectomia em 89% dos casos. (3).

O manejado otimizado do EPA requer tanto um diagnóstico antenatal preciso quanto uma robusta estratégia de manejo perinatal, visto que as complicações relacionadas ao acretismo diminuem de forma significativa com o diagnóstico prévio à interrupção e com interrupções realizadas em centros de referência com equipe multidisciplinar com experiência no manejo da patologia (4).

A avaliação por imagem do EPA é inicialmente feito pela US, sendo a RM realizada de forma complementar em casos específicos. O momento ideal para a avaliação ecográfica ocorre entre 18 e 24 semanas de gestação, enquanto a avaliação através de ressonância magnética (RM) deve ser realizada preferencialmente entre 28 e 32 semanas, com risco de significativa redução da acurácia do método caso seja realizado fora desse período (5). A US é um método acessível, com sensibilidade e especificidade adequadas, sendo que a suspeição clínica tem impacto importante na acurácia do método (6,7).

Embora a associação do percretismo placentário com maior morbidade materna e com maiores taxas de histerectomia periparto em relação ao acretismo seja bem estabelecida, a correlação de achados de imagem em RM de placenta com desfechos clínicos e cirúrgicos foi pouco estudada (8). Outros desafios ao método são a heterogeneidade da nomenclatura utilizada, a baixa concordância interobservador de vários dos sinais descritos na literatura e a natureza retrospectiva da maioria dos estudos (5).

Estudo prospectivo envolvendo 100 pacientes com placenta prévia avaliadas por ressonância magnética estudou a associação de quinze sinais de RM com desfechos maternos e fetais. Nesse estudo, os sinais de bandas hipointensas em T2, afilamento miometrial, abaulamento do contorno uterino e vasos anômalos retroplacentários demonstraram associação estatisticamente significativa com desfechos adversos maternos e fetais (9).

Outro estudo recente (10) evidenciou diversos achados que se correlacionaram independentemente com maior taxa de histerectomia intraparto: placenta prévia, acometimento da interface entre a serosa uterina e bexiga, bandas hipointensas em T2, heterogeneidade do sinal placentário, impressão de invasão pelo radiologista, abaulamento do contorno uterino e maior medida de invasão mensurável.

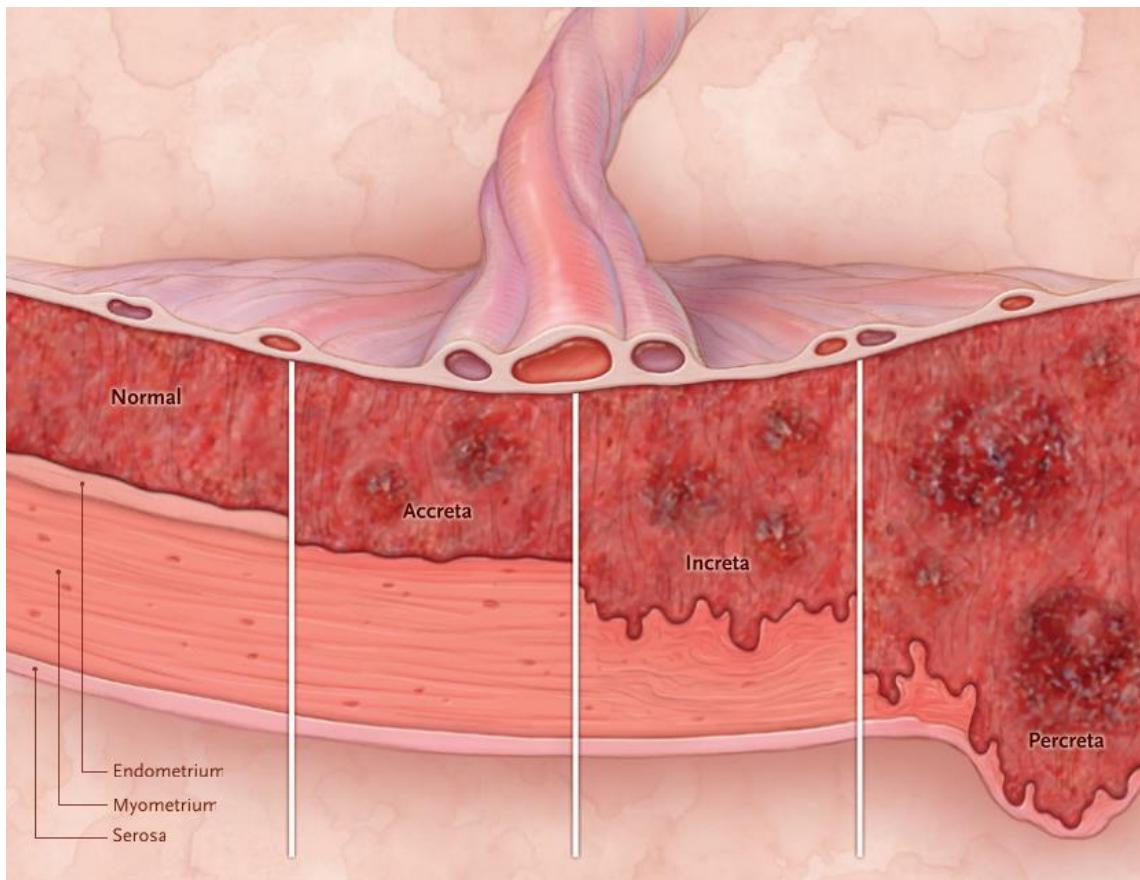


Figura 1. Placenta Acreta, Increta e Percreta - Adaptado de SILVER (2018)

REVISÃO DA LITERATURA

1. ESTRATÉGIAS PARA LOCALIZAR E SELECIONAR AS INFORMAÇÕES

A revisão da literatura foi realizada nas bases de dados Pubmed, EMBASE, LILACS, Web of Science e Cochrane, do período de 1992 a 2022, utilizando-se os seguintes descritores:

- 1) *Placenta accreta* e seus correlatos: *abnormally invasive placenta*, *morbidly adherent placenta*, *placenta increta*, *placenta percreta*;
- 2) *magnetic resonance imaging*;
- 3) *maternal outcomes* e seus correlato *maternal adverse events*
- 4) *hemorrhage* e seus correlatos: *bleeding*, *massive bleeding*;
- 5) *hysterectomy* e seu correlato *cesarean hysterectomy*;
- 6) *blood transfusion*;
- 7) *Intensive care unit*;
- 8) *Surgery time* e seus correlatos: *prolonged surgery time*, *operative time*, *surgical time*.

Os resultados foram analisados inicialmente pelos títulos, em seguida pela análise dos resumos e posteriormente pela leitura completa dos artigos. Adicionalmente, foi realizada análise das referências utilizadas nos artigos selecionados na primeira busca, totalizando 36 artigos utilizados neste trabalho. A Tabela 1 sumariza a estratégia de busca das referências bibliográficas sobre as bases que fundamentam os objetivos do estudo.

Palavras-chave	PubMed	EMBASE	LILACS	Web of Science	Cochrane
"placenta accreta" and "magnetic resonance imaging" and "hemorrhage"	135	329	11	103	-
placenta accreta and "magnetic resonance imaging" and "hysterectomy"	167	324	19	125	-
placenta accreta and "magnetic resonance imaging" and "operative time"	5	23	-	4	-
placenta accreta and "magnetic resonance imaging" and "blood transfusion"	22	80	3	6	-
placenta accreta and "magnetic resonance imaging" and "intensive care unit"	8	67	-	7	-

Tabela 1. Estratégia de busca de referências bibliográficas.

2. MAPA CONCEITUAL



Figura 2. Mapa conceitual esquemático.

3. ESPECTRO DA PLACENTA ACRETA

3.1 Aspectos gerais (Epidemiologia, fisiopatologia e fatores de risco)

O EPA é uma patologia relativamente recente, sendo descrita pela primeira vez em 1937, com aumento progressivo de sua incidência nas últimas décadas, fato atribuído a elevação das taxas de cesarianas, que ao longo do último século passou de um procedimento de urgência e com alta mortalidade para uma cirurgia segura e eletiva (11). O aumento na incidência de EPA nos últimos anos é mais pronunciado nos países desenvolvidos; passou, nos Estados Unidos, de 1 caso a cada 4.027 nascimentos na década de 1970 para 1 caso a cada 533 nascimentos na década de 2000 (12).

Embora os fatores de risco do EPA sejam bem estabelecidos, os mecanismos subjacentes a implantação placentária anormal são bem menos conhecidos. Patologicamente, o acretismo placentário é definido como a aposição direta entre tecido placentário e o miométrio, sem interposição da decídua basal (13). A hipótese mais aceita é a de que um defeito na interface entre o endométrio e o miométrio no local de uma cicatriz uterina levaria a uma falha focal na decidualização, permitindo uma infiltração trofoblástica mais profunda que o habitual, embora essa hipótese não explique os casos de acretismo em pacientes nulíparas e sem histórico de instrumentação uterina (14).

O principal fator de risco para EPA é a cesariana prévia, risco que aumenta progressivamente conforme o número de cesarianas realizadas. A presença de PP é outro fator de risco independente para EPA, sendo de 3% em pacientes sem cesariana prévia. No entanto, a coexistência de PP e cesariana prévia aumenta dramaticamente o risco de EPA, sendo de até 67% para pacientes com PP e cinco cesarianas prévias. Há outros fatores associados ao desenvolvimento de EPA, como a história prévia de cirurgia uterina, curetagem, miomectomia, endometrite, idade materna avançada e multiparidade, sendo que esses fatores de risco são mais relevantes nos

países em desenvolvimento, que apresentam menores taxas de cesarianas (15).

3.2 Manejo do espectro da placenta acreta

Há diversos estudos que demonstram melhores resultados quando o manejo do casos de EPA é realizado em centro de excêlencia e por equipe multidisciplinar experiente (16, 17), embora o consenso quanto a definição de centro de excelência e do número mínimo de pacientes tratadas ainda esteja em formação. Segundo o manual da FEBRASGO sobre acretismo placentário (18), a equipe multidisciplinar deve ser composta por:

- a. Médico obstetra experiente em medicina materno-fetal;
- b. Especialistas (ultrassonografistas, radiologistas) em exames de imagem (ultrassom com Doppler e tridimensional, ressonância magnética);
- c. Cirurgião pélvico (oncologia ginecológica ou uroginecologia);
- d. Anestesiologista;
- e. Urologista;
- f. Cirurgião geral ou do trauma;
- g. Radiologista intervencionista;
- h. Neonatologista;

O momento do parto é individualizado conforme o contexto clínico de cada paciente, sendo que em casos de pacientes estáveis, sem histórico de parto pré-termo, sangramento vaginal ou ruptura prematura de membranas, o parto pode ser realizado após 36 semanas de idade gestacional, reduzindo a morbidade neonatal (4).

A conduta nos casos de EPA costuma ser a histerectomia com placenta *in situ*, pois a remoção indevida da placenta poderá levar a volumosa hemorragia e coagulopatia (19). O manejo conservador, que consiste na remoção da placenta sem realização de histerectomia, pode ser tentada nos casos em que se deseja preservar fertilidade, com maiores taxas de sucessos nos casos de acretismo focal e de placentas posteriores ou fúndicas (1, 4, 18).

A inserção de balão intravascular nas artérias ilíacas internas e/ou embolização das artérias uterinas, realizados por radiologista intervencionista,

podem ser utilizadas para reduzir o sangramento perioperatório, embora sejam necessários estudos maiores para demonstrar a eficácia e segurança desses procedimentos (20).

Quanto aos desfechos de longo prazo do manejo conservador da EPA, estudo retrospectivo de Senthil et al. (21) relatou que 89% das mulheres que expressaram desejo de nova gestação tiveram sucesso, sendo observado algum grau de acretismo em 29% dessas gestações.

3.3 Avaliação por imagem do espectro da placenta acreta

Gestantes com cirurgia uterina prévia e implantação anterior baixa da placenta devem realizar US entre 18 e 24 semanas de gestação. A US é geralmente empregada como primeiro método de imagem na avaliação de pacientes com suspeita de acretismo placentário por sua ampla disponibilidade e baixo custo, e diversos estudos demonstram elevada acurácia do método, com performance comparável a RM no diagnóstico de acretismo placentário, tendo sensibilidade de 82,4% a 100% e especificidade de 71% a 100% (22, 23). No entanto, a US demonstra acurácia reduzida nos casos de pacientes obesas ou com implantação posterior da placenta (24).

O uso do estudo Doppler tem papel fundamental no diagnóstico, pois evidencia as áreas de hipervascularização. Os principais achados ecográficos são descritos abaixo (25, 26):

- Presença de múltiplos lagos placentários: correspondem a uma dilatação de vasos intraplacentários, apresentando fluxo turbulento no seu interior ao estudo Doppler (Figura 2);
- Hipervascularização e irregularidades da parede vesical: interrupção da linha ecogênica na interface entre a bexiga e a serosa uterina, com aumento da vascularização ao estudo Doppler (Figura 3);
- Diminuição da espessura do miométrio: caracterizada por espessura miometrial inferior a 1 mm, medida anteriormente entre a linha ecogênica da serosa e os vasos retroplacentários;
- Obliteração do espaço retroplacentário: representa o apagamento da linha anecóica que representa a decídua basal, achado que é

frequentemente observado também em gestantes sem acretismo placentário.



Figura 3. Lagos placentários - Adaptado de FADL (2017)

A RM permite planejamento cirúrgico adicional nos casos em que a ultrassonografia demonstra placentação invasiva, ao apresentar melhor performance tanto em delimitar a topografia da invasão placentária (27), como na estimativa do grau de invasão, levando a sua reclassificação em até 30% dos casos em comparação ao estimado por US, demonstrando alta especificidade no diagnóstico da extensão da invasão para a bexiga e paramétrios (28).

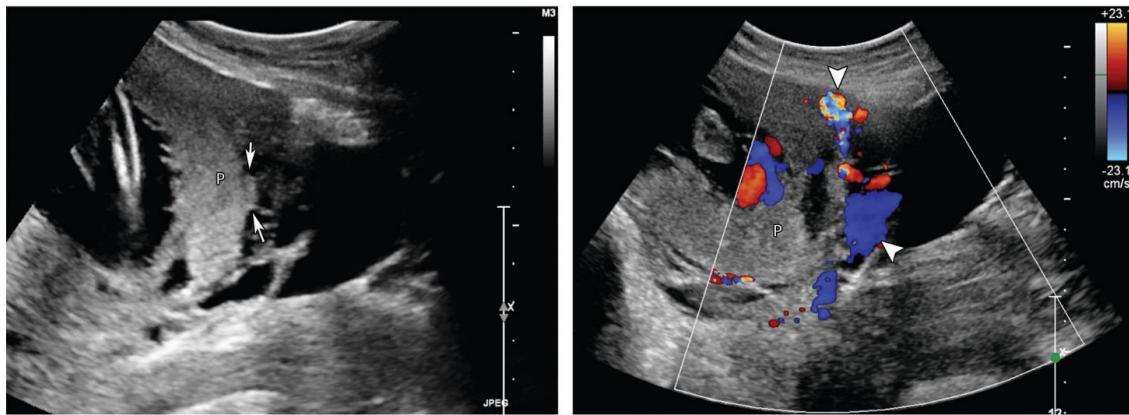


Figura 4. Interrupção da interface entre a serosa uterina e parede vesical com aumento de fluxo ao estudo Doppler colorido - Adaptado de FADL (2017)

Diversos achados de ressonância magnética associados a acretismo placentário já foram descritos (26, 29, 30), sendo os achados descritos abaixo os que mais consistentemente atingiram a linha de significância estatística, embora alguns desses achados apresentem baixa concordância interobservador (31, 32, 33):

- Placenta heterogênea: resulta da associação dos achados de hemorragias intraplacentárias, das bandas hipointensas e dos *flow voids* causados pela vasculatura intraplacentária anômala. Esse achado é inespecífico, e tende a ser observado em gestações normais após 32 semanas;
- Bandas hipointensas em T2: definidas como uma ou mais áreas de hipossinal em sequências ponderadas em T2, que frequentemente apresentam contato com a face materna da placenta (Figura 4);
- Vasos anômalos intraplacentários: consiste em vasos placentários tortuosos, desorganizados e dilatados, com calibre superior a 0,6 cm, geralmente localizados próximos às bandas hipointensas acima descritas;
- Perda da banda de hipossinal em T2 retroplacentária: é a perda da fina linha com hipossinal em T2 habitualmente observada na interface útero-placentária.
- Afilamento do miométrio: redução da espessura do miométrio que recobre o leito placentário, com espessura inferior a 0,1 cm;

- Abaulamento do contorno externo uterino: distorção focal do contorno uterino, habitualmente liso, por protuberância placentária (Figura 5);
- Vasos anômalos retroplacentários: vasos dilatados ao longo do contorno subplacentário, eventualmente associado a neovascularização de estruturas adjacentes.
- Irregularidade dos contornos placentários: a presença de irregularidade dos contornos e arredondamento das margens placentárias são características associadas a acretismo placentário.



Figura 5 - Bandas hipointensas em T2 - Adaptado de BROWN (2020)

Apesar da elevada acurácia da RM no diagnóstico de acretismo placentário, a estimativa do grau de invasão permanece um desafio, especialmente quanto a diferenciação entre placenta acreta e increta. A baixa correlação entre a maior parte dos achados descritos e a severidade do EPA é um limitador para o desenvolvimento de um escore padronizado que possa predizer o grau de invasão (34).

Da mesma forma que a US, o valor diagnóstico da RM depende da experiência do avaliador, observando-se diferenças estatisticamente significativas entre avaliadores experientes e não experientes tanto na variabilidade interobservador ao se avaliar os achados individuais de RM

associados a invasão placentária, como na sensibilidade e especificidade na detecção de percretismo (35).

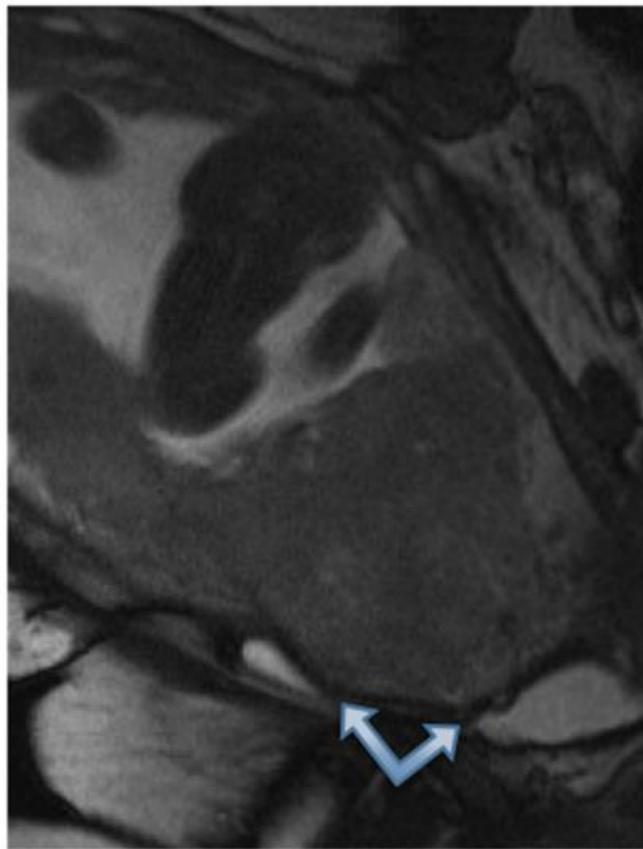


Figura 6 - Abaulamento do contorno externo uterino - Adaptado de RAHAIM (2015)

Conforme consenso conjunto recente da *Society of Abdominal Radiology* - SAR e da *European Society of Urogenital Radiology* - ESUR (5), o exame pode ser realizado em aparelhos com magneto de 1,5T ou de 3,0T, idealmente entre 28 e 32 semanas, e deve incluir sequências 2D T2 FSE/SSFSE/HASTE, sem saturação de gordura. As sequências são adquiridas nos planos coronal, sagital e axial, alinhados ao longo da interface uteroplacentária, com espessura de corte de 4 mm ou menos.

Diversos outros fatores podem afetar a qualidade da RM na avaliação do EPA, como o peristaltismo materno, os movimentos fetais e a dificuldade da gestante em manter apneia no terceiro trimestre da gestação (36), gerando artefatos que degradam a qualidade da imagem. Alguns achados de RM associados EPA, como o afilamento focal do miométrio, devem ser avaliados com cautela em gestações avançadas, pois o progressivo afilamento fisiológico do miométrio com o avançar da gestação pode levar a falsos positivos. Neste

sentido, o uso de meio de contraste paramagnético (gadolínio) demonstrou vantagens na delimitação da interface materno-placentária, porém os riscos potenciais para a saúde fetal limitam seu uso na gestação (25).

JUSTIFICATIVA

O EPA é um espectro de alterações com incidência crescente e alto potencial de morbimortalidade. Os dados serão úteis no planejamento e tratamento de novos casos. A correlação entre os achados de ressonância magnética com os desfechos maternos é fundamental para aprimorar a experiência da equipe. Estudos mostram elevada concordância inter-observador no diagnóstico final de acréscimo entre os métodos de imagem (ultrassom e ressonância magnética), porém mostram concordância moderada a baixa na avaliação de cada critério diagnóstico, sendo necessário identificar quais são os achados de imagem mais relevantes que sinalizem o pior desfecho da doença. Poucos trabalhos avaliaram a correlação dos achados de imagem com desfechos maternos periparto.

HIPÓTESES

Hipótese Nula

Não há achados de ressonância magnética independentemente associados a desfechos maternos perinatais adversos.

Hipótese Alternativa

Achados de ressonância magnética estão independentemente associados a desfechos maternos perinatais adversos.

OBJETIVOS

Objetivo Primário

Determinar a correlação dos achados de ressonância magnética em gestantes com suspeita de EPA com desfechos adversos maternos no parto.

Objetivos Secundários

1. Avaliar o perfil demográfico das pacientes com e sem diagnóstico de EPA;
2. Verificar a associação dos achados individuais de RM com EPA;
3. Avaliar a performance diagnóstica da RM de placenta em pacientes com alta suspeição para EPA
4. Avaliar a associação de EPA com os desfechos maternos estudados
5. Avaliar o número de histerectomias realizadas.

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Performance of Magnetic Resonance Imaging to Predict Maternal Outcomes in Patients at High Risk for Placenta Accreta Spectrum Disorder

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ABSTRACT

OBJECTIVE: The purpose of this study is to evaluate the diagnostic performance of Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) parameters to predict adverse maternal peripartum outcomes in pregnant women at high-risk for placenta accreta spectrum disorder.

MATERIALS AND METHODS: This retrospective study evaluated sixty second and third trimester pregnant women who underwent MRI for placental assessment. MRI studies were reviewed by a radiologist who was blinded to all clinical data. MRI parameters were recorded and compared with five maternal outcomes: severe bleeding, cesarean hysterectomy, prolonged operation time, need for blood transfusion and need for intensive care unit (ICU) admission. The MRI findings were associated with pathologic and/or intraoperative findings for Placenta Accreta Spectrum (PAS).

RESULTS: Of 60 women evaluated, the study identified 46 cases of PAS disorder (76.7%) and a diagnosis of placenta percreta was made in 16 cases (26.7%). The maternal age (mean, \pm SD) in the group with PAS disorder it was 36.0 ± 4.3 years. The agreement between the radiologist impression of PAS disorder and the intraoperative/histological findings was substantial (0.67 , $p<0.001$), and almost perfect for the presence of placenta percreta (0.87 , $p<0.001$). The presence of a placental bulge was highly associated with placenta percreta, with sensitivity of 87.5% and specificity of 90.9%. The MRI signs that associated with more adverse maternal outcomes were myometrial thinning, with significant odds ratio for severe blood loss (20.2), need for hysterectomy (4.0), need for blood transfusion (4.8) and prolonged surgery time (4.9),

and uterine bulging, with significant odds ratio for severe blood loss (11.9), need for hysterectomy (34.0), need for ICU stay (5.0) and need for blood transfusion (4.8).

CONCLUSION: MRI signs significantly correlated with invasive placenta and were independently associated with adverse maternal peripartum outcomes. The presence of a placental bulge was highly accurate in predicting placenta percreta. Placental MRI features may predict peripartum outcomes in patients at high-risk for PAS disorder.

Keywords: Magnetic resonance imaging, placenta accreta spectrum, maternal outcomes

Abbreviations

DWI Diffusion-weighted imaging

ESUR European Society of Urogenital Radiology

FIGO International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics

ICU Intensive Care Unit

MRI Magnetic resonance imaging

NPV Negative predictive value

PPV Positive predictive value

RCOG Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists

SAR Society of Abdominal Radiology

SSTSE Single-shot turbo spin echo

True FISP true fast imaging with steady-state precession

T2W T2 Weighted

US Ultrasound

Introduction

Placenta accreta spectrum (PAS) is defined as the abnormal placental adhesion to the uterine wall, being classified according to the degree of invasiveness as: placenta accreta, when it adheres to the myometrium without interposing decidua; placenta increta, when placental tissue invades the myometrium; and placenta percreta when it penetrates through the uterine serosa, possibly invading adjacent organs.¹⁻⁵

PAS is a relatively new pathology, described by the first time in 1937, with a progressive increase in its incidence in recent decades, a fact attributed to the increase in cesarean section rates, a procedure that has transitioned from urgent and highly lethal to

a safe and elective surgery.³ The incidence of PAS in the last years has increased more sharply in developed countries; in the United States of America it has risen from 1 case per 4.027 births in the 1970s to 1 case per 533 births in the 2000s.⁴⁻⁵

PAS is associated with significant morbidity and mortality and has replaced uterine atony as the leading indication for cesarean hysterectomy in developed countries. It carries increased risk of massive peripartum bleeding and related complications such as hypovolemic shock, consumptive coagulopathy, multiorgan failure and even death.⁵⁻⁶ The reported blood transfusion rate is 82% in placenta percreta and increta and 71% in cases of placenta accreta, with the need of cesarean hysterectomy in up to 89% of the patients with PAS disorder.⁷

This disorder requires accurate antenatal diagnosis and a multidisciplinary approach in specialized centers.⁸ Ultrasonography remains as the primary diagnostic modality for antenatal diagnosis, given its low cost and high availability. Placental Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) is emerging as complementary diagnostic tool when ultrasound evaluation is inconclusive, especially in cases of posterior placenta and in obese patients.⁹⁻¹¹ MRI also offers better performance predicting the depth and topography of placental invasion, allowing better treatment planning.¹¹⁻¹²

It must be noted, however, that the accuracy of placental MRI depends on the levels of experience of the radiologists¹³, a conclusion supported by a recent study from our practice, showing that specific experience in placental MRI significantly improved diagnostic performance¹⁴.

In this study, we retrospectively investigate the association between MRI parameters of placental invasion and adverse events in pregnant women at high risk for PAS disorders, aiming to identify the signs that most commonly predict those outcomes, and also to facilitate the creation of a standardized template for MRI reports.

Materials and Methods

Study Population

The study is designed as a retrospective, bicenter observational study of sixty eight women who consecutively underwent MRI for placental evaluation between 2016 and 2020 in a public university hospital and a private hospital, both tertiary centers with specialized care for high-risk pregnancies. Ethical approval was obtained from Research Ethics Committee at HCPA and HMV (CAAE 19927919.0.0000.5327 and

36987320.6.0000.5330, respectively) and written confidentiality agreement was obtained from all researchers involved.

The main indication for MRI in our study population was the presence of placenta previa or the presence of equivocal imaging findings in sonographic examination. Eight patients were not included in the analysis due to lack of adequate surgical description or histopathological study.

MRI protocol

MRI scans were performed using a 1.5-T unit (Magnetom Aera, Siemens Healthcare, Erlangen, Germany or Philips Achieva, Philips Healthcare, Best, The Netherlands). All patients were instructed to have a partially filled bladder before entering the scanning room. No IV contrast medium was administered.

The MRI protocols were similar in both centers and all patients were evaluated with pelvic phased-array coil. The image MRI protocol included axial, sagittal and coronal planes 2D T2-weighted single-shot turbo spin echo (T2W - SSTSE) images and true fast imaging with steady-state precession (True – FISP) along the axial, sagittal and coronal planes of the uterus. T1-weighted (T1W) TSE sequence with fat suppression of the entire uterus was obtained in the axial plane. When placenta previa was detected, additional high-resolution axial and sagittal T2W nonfat-suppressed sequences were performed with a smaller field of view to better evaluate the interface between the bladder and uterus. Axial Diffusion-weighted imaging (DWI) of the entire placenta was performed. The images were acquired at slice thickness of 3 or 4 mm.

Image interpretation

All MRI scans were stored in a DICOM viewer and were anonymized. The studies were evaluated by a radiologist with 8 years of experience in abdominopelvic imaging, including placental MRI.. The examiner was blinded to all clinical data of the patients, including patient's age and gestational age, as well as any ultrasound diagnosis, surgical and histopathological findings. The radiologist recorded the presence or absence of each the following imaging findings associated with PAS disorder, described in the published literature: ¹²⁻²²

Heterogeneous placenta - refers to overall disorder and inhomogeneity of placental tissue due to fibrin deposition, intraplacental hemorrhage and abnormal vascularity.

Irregular contours and rounded edges - rounded placental edges and irregular or lobulated placental contours along the placental-uterine interface are suggestive features of PAS disorders.

Low attenuation T2 bands – also described as fibrin deposition, consists of one or more tortuous lines of low T2 signal intensity, thicker than normal placental septa and crossing the perpendicular axis of the placenta, that remains hypointense on steady-state free precession images. (Figure 1)

Intraplacental hypervascularity - dilated ($> 0,6$ mm) and tortuous flow-voids in T2 weighted sequences with high signal intensity on steady-state free precession sequences. (Figure 1B)

Abnormal vascularization of the placental bed - engorged vessels following the retroplacental contour, sometimes seen in conjunction with neovascularization in the adjacent organs.

Retroplacental myometrial line disruption - loss of the T2 hypointense linear interface between the placental bed and underlying myometrium. (Figure 2)

Myometrial thinning - focal thinning of the myometrium under the placental bed to less than 1 mm or even becoming imperceptible. (Figure 3)

Uterine bulging - is defined by an abnormal outward bulge of placental tissue, most likely resulting from placental tethering which hinders the normal migration of placenta during pregnancy, and is associated with deeper myometrial invasion. (Figure 4)

The examiner also recorded a final conclusion as to whether PSA disorder was present or absent and also regarding the presence or absence of placenta percreta in each case.

Additional placental features were also analyzed, including the presence of placenta previa (when the placental tissue covered either partially or completely the internal cervical os) and intraplacental hemorrhage (evidenced by foci of hyperintense T1 signal inside the placental tissue).

Standard of Reference

The surgical diagnosis of PAS was confirmed by reviewing the operative reports for findings of abnormal placental adhesion and/or evidence of gross placental invasion. Histological examination was performed in all hysterectomy cases, and histopathologic reports were evaluated for the presence or absence of invasion. In cases of

disagreement between the surgical and pathological reports, the maximum depth of placental invasion was recorded.

Maternal Outcomes

The following adverse maternal outcomes were recorded: surgical technique (conservative surgery or cesarean hysterectomy); severe intraoperative bleeding, defined as estimated blood loss >2000ml, in accordance to the guidelines from the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG)²³; admission to intensive care unit (ICU); need for blood transfusion (number of blood units received); and prolonged operative time (defined as surgical time >60 min from delivery to skin closure).

Statistical analysis

The normality of the variables was assessed using the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test. Quantitative variables are presented with mean and standard deviation. The values obtained were compared using the Student's t test. Categorical data were expressed in frequencies and percentages. Pearson's Chi-square test, Chi-Square with Yates correction and Fisher's exact test were used to assess the relationship between the categorical variables, followed by the use of standardized adjusted residuals to detect categories with a frequency greater than expected. Univariate logistic regression was used to estimate the odds ratios (OR).

Simple kappa statistics were calculated to determine agreement between the radiologist impression and surgical and/or pathologic reports regarding the presence of PAS disorder and placenta percreta. The diagnostic performance (sensitivity, specificity, positive predictive value, negative predictive value and accuracy) was calculated with the respective 95% confidence interval (95% CI). The threshold for statistical significance was $p <0.05$. All statistical analyses were performed using the SPSS software version 20.0 for Windows (SPSS Inc.; Chicago IL, USA).

Results

Study Group

Sixty-eight consecutive pregnant women who were submitted to placental MRI examination were initially included in the study, and eight patients were excluded from the analysis due to the absence of surgical impression and/or pathological description regarding the presence of PAS. After exclusion of these patients, the study reviewed 30 cases from HCPA and 30 cases from HMV.

The study identified 46 cases of PAS disorder (76.7%) and a final diagnosis of placenta percreta was made in 16 cases (26.7%). There was a statistically significant difference in maternal age between women diagnosed with PAS and those with no PAS disorder. The maternal age (mean, \pm SD) in the group with no PAS disorder was 32.6 ± 4.8 years, while in the group with PAS disorder it was 36.0 ± 4.3 years ($p=0.013$). No significant difference was observed regarding gestational age at the time of MRI examination, parity, number of c-sections or prior uterine surgery between both groups (Table 1).

MRI Evaluation

There was substantial agreement between the radiologist impression of PAS disorder and the intraoperative/histological findings (0.67, $p<0.001$), and almost perfect agreement for the presence of placenta percreta (0.87, $p<0.001$).

Table 2 shows the diagnostic performance for each MRI parameter. Of nine MRI parameters evaluated, five showed significant differences between the PAS and no PAS groups. Radiologist impression of invasion was the parameter most strongly associated with PAS disorder ($p<0.001$). Uterine bulging showed sensitivity of 39.1% and specificity of 100.0% for the presence of PAS disorder. When compared to the subgroup of patients with placenta percreta, it showed sensitivity of 87.5% and specificity of 90.9%. Similarly, the radiologist impression of placenta percreta has a sensitivity of 87.5% and specificity of 97.7% for the diagnosis of placental percreetism.

Maternal outcomes

A statistically significant difference was identified in relation to the need for cesarean hysterectomy, severe blood loss and need for blood transfusion between patients with and without invasive placenta. In our series, thirty (65.2%) women with PAS disorder were submitted to cesarean hysterectomy, while only a single patient (7.1%) with no PAS disorder underwent the same procedure ($p<0.001$). Severe blood loss (>2000 mL) was found in 14 patients (30.4%) with PAS disorder, and in no patients without this diagnosis ($p=0.026$). Blood transfusion was made in 14 patients (30.4%)

with PAS and in no patients without invasive placenta ($p=0.026$). There was no significant difference in relation to the need for ICU stay and prolonged surgery time between both groups.

Association of the MRI parameters recorded with adverse maternal peripartum events is detailed in Table 3. Severe blood loss and the need for blood transfusion during surgery showed significant association with three MRI signs: heterogeneous placenta, myometrial thinning and uterine bulging. Cesarean hysterectomy was significantly associated with heterogeneous placenta, low attenuation T2 bands, intraplacental hypervascularity, myometrial thinning and uterine bulging.

The need for ICU stay only significantly correlated with uterine bulging. Prolonged surgery time was associated with abnormal vascularization of placental bed and myometrial thinning.

Table 4 shows the ORs and CIs of MRI parameters for prediction of adverse maternal events. Myometrial thinning, uterine bulging and the radiologist impression of invasion showed significant association with four of the five maternal outcomes evaluated, and heterogeneous placenta with three.

TABLE 1: Demographic and Clinical Characteristics of Women With and Without Definitive Diagnosis of PAS Disorder

Characteristic	No PAS (n=14)	PAS (n=46)	<i>p</i>
Maternal age (y), mean \pm SD	32.6 ± 4.8	36.0 ± 4.3	0.013
Gestational age at time of MRI (wk), mean \pm SD	30.9 ± 2.4	31.8 ± 2.6	0.234
Parity:			0.972
1	1 (7.1%)	4 (8.7%)	
2	4 (28.6%)	12 (26.1%)	
≥ 3	9 (64.3%)	30 (65.2%)	
Number of C-sections:			0.828
0	4 (28.6%)	15 (32.6%)	
1	5 (35.7%)	15 (32.6%)	
2	2 (14.3%)	10 (21.7%)	
≥ 3	3 (21.4%)	6 (13.0%)	
Prior uterine surgery (except C-section)	2 (14.3%)	16 (34.8%)	0.192
Hysterectomy	1 (7.1%)	30 (65.2%)	<0.001
Blood loss \geq 2000 mL	-	14 (30.4%)	0.026

Need for ICU stay	-	8 (17.4%)	0.179
Need for blood transfusion	-	14 (30.4%)	0.026
Prolonged surgery time ^a	6 (60.0%)	31 (81.6 %)	0.206

a: surgery time data was lacking for 12 patients

TABLE 2: Diagnostic Accuracy of Individual MRI Signs for Placental Adhesion Disorder

MRI Parameter	p	Sen	Esp	PPV	NPV	Accuracy (95% CI)
Heterogeneous placenta	0.100	19.6	100.0	100.0	27.5	38.3 (26.1 – 51.8)
Irregular contours and rounded edges	0.734	76.1	28.6	77.8	26.7	65.9 (51.6 – 76.9)
Low attenuation T2 bands	0.009	97.8	28.6	81.8	80.0	81.7 (69.6 – 90.5)
Abnormal vascularization of the placental bed	0.002	89.1	35.7	82.0	50.0	76.7 (62.1 – 85.3)
Intraplacental hypervascularity	0.107	100.0	28.6	82.1	100.0	83.3 (71.5 – 91.7)
Retroplacental myometrial line disruption	0.001	89.1	57.1	81.6	45.5	81.7 (69.6 – 90.5)
Myometrial thinning	0.068	58.7	71.4	87.1	34.5	61.7 (48.2 – 73.9)
Uterine bulging	0.006	39.1	100.0	100.0	33.3	90.0 (79.5 – 96.2)
Radiologist impression of invasive placenta (any degree)	<0.001	100.0	57.1	88.5	100	90.0 (79.5 – 96.2)
Uterine bulging ^a	<0.001	87.5	90.9	77.8	95.2	90.0 (79.5 – 96.2)
Radiologist impression of placenta percreta ^a	<0.001	87.5	97.7	93.3	95.6	95.0 (86.1 – 99.0)

a correlation with placenta percreta

Table 3: Association of MRI Parameters with Adverse Maternal Events

	<i>N</i>	Severe Blood Loss (> 2000mL) - <i>N</i> (%)	<i>p</i>	Hysterectomy - <i>N</i> (%)	<i>p</i>	ICU stay- <i>N</i> (%)	<i>p</i>	Blood Transfusion - <i>N</i> (%)	<i>p</i>	Prolonged Surgery Time ^a - <i>N</i> (%)	<i>p</i>
Placenta previa											
Yes	2 5	10 (40)	0.023	16 (64.0)	0.176	5 (20.0)	0.259	10 (40.0)	0.023	18 (81.8)	0.709
No	3 5	4 (11.4)		15 (42.9)		3 (8.6)		4 (11.4)		19 (73.1)	
Intraplacental hemorrhage											
Yes	8	5 (62.5)	0.013	7 (87.5)	0.053	2 (25.0)	0.288	3 (37.5)	0.374	7 (87.5)	0.661
No	5 2	9 (17.3)		24 (46.2)		6 (11.5)		11 (21.2)		30 (75.0)	
Heterogeneous placenta											
Yes	9	7 (77.8)	<0.001	8 (88.9)	0.027	3 (33.3)	0.090	5 (55.6)	0.025	6 (75.0)	0.999
No	5 1	7 (13.7)		23 (45.1)		5 (9.8)		9 (17.6)		31 (77.5)	
Irregular contours and rounded edges											
Yes	4 5	13 (28.9)	0.155	24 (53.3)	0.881	7 (15.6)	0.666	12 (26.7)	0.483	29 (82.9)	0.140
No	1 5	1 (6.7)		7 (46.7)		1 (6.7)		2 (13.3)		8 (61.5)	

Low attenuation T2 bands											
Yes	5 5	14 (25.5)	0.329	31 (56.4)	0.022	8 (14.5)	0.999	14 (25.5)	0.329	35 (79.5)	0.221
No	5	-		-		-		-		2 (50.0)	
Abnormal vascularization of the placental bed											
Yes	4 9	14 (28.6)	0.053	28 (57.1)	0.145	7 (14.3)	0.999	12 (24.5)	0.999	32 (84.2)	0.036
No	1 1	-		3 (27.3)		1 (9.1)		2 (18.2)		5 (50.0)	
Intraplacental hypervascularity											
Yes	5 6	14 (25.0)	0.564	31 (55.4)	0.049	8 (14.3)	0.999	14 (25.0)	0.564	36 (80.0)	0.127
No	4	-		-		-		-		1 (33.3)	
Retroplacental myometrial line disruption											
Yes	4 7	13 (27.7)	0.264	26 (55.3)	0.445	7 (14.9)	0.673	13 (27.7)	0.264	31 (83.8)	0.095
No	1 3	1 (7.7)		5 (38.5)		1 (7.7)		1 (7.7)		6 (54.5)	
Myometrial thinning											
Yes	3 1	13 (41.9)	<0.001	21 (67.7)	0.020	6 (19.4)	0.257	11 (35.5)	0.046	24 (88.9)	0.040

No	2 9	1 (3.4)		10 (34.5)		2 (6.9)		3 (10.3)		13 (61.9)	
Uterine bulging											
Yes	1 8	10 (55.6)	<0.001	17 (94.4)	<0.001	5 (27.8)	0.045	8 (44.4)	0.019	14 (87.5)	0.293
No	4 2	4 (9.5)		14 (33.3)		3 (7.1)		6 (14.3)		23 (71.9)	
Radiologist impression of invasive placenta (any degree)											
Yes	5 2	14 (26.9)	0.179	31 (59.6)	0.002	8 (15.4)	0.582	14 (26.9)	0.179	36 (83.7)	0.007
No	8	-		-		-		-		1 (20.0)	
Radiologist impression of placenta percreta											
Yes	1 5	8 (53.3)	0.003	15 (100)	<0.001	5 (33.3)	0.019	8 (53.3)	0.003	13 (86.7)	0.462
No	4 5	6 (13.3)		16 (35.6)		3 (6.7)		6 (13.3)		24 (72.7)	

a: surgery time data was lacking for 12 patients

Table 4: Odds Ratios (ORs) and CIs of Each MRI Parameter for Prediction of Adverse Maternal Events

Variable	Severe Blood Loss (=>2000 mL)		Hysterectomy		ICU stay		Blood Transfusion		Prolonged Surgery Time ^a	
	OR	95% CI	OR	95% CI	OR	95% CI	OR	95% CI	OR	95% CI
Heterogeneous placenta	22.0	(3.8 – 128.2)	9.7	(1.1 – 83.7)	4.6	(0.9 – 24.3)	5.8	(1.3 – 26.1)	0.9	(0.1 – 5.1)
Irregular contours and rounded edges	5.7	(0.7 – 47.8)	1.3	(0.4 – 4.2)	2.6	(0.3 – 22.9)	2.4	(0.5 – 12.0)	3.0	(0.7 – 12.5)
Low attenuation T2 bands	1.7	(0.2 – 15.9)	6.5	(0.7 – 59.0)	0.9	(0.1 – 8.3)	1.7	(0.2 – 15.9)	3.9	(0.5 – 31.5)
Intraplacental hypervascularity	1.3	(0.1 – 12.9)	5.0	(0.5 – 47.2)	0.7	(0.1 – 6.8)	1.3	(0.1 – 12.9)	8.0	(0.7 – 98.4)
Abnormal vascularization of the placental bed	4.4	(0.5 – 37.4)	3.6	(0.8 – 15.0)	1.7	(0.2 – 15.1)	1.5	(0.3 – 7.7)	5.3	(1.2 – 24.3)
Retroplacental myometrial line disruption	4.6	(0.5 – 38.9)	2.0	(0.6 – 7.0)	2.1	(0.2 – 18.8)	4.6	(0.5 – 38.9)	4.3	(1.0 – 18.8)
Myometrial thinning	20.2	(2.4 – 168.2)	4.0	(1.4 – 11.7)	3.2	(0.6 – 17.6)	4.8	(1.2 – 19.4)	4.9	(1.1 – 21.8)
Uterine bulging	11.9	(3.0 – 47.6)	34.0	(4.1 – 282.2)	5.0	(1.0 – 23.9)	4.8	(1.3 – 17.1)	2.7	(0.5 – 14.6)
Radiologist impression of invasive placenta (any degree)	2.9	(0.3 – 25.7)	11.8	(1.4 – 101.5)	1.5	(0.2 – 13.3)	2.9	(0.3 – 25.7)	20.6	(2.0 – 212.7)

Radiologist impression of placenta percreta	7.4	(2.0 – 28.1)	27.2	(3.3 – 225.2)	7.0	(1.4 – 34.3)	7.4	(2.0 - 28.1)	2.4	(0.5 – 13.0)
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a: surgery time data was lacking for 12 patients

Discussion

The findings from this retrospective analysis showed that placental MRI is highly accurate in identifying placental invasion, with substantial (0.67) and almost perfect (0.87) agreement between the radiologist impression of PAS disorder and placenta percreta, respectively, and the operative and histopathological findings.

The present study supports some of the MRI signs associated with PAS disorder reported in previous studies, including low attenuation T2 bands ($p=0.009$), abnormal vascularization of the placental bed ($p=0.002$), retroplacental myometrial line disruption ($p=0.001$) and uterine bulging ($p=0.006$).

Although the association of placenta percreta with higher maternal morbidity in relation to the less invasive forms of acretism are well established in the literature,²³ few studies have focused on the correlation of MRI signs related to PAS disorder and maternal outcomes.²⁴⁻²⁷ To our knowledge, our study is the first to evaluate the strength of the association between individual MRI signs and five adverse maternal outcomes.

Meta-analysis data by Familiari et al has shown that uterine bulge was associated with placenta increta and percreta, with ORs of 5.5 and 6.3, respectively, but was not associated with placenta accreta.²⁸ A study by Clark et al showed that the presence of a bulge had an OR of 7.4 for the need of cesarean hysterectomy.²⁴ Our results corroborate this evidence, with a sensitivity of 87.5% and specificity of 90.9% for the presence of placenta percreta. It was significantly associated with four of five outcomes analyzed, with an OR of 11.9 for severe blood loss, 11.8 for the need for hysterectomy, 5.0 for the need for ICU stay and 4.8 for the need for blood transfusion.

Myometrial thinning was also associated with four of five outcomes analyzed, with an OR of 20.2 for severe blood loss, 4.0 for the need for hysterectomy, 4.8 for the need for blood transfusion and 4.9 for prolonged surgery time, a finding also supported by the study of Burgiotti et al, where myometrial thinning was significantly associated with all maternal outcomes analyzed, but not significantly associated with neonatal events.²⁵ Because of the high interobserver variability and the physiological thinning of the myometrium that occurs as

the gestation progresses, this sign should not be used in isolation, but in conjunction with other signs of PAS disorder.²⁰

In accordance with previous studies,²⁴⁻²⁵ placental heterogeneity was a significant predictor of three maternal events, with OR of 22.0 for severe blood loss, 9.7 for the need of hysterectomy and 5.8 for the need of blood transfusion. Interestingly, placental heterogeneity has no clear definition in terms of imaging parameters, and refers to an overall disorganized and inhomogeneous appearance and can be composed of several intraplacental abnormalities such as low attenuation T2 bands, abnormal intraplacental hypervascularity and intraplacental hemorrhage.^{11, 17} Given the highly subjective nature of this finding and the interreader variability, a consensus threshold was not achieved for recommending its use in MRI reporting in a recent joint statement by the Society of Abdominal Radiology (SAR) and the European Society of Urogenital Radiology (ESUR).²⁰

Our results are consistent with the published literature showing that the presence of low attenuation T2 bands was the most sensitive sign for predicting PAS (97,8%),^{20, 28} but with a low specificity of 28,6%. However, the present study shows that this signal was not associated with any of the maternal outcomes evaluated, a finding contradictory to similar studies.^{24, 25, 27}

The main risk of PAS is massive hemorrhage during delivery.¹⁻⁵ The definition of clinically significant obstetric hemorrhage is variable in the literature. In our study, we applied the definition from the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG), which defines “severe” blood loss as >2000 mL.²⁹ Care was taken to assess blood loss during delivery, including weighing dressings soaked in blood and visually estimating nonmeasurable blood loss.

There are inherent difficulties in determining the degree of placental invasion.²⁰ Despite histopathological examination being considered the confirmatory gold standard for the diagnosis of PAS disorder,³⁰ it is unavailable in cases of conservative management. Moreover, it is our understanding that poor sampling and specimens could impact the sensitivity of histopathological analysis. On the other hand, the clinical diagnosis of PAS disorder suffers from the use of non uniform criteria during surgery, an issue that has been addressed by the recent development of standardized clinical criteria for grading PAS by the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO).³¹ In our series, there was

disagreement between the surgical impression and the histopathological report in six cases, in which the highest degree of invasion was recorded.

In addition to its retrospective nature, this study has some limitations. First, the reduced sample size may have limited the power of our study to detect statistical significance in some of the associations evaluated, although the low incidence of this pathology must also be taken in consideration. Second, some patients underwent prophylactic hypogastric artery ballooning during delivery, which could affect the amount of bleeding observed. Third, the MRIs scans were reviewed by only one examiner, with specific experience in placental evaluation, which may not reflect standard radiology practice elsewhere. Finally, the high pretest probability of placental invasion in our sample creates a potential selection bias, even though our examiner was blinded to all clinical data, including ultrasound findings, as the main indication for placental MRI is the presence of an indeterminate US study. Given the complementary role of MRI in the evaluation of PAS disorder, correlation with ultrasound images could possibly improve its performance in our analysis.

Conclusion

In summary, individual MRI signs were associated with placental invasion and independently associated with adverse maternal peripartum outcomes. The presence of a placental bulge was highly accurate in predicting placenta percreta. Prospective studies with larger populations and appropriate control groups are needed to further assess the currently established MRI criteria and to develop an index to predict clinically significant PAS based on MRI signs.

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diagnosis of placenta accreta spectrum disorders. *International Journal of Gynecology and Obstetrics*, 146(1), 20–24.

CONSIDERAÇÕES FINAIS

Os achados do presente estudo revelam que a RM tem alta acurácia na identificação do acretismo placentário. Os resultados são coerentes com a literatura já publicada e reforçam o papel dos principais sinais associados a acretismo placentário, especialmente as bandas hipointensas em T2, a vascularização anômala do leito placentário, a ruptura da linha miometrial retroplacentária e o abaulamento do contorno externo do útero.

Uma das limitações dos métodos de imagem envolve definição do grau de invasão placentária, tendo poucos sinais específicos para as apresentações mais invasivas. Nosso trabalho reforça o papel do abaulamento externo como preditor de placenta percreta, com altas sensibilidade e especificidade. Outra limitação relevante é a presença de viés de seleção, que pode ter influenciado a avaliação do radiologista, mesmo com cegamento para resultados de exames prévios.

Foi observado associação dos sinais de RM com os desfechos maternos estudados. Os sinais associados a maior número de desfechos adversos foram o afilamento do miométrio, que demonstrou com sangramento maciço, necessidade de transfusão sanguínea, necessidade de histerectomia e tempo cirúrgico prolongado, e o abaulamento do contorno uterino, que se associou com sangramento maciço, necessidade de transfusão sanguínea, necessidade de histerectomia e necessidade de internação em UTI.

PERSPECTIVAS

O presente estudo não avaliou a correlação dos achados de RM com desfechos no recém-nascido, embora exista evidências que a presença de EPA não acarreta risco adicional de desfechos adversos neonatais além daqueles relacionados a prematuridade.

A vasta maioria dos estudos envolvendo avaliação de EPA por RM tem natureza retrospectiva, e envolve população de alto risco, introduzindo viés de seleção. Estudos de natureza prospectiva são necessários para avaliar acurácia da RM, especialmente nas formas mais invasivas. A criação de um escore padronizado capaz de predizer acretismo clinicamente significativo pode auxiliar no manejo da entidade.

A RM é um método emergente na avaliação complementar do acretismo placentário. A crescente melhoria dos aparelhos de RM e os avanços nos softwares de formação das imagens tem possibilitado a redução no tempo de aquisição e melhora na relação sinal/ruído, gerando imagens de melhor qualidade e reforçando a tendência de crescimento deste método na avaliação do acretismo placentário.

ANEXOS**ANEXO 1: INSTRUMENTO DE PESQUISA****ANÁLISE DO RADIOLOGISTA (RESSONÂNCIA MAGNÉTICA)**

Nº da Paciente: _____

Avaliador: _____

() Gestação única

() Gestação múltipla - () Dicoriônica* () Monocoriônica diamniótica

() Monocoriônica monoamniótica

Localização da placenta:

() Inserção Baixa(margem inferior < 2,0 cm do OI). () Prévia Oclusiva parcial

() Prévia Oclusiva total

() Maior componente corporal anterior

() Maior componente corporal posterior

() Maior componente lateral

() Maior componente fúndico

Morfologia da placenta:

() Discoide (normal)

() Morfológicamente alterada: () Bilobada() Suscenturiata ou Lobo acessório

() Circumvalada() Membranácea

Inserção do cordão:

() Central() Excêntrica() Marginal() Velamentosa

Avaliação de sangramento / focos hemáticos:

() Ausente

() Presente – () Marginal () Retroplacentário () Intraplacentário

AVALIAÇÃO DE ACRETISMO:

Intensidade de sinal da placenta: () Homogênea () Heterogênea

Se heterogênea: () Leve / Moderada () Acentuada

Espessura da placenta: () Regular () Irregular / Lobulada

Bandas hipointensas em T2: () Sim () Não

Se sim, quantas: _____

Vasos anômalos intraplacentários: () Sim () Não

Se sim, quantos “focos”: _____

Vasos anômalos na interface miométrio-placentária: () Sim () Não

Perda da zona retroplacentária hipointensa em T2: () Sim () Não

Interrupção / indefinição do miométrio: () Sim () Não

Abaulamento do contorno externo uterino: () Sim () Não

Placenta percreta: () Sim () Não

Invasão placentária extrauterina: () Sim () Não

Se sim, onde: _____

Extensão das alterações (por acretismo) na placenta:

() até 1/3 de extensão

() até 2/3 de extensão

() mais de 2/3 de extensão - difusa

Presença de artefatos que prejudicaram diagnóstico () Sim () Não

CONCLUSÃO:

() **Sem acretismo**

() **Acretismo indeterminado / duvidoso**

() **Com acretismo**

ANEXO 2: COMPROVANTE DE SUBMISSÃO DO ARTIGO À REVISTA

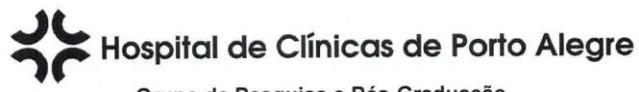
The British Journal of Radiology

Title of Article: Performance of Magnetic Resonance Imaging to Predict Maternal Outcomes in Patients at High Risk for Placenta Accreta Spectrum Disorder
--Manuscript Draft--

Manuscript Number:	BJR-D-22-00822
Full Title:	Title of Article: Performance of Magnetic Resonance Imaging to Predict Maternal Outcomes in Patients at High Risk for Placenta Accreta Spectrum Disorder
Short Title:	Performance of MRI to Predict Outcomes in Patients at Risk for PAS
Article Type:	Full Paper
Section/Category:	Diagnostic Radiology
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Abstract:	<p>OBJECTIVE</p> <p>The purpose of this study is to evaluate the diagnostic performance of MRI parameters to predict adverse maternal peripartum outcomes in pregnant women at high-risk for placenta accreta spectrum (PAS) disorder.</p> <p>MATERIALS AND METHODS</p> <p>This retrospective study evaluated sixty pregnant women who underwent MRI for placental assessment. MRI studies were reviewed by a radiologist blinded to all clinical data. MRI parameters were compared with five maternal outcomes: severe bleeding, cesarean hysterectomy, prolonged operation time, need for blood transfusion and need for intensive care unit (ICU) admission. The MRI findings were associated with pathologic and/or intraoperative findings for PAS.</p> <p>RESULTS : The study identified 46 cases of PAS disorder and 16 cases of placenta percreta. The agreement between the radiologist impression of PAS disorder and the intraoperative/histological findings was substantial (0.67, $p <0.001$), and almost perfect for the presence of placenta percreta (0.87, $p <0.001$). The presence of a placental bulge was highly associated with placenta percreta, with sensitivity of 87.5% and specificity of 90.9%. The MRI signs that associated with more maternal outcomes were myometrial thinning, with significant odds ratio for severe blood loss (20.2), hysterectomy (4.0), need for blood transfusion (4.8) and prolonged surgery time (4.9), and uterine bulging, with significant odds ratio for severe blood loss (11.9), hysterectomy (34.0), ICU admission (5.0) and need for blood transfusion (4.8).</p>

	<p>CONCLUSION</p> <p>MRI signs significantly correlated with invasive placenta and were independently associated with adverse maternal outcomes. The presence of a placental bulge was highly accurate in predicting placenta percreta.</p> <p>ADVANCES IN KNOWLEDGE</p> <p>first study to evaluate the strength of the association between individual MRI signs and five adverse maternal outcomes. Conclusions support published MRI signs associated with placental invasion, especially regarding the value placental bulging in predicting placenta percreta.</p>
Suggested Reviewers:	<p>Gustavo Luersen Curry Cabral Hospital: Hospital Curry Cabral gustavoluersen@hotmail.com Radiologist with extensive experience in abdominopelvic MRI, including placental evaluation.</p>
	<p>Tiago Severo Garcia, MD, PhD UFRGS: Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul tseverogarcia@hcpa.edu.br Professor of Radiology at Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS), with extensive academic and research experience.</p>
	<p>Felipe Soares Torres, MD, PhD Assistant Professor, University of Toronto felipesoarestorres@gmail.com Assistant Professor of Radiology at University of Toronto.</p>
Opposed Reviewers:	

ANEXO 3: TERMO DE COMPROMISSO PARA UTILIZAÇÃO DE DADOS



Termo de Compromisso para Utilização de Dados

Título do Projeto	Cadastro no GPPG
DESFECHOS MATERNOS E FETAIS EM MULHERES COM ACRETISMO PLACENTÁRIO	2019-0466

Os pesquisadores do presente projeto se comprometem a preservar a privacidade dos pacientes cujos dados serão coletados em prontuários e bases de dados do Hospital de Clínicas de Porto Alegre. Concordam, igualmente, que estas informações serão utilizadas única e exclusivamente para execução do presente projeto. As informações somente poderão ser divulgadas de forma anônima.

Porto Alegre, 05 de outubro de 2020.

Nome dos Pesquisadores	Assinatura
PROFA JANETE VETTORAZZI	
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