



# The Role of Fusion Technique of Computed Tomography and Non-echo-planar Diffusion-weighted Imaging in the Evaluation of Surgical Cholesteatoma Localization

## Kolesteatomun Cerrahi Lokalizasyonunun Değerlendirilmesinde Bilgisayarlı Tomografi ve Difüzyon Ağırlıklı Non-eko-planar Görüntülemenin Füzyon Tekniğinin Rolü

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### ABSTRACT

**Objective:** In recent years, the fusion of computed tomography (CT) and non-echo-planar diffusion-weighted magnetic resonance imaging (non-EPI DWI) has been preferred in cholesteatoma localizations. This study aimed to investigate the role of CT and non-EPI DWI fusion imaging in cholesteatoma localizations.

**Methods:** This retrospective study included 39 patients who underwent chronic otitis media operation [mean age of 35.10±15.33 years (18-67 years), 64.1% female, and 35.9% male] and had preoperative high-resolution temporal bone CT and non-EPI DWI examinations. Images were sent to the Advantage Workstation VolumeShare 7 for fusion. These selected images were fused on the workstation and were manually corrected by the radiologist. The sensitivity, specificity, positive and negative predictive values, and diagnostic accuracies of fused images of CT and non-EPI DWI were evaluated according to anatomic cholesteatoma localizations based on surgical data.

**Results:** The sensitivity, specificity, positive and negative predictive values, and diagnostic accuracies of non-EPI DWI for detecting cholesteatomas were 97.14%, 75.00%, 97.14%, 75.00%, and 94.87%, respectively. Three true-negative, one false-positive, and one false-negative case were observed according to surgical results in detecting the presence of a cholesteatoma with non-EPI DWI. Moderate agreement was determined between the surgical and radiological results in detecting the presence of a cholesteatoma (k=0.721). Detecting the lesion of localization on the fused images compared to surgical found an almost perfect agreement in the mastoid antrum (k=0.948), strong agreement in the hypotympanum and mastoid cells (k=0.894), moderate agreement in the epitympanum (k=0.653), and weak agreement in those in the mesotympanum (k=0.540).

**Conclusions:** The surgeons' determinations are supported by the guidance of temporal CT and non-EPI DWI fused images. Therefore, preferring the fusion imaging technique could increase the quality of life by reducing unnecessary operations.

**Keywords:** Cholesteatoma, multidetector computed tomography, diffusion magnetic resonance imaging, echo-planar imaging

### ÖZ

**Amaç:** Kolesteatom lokalizasyonunda bilgisayarlı tomografi (BT) ile difüzyon ağırlıklı non-eko-planar manyetik rezonans görüntüleme (nEDAG) füzyonu son yıllarda tercih edilmektedir. Bu çalışma, kolesteatom lokalizasyonunda BT ve nEDAG ile füzyon görüntülemenin rolünü araştırmayı amaçlamaktadır.

**Yöntemler:** Bu retrospektif çalışmaya, ameliyat öncesi yüksek çözünürlüklü temporal kemik BT ve nEDAG tetkikleri olan 39 kronik otitis media hastası [ortalama yaş 35,10±15,33 yıl (18-67 yıl), %64,1 kadın, %35,9 erkek] dahil edildi. Görüntüler, füzyon için Advantage Workstation VolumeShare 7'ye gönderildi. Seçilen bu görüntüler iş istasyonunda aynı düzlemlerde birleştirildi ve radyolog tarafından manuel olarak düzeltildi. BT ve nEDAG birleştirilmiş görüntülerle kolesteatom varlığı ve anatomik lokalizasyonlarının duyarlılık, özgüllük, pozitif ve negatif prediktif değerleri ve tanılabilirlikleri, cerrahi verilere dayalı olarak değerlendirildi.

**Bulgular:** Kolesteatomları saptamada nEDAG'nin duyarlılığı, özgüllüğü, pozitif ve negatif prediktif değerleri ve tanılabilirlikleri sırasıyla %97,14, %75,00, %97,14, %75,00 ve %94,87 idi. nEDAG ile kolesteatom varlığının saptanmasında cerrahi sonuçlara göre üç gerçek negatif, bir yanlış pozitif ve bir yanlış negatif olgu gözlemlendi. Kolesteatom varlığının saptanmasında cerrahi ve radyolojik sonuçlar arasında önemli bir uyum vardı (k=0,721). Birleştirilmiş görüntülerde, lezyonların lokalizasyonu cerrahi sonuçlarla karşılaştırıldığında, mastoid antrumda mükemmel (k=0,948), mastoid hücrelerde ve hipotimpanumda güçlü (k=0,894), epitimpanumda orta (k=0,653) düzeyde bir uyum varken, mezotimpanumdakilerde zayıf düzeyde uyum vardı (k=0,540).

**Sonuçlar:** Cerrahların saptamaları, temporal BT ve nEDAG'nin birleştirilmiş görüntülerinin rehberliğinde desteklenmektedir. Bu nedenle füzyon görüntüleme tekniğinin tercih edilmesi, gereksiz operasyonları azaltarak yaşam kalitesini artırabilir.

**Anahtar kelimeler:** Kolesteatom, multidetektörlü bilgisayarlı tomografi, difüzyon manyetik rezonans görüntüleme, eko-planar görüntüleme

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## INTRODUCTION

Preoperative detection and localization of cholesteatoma are greatly important for its high recurrence rate and complication risks. The incidence of recurrent cholesteatoma during the 5-year postoperative follow-up period was reported as 57-61%<sup>1,2</sup>. It may cause bony erosion, hearing loss, vertigo, and intracranial infections. Cholesteatomas often localize the attic with a tiny retraction of the pars flaccida and an intact pars tensa of the tympanic membrane<sup>3,4</sup>. Depending on the localization, the surgeon may prefer a transcanal endoscopic approach or other surgical techniques. A cholesteatoma that is located in the mesotympanum or epitympanum is usually treated with pure endoscopic technique, whereas otolaryngologists usually prefer the combination of microscopic and endoscopic techniques when the mastoid is involved.

At this point, the presence of cholesteatoma and an accurate description of its spatial extent become important for accurate treatment approach<sup>5</sup>. Several imaging methods currently exist for cholesteatoma evaluations. Computed tomography (CT) yields high-quality imaging of the spatial resolution and bony details of the lesion but fails to differentiate the cholesteatoma from other lesions, such as granulations, fibrotic, scarring changes, mucous secretions, or fluid<sup>6,7</sup>. Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) is a non-ionizing imaging technique that is used to evaluate patients with surgical history who are suspected to have residual or recurrent disease. Contrarily, cholesteatomas are known to be reliably detected and distinguished from soft tissues in the middle ear cleft in non-echoplanar diffusion-weighted MRI (non-EPI DWI) due to their high keratin content<sup>8-10</sup>. Additionally, non-EPI DWI does not necessitate intravenous contrast injection. However, none of these methods alone gives excellent results in lesion detection. Therefore, the trend toward the use of fusion techniques in evaluating cholesteatomas has been increasing in the last decade<sup>11-13</sup>. Fused images reveal the extent of the lesion in the middle ear and play a significant role in determining the correct approach for otologic surgeons. However, this technique requires additional time for the fusion of images. Additionally, the literature data about the efficacy and necessity of fusion techniques on cholesteatoma localization are limited.

Therefore, this study aimed to investigate the emerging role of CT and non-EPI DWI fusion imaging in preoperative detection and correct cholesteatoma localization.

## MATERIALS and METHODS

The study was approved by the Clinical Research Ethics Committee of the Haydarpasa Numune Training and Research Hospital (decision no: KAEK 2021/265, date: 04.10.2021). Signed informed consent forms were waived due to the retrospective cross-sectional design of the study.

### Patients

This study included 39 patients (25 males and 14 females) who could have both CT and non-EPI DWI MRI in the last 4 weeks of the preoperative period among those operated for suspected cholesteatoma between April 1, 2014-2020.

Patients with concomitant illness (malignancy, hepatic, psychiatric, endocrine, or other major systemic diseases), children, drug users, and smokers were excluded from the study.

### Imaging Technique

High-resolution CT was performed with the standard temporal bone protocol using a 128 SL Optima CT 660 scanner (General Electric Medical Systems, Milwaukee, WI, USA). The scanning parameters were as follows: 2×0.625 mm detector configuration, 0.625-1.0 mm slice thickness, 160×160 fields of view, 180 mAs, 120 kVp, and 512 matrix.

MRIs were performed in a 1.5 T MRI scanner (General Electric-Optima 450 w -1.5 Tesla) using a standard 16-channel head coil. Non-EPI DWI images were acquired in the axial plane with a 3 mm thickness (TR: 3000 ms; TE: 85 ms; Matrix: 128×128; B-value: 1000 s/mm<sup>2</sup>; imaging time: 4 min). PROPELLER, a non-EPI DWI consisting of acquired images with periodically rotated overlapping parallel lines with enhanced reconstruction, was used.

### Imaging Evaluation

Images were examined by the same radiologist who was blinded to the postoperative information of patients and had 17 years of experience in head and neck imaging to ensure the objectivity of evaluation. All images in DWI with diffusion restriction were investigated in b1000. With the absence of diffusion restriction, the image was considered a non-cholesteatomatous lesion. Apparent diffusion coefficient (ADC) measurements were performed from the brightest central part of the lesion, at b-1000, while keeping a standard 2 mm<sup>2</sup> area of the region of interest.

Preoperative CT and b1000 images of non-EPI DWI images from patients who are treated at our hospital for chronic otitis media were sent to the Advantage Workstation VolumeShare 7 (GE Healthcare Systems AW01, Milwaukee, WI USA) through the picture archiving and communication system (PACS). The CT and MR images were combined on the workstation in the same planes (axial and coronal), and the image shifts during automated fusion were manually corrected by the radiologist to overlap the same anatomical regions as CT and MR images (mean evaluation time was approximately 15 min per patient). Following the fusion images that developed afterward, the regional cholesteatoma distribution was classified into five categories: epitympanic, mesotympanic, hypotympanic, mastoid antrum, and mastoid cellular. Finally, the fused images were saved in the PACS.

**Surgery**

Surgical results were obtained from the postoperative reports that are prepared by two experienced otologic surgeons who operated on the patients. These surgical reports described the presence and anatomic localization of lesions.

Then comparative evaluations were made between radiological and surgical localization of cholesteatoma.

**Statistical Analysis**

International Business Machines Corporation Statistical Package for the Social Sciences version 22 (IBM Corp. Released 2013. IBM SPSS Statistics for

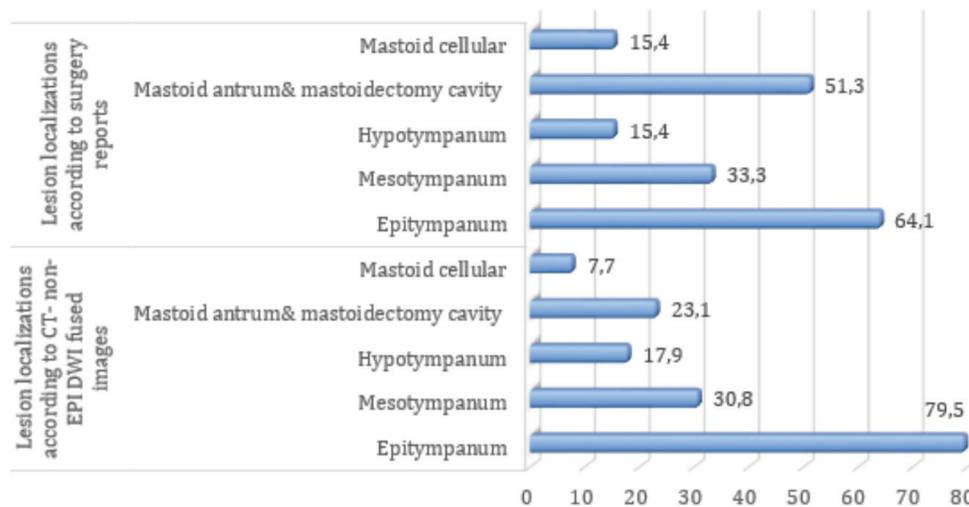
Windows, Version 22.0. Armonk, NY: IBM Corp.) was used for statistical analysis. Descriptive statistical methods [mean, standard deviation (SD), median, frequency, percentage, minimum, and maximum] were used to evaluate the study data. The sensitivity, specificity, positive and negative predictive values, and diagnostic accuracy of CT and non-EPI DWI fused images that were compared based on surgical data were evaluated with diagnostic tests. The agreement of the presence of a lesion and lesion localization on radiology according to surgical reports were evaluated with McNemar’s test, Cohen’s Kappa coefficient test. Kappa values of 0.00-0.20 were considered as none, 0.21-0.39 as minimal, 0.40-0.59 as weak, 0.60-0.79 as moderate, 0.80-0.90 as strong, and 0.90-1 as almost perfect agreement. P-values of <0.05 were considered statistically significant in all tests.

**RESULTS**

Of the 39 cases in the study, 64.1% (n=25) were males and 35.9% (n=14) were females. The mean age of the patients was 35.10±15.33 years (18-67 years). Lesions were mostly detected in the epitympanum and are least observed in the mastoid antrum or mastoid cavity in both radiologic and surgical reports as shown in Figure 1.

**Imaging Features**

The mean lesion diameter was 5.90±3.78 mm (2-15 mm) in the radiologic evaluation. All of the cholesteatomas were hyperintense on the T2-weighted series. The ADC values of lesions ranged between 0.56 and 1.44×10<sup>-3</sup>



**Figure 1.** Lesion localization according to radiologic and surgical reports.

Non-EPI DWI: Non-echo-planar diffusion-weighted magnetic resonance imaging, CT: Computed tomography

mm<sup>2</sup>/s, with a mean of 0.84±0.21×10<sup>-3</sup> mm<sup>2</sup>/s (median ± SD) (Table 1).

**Cholesteatoma Detection**

The sensitivity, specificity, positive and negative predictive values, and diagnostic accuracy of non-EPI DWI for cholesteatoma detections were 97.14%, 75.00%, 97.14%, 75.00%, and 94.87%, respectively. A moderate agreement was determined between surgical and radiological results in detecting the presence of a cholesteatoma (k=0.721). Three true-negative, one false-positive, and one false-negative case were observed according to surgical results in detecting the presence of a cholesteatoma with non-EPI DWI (Table 2).

**Lesion Localization**

The evaluation of fused images compared to the surgical results on lesion localization revealed an almost perfect agreement in the mastoid antrum (k=0.948), strong agreement in the hypotympanum and mastoid cells (k=0.894), moderate agreement in the epitympanum (k=0.653), and weak agreement in those in the mesotympanum (k=0.540) (Table 3) (Figure 2). The evaluation of cholesteatoma localization revealed the most accurate results on hypotympanum, mastoid cells, and mastoid antrum (diagnostic accuracy =97.44 for all) on fusion technique (Table 4).

**Table 1. Descriptive features according to imaging results.**

		n	Mean ± SD
Age	Min-max (median)	18-67 (33)	35.10±15.33
Gender	Male	25	64.1
	Female	14	35.9
Localization	Right	16	41.0
	Left	23	59.0
T1	Isointense	5	13.2
	Hypointense	33	86.8
	Hyperintense	-	-
T2	Isointense	-	-
	Hypointense	-	-
	Hyperintense	38	100
Lesion diameter (mm)	Min-max (median)	2-15 (4.5)	5.92±3.76
ADC value (10 <sup>-3</sup> mm <sup>2</sup> /s) (n=35)	Min-max (median)	0.56-1.44 (0.7)	0.84±0.21

Min: Minimum, max: Maximum, SD: Standard deviation, ADC: Apparent diffusion coefficient

**Table 2. Agreement of lesion detecting according to diffusion restriction on Non-EPI DWI with surgery results.**

		Surgery result			p-value*	k-value
		Absent	Present	All		
		n (%)	n (%)	n (%)		
Presence of lesion according to diffusion restriction on non-EPI DWI MR	Absent	3 (75.0)	1 (2.9)	4 (10.3)	1.000	0.721
	Present	1 (25.0)	34 (97.1)	35 (89.7)		
	All	4 (10.3)	35 (89.7)	39 (100)		
	SN %	97.14	(95% CI: 85.08-99.92)			
	SP %	75.00	(95% CI: 19.41-99.36)			
	PPV %	97.14	(95% CI: 86.15-99.46)			
	NPV %	75.00	(95% CI: 28.61-95.73)			
	DA %	94.87	(95% CI: 82.67-99.37)			

\*McNemar test, k-value: Cohen's Kappa coefficient, SN: Sensitivity, SP: Specificity, PPV: Positive predictive value, NPV: Negative predictive value, DA: Diagnostic accuracy, CI: Confidence interval, Non-EPI DWI: Non-echo-planar diffusion-weighted magnetic resonance imaging, MR: Magnetic resonance

**DISCUSSION**

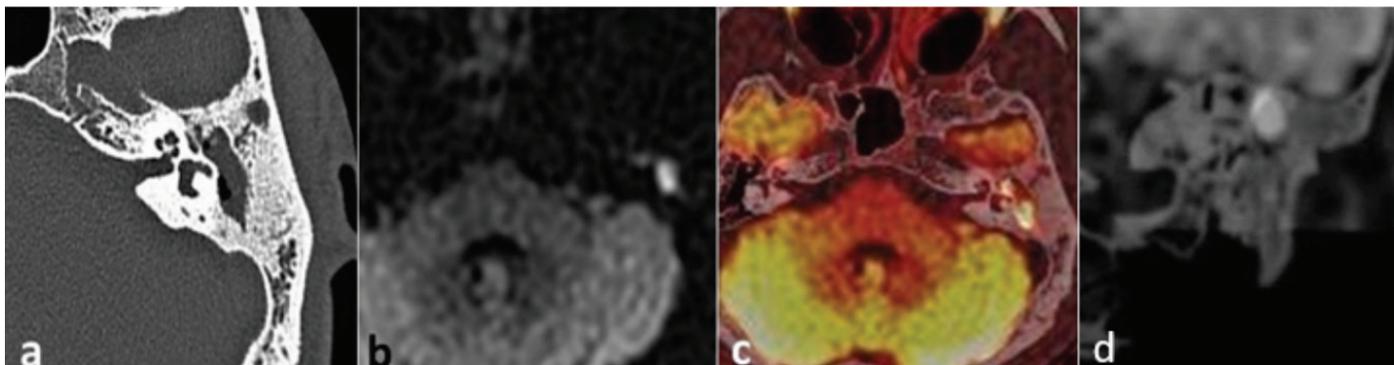
This retrospective cross-sectional study revealed good agreement and reliability of the fusion technique with surgical results in detecting cholesteatoma localizations. Additionally, a significant consistency was found between surgical and radiological results in detecting the presence of cholesteatoma using non-EPI DWI, which is consistent with the literature.

MRI techniques, such as non-EPI DWI, which were developed in the last years, started to take the place of invasive surgical interventions and are also used for cholesteatoma diagnosis and postoperative follow-up. Lingam and Bassett<sup>8</sup> revealed a pooled sensitivity and specificity of 0.91 and 0.92, respectively, for detecting cholesteatoma on non-EPI DWI in their meta-analysis, which included 26 studies. Locketz et al.<sup>12</sup> revealed that the diagnostic threshold of 2-3 mm for cholesteatomas

**Table 3. In different localizations of the lesions the agreement of fusion imaging with surgery results.**

Lesion localization	Presence of lesion according to fusion imaging	Lesion localization according to surgery reports, n (%)			p-value*	k-value
		Absent	Present	All		
		n (%)	n (%)	n (%)		
Epitympanum	Absent	5 (12.8)	1 (2.6)	6 (15.4)	0.625	0.653
	Present	3 (7.7)	30 (76.9)	33 (84.6)		
	All	8 (20.5)	31 (79.5)	39 (100)		
Mesotympanum	Absent	22 (56.4)	3 (7.7)	25 (64.1)	0.727	0.540
	Present	5 (12.8)	9 (23.1)	14 (35.9)		
	All	27 (69.2)	12 (30.8)	39 (100)		
Hypotympanum	Absent	33 (84.6)	1 (2.6)	34 (87.2)	1.000	0.894
	Present	0 (0)	5 (12.8)	5 (12.8)		
	All	33 (84.6)	6 (15.4)	39 (100)		
Mastoid cells	Absent	33 (84.6)	1 (2.6)	34 (87.2)	1.000	0.894
	Present	0 (0)	5 (12.8)	5 (12.8)		
	All	33 (84.6)	6 (15.4)	39 (100)		
Mastoid antrum	Absent	16 (41)	1 (2.6)	17 (43.6)	1.000	0.948
	Present	0 (0)	22 (56.4)	22 (56.4)		
	All	16 (41)	23 (59.0)	39 (100)		

\*McNemar test, k-value: Cohen's Kappa coefficient



**Figure 2.** A 33-year-old patient with recurrent cholesteatoma in the operated left middle ear. (a) Axial computed tomography (CT), (b) non-echo-planar diffusion-weighted magnetic resonance imaging, (c) axial fused image, (d) coronal fused image. On CT, localized soft-tissue opacities are seen in the epitympanum, mesotympanum, and mastoid cavity. The fused image of the cholesteatoma was localized in the epitympanum, mesotympanum, hypotympanum, sinus tympani, and mastoid cavity, and these localizations were confirmed during surgery except for mesotympanum.

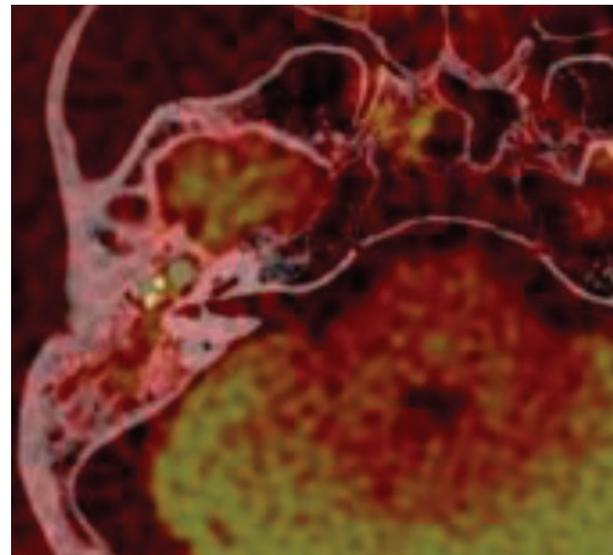
**Table 4. Statistically parameters of fusion technique on localizing cholesteatoma.**

Lesion localization	SN% (95% CI)	SP% (95% CI)	PPV% (95% CI)	NPV% (95% CI)	DA% (95% CI)
Epitympanum	96.77 (83.29-99.91)	62.50 (24.48-91.47)	90.91 (80.30-96.08)	83.33 (40.32-97.36)	89.74 (75.77-97.13)
Mesotympanum	75.00 (42.81-94.51)	81.48 (61.91-93.70)	64.29 (43.33-80.90)	88.00 (73.02-95.20)	79.49 (63.53-90.70)
Hypotympanum	83.33 (35.87-99.57)	100.00 (89.42-100.00)	100.00 (100.000-100.00)	97.06 (84.64-99.49)	97.44 (86.52-99.93)
Mastoid antrum	95.65 (78.05-99.89)	100.00 (79.40-100.00)	100.00 (100.00-100.00)	94.12 (70.17-99.08)	97.44 (86.52-99.93)
Mastoid cells	83.33 (35.87-99.57)	100.00 (89.42-100.00)	100.00 (100.00-100.00)	97.06 (84.64-99.49)	97.44 (86.52-99.93)

SN: Sensitivity, SP: Specificity, PPV: Positive predictive value, NPV: Negative predictive value, DA: Diagnostic accuracy, CI: Confidence interval

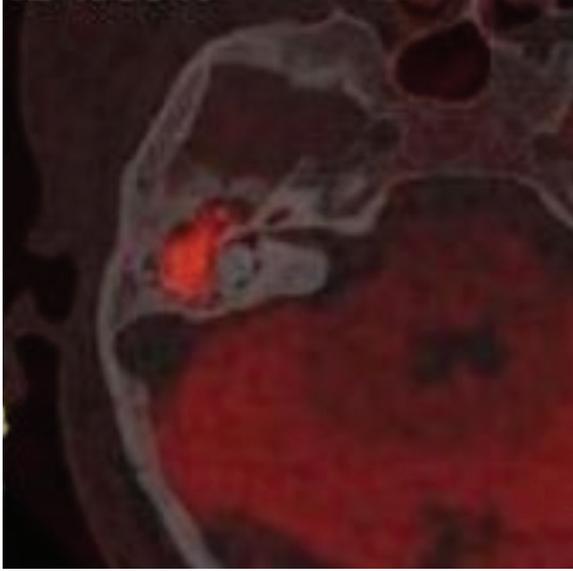
remains a limitation for CT and non-EPI DWI fusion. In their series, 12 cases had two false-negatives in CT-MRI fusion images, one of which belonged to a re-operated patient with chronic ear disease who had a residual cholesteatoma smaller than 3 mm. The other false-negative lesion, 2x3 mm in size, had intermediate signal intensity in non-EPI DWI. The time between image acquisition and surgery was 5 months, and by then, the lesion had enlarged to a visible size. The present study revealed that non-EPI DWI had high sensitivity (97.1%) for detecting cholesteatomas. The high sensitivity of this study is thought to be due to skull base artifact minimization in non-EPI DWI, the special attention was shown in selecting the patients referred for surgery and the time between imaging and surgery. However, out of 39 lesions, four showed no diffusion restriction and three were true-negatives, leading to a specificity of 75%. Our study revealed only one false-negative lesion of 2 mm in diameter, which was detected during surgery in the cavity of the mastoidectomy (Figure 3). As stated in many studies, wax, proteinaceous fluid, or bone dust/powder can generate a high signal on the b1000 images and cause false-positive results<sup>14-16</sup>. The present study revealed one false-positive result using non-EPI DWI that resulted from the highly viscous lesion content in the temporal bone, which was surgically reported as an empyema (Figure 4).

Recently, the interpretation of the DWI together with the ADC map and the corresponding CT images has been recommended in radiological practice. ADC values are also useful in improving specificity and confidence levels in cholesteatoma diagnosis<sup>14</sup>. Cholesteatomas showed to have a significantly lower ADC value than non-cholesteatomatous soft-tissue<sup>13,16</sup>. Lingam et al.<sup>17</sup>



**Figure 3.** A fused image of a 29-year-old patient with recurrent cholesteatoma showing the soft-tissue opacities in the epitympanum, mesotympanum, mastoid resection cavity, and two nodular hyperintense lesions on b1000 diffusion-weighted magnetic resonance imaging (DWI) is suggestive cholesteatoma in the epitympanum and mesotympanum. No hyperintense lesion on b1000 DWI in the mastoid cavity. However, a little cholesteatoma was found in the mastoid resection cavity during the surgery.

reported that ADC values on postoperative middle ear cholesteatoma ( $0.7-0.9 \times 10^{-3} \text{ mm}^2/\text{s}$ ). Thiriart et al.<sup>18</sup> found a mean ADC value of  $0.677 \times 10^{-3} \text{ mm}^2/\text{s}$  (calculated with ADC values ranging from  $0.415$  to  $0.903 \times 10^{-3} \text{ mm}^2/\text{s}$ ). In parallel to these reports, our study revealed similar ADC values. Additionally, non-EPI DWI evaluation using ADC



**Figure 4.** Axial fused image of a patient. There was a big hyperintense lesion on b1000 diffusion-weighted magnetic resonance imaging diagnosed as cholesteatoma localized in the tympanic and mastoid cavities. Empyema was found in this localization during the surgery.

values showed high diagnostic accuracy in cholesteatoma detection in our study. Therefore, we suggest that ADC measurements should be used as a powerful parameter to support cholesteatoma diagnosis.

Fusion imaging has recently been proposed for cholesteatoma localization since it prefers less invasive methods such as transcanal endoscopic surgery. In this technique, the anatomical precision of the CT scan replaces the MRI's limited spatial resolution, and the enhancing cholesteatoma becomes dramatically visible<sup>11</sup>.

Locketz et al.<sup>12</sup> found that the fusion technique increased the diagnostic sensitivity and accuracy in lesion localization. They revealed that the most accurate results were in the posterior mesotympanum and hypotympanum (100%), and the least accurate results were in the anterior epitympanum, posterior epitympanum, and anterior mesotympanum (83%) on lesion localization. Our study revealed similarly quite high diagnostic accuracy rates in estimating lesion localization for five different anatomical regions (range: 79.49-97.44%). Among the surgically confirmed fusion imaging results, those only in the mesotympanum region were relatively more inconsistently detected than the others as shown in Figure 2. This may be due to the intraoperative misinterpretation of lesions in this rather small area

between the epitympanum and the hypotympanum by the surgeons. Providing good exposure with the surgical microscope in the sinus tympani and facial recesses in the mesotympanum during surgery is difficult. Recently, autoendoscopy gained widespread use in otologic surgeries<sup>5</sup>. Using an autoendoscope may be beneficial to evaluate regions with poor surgical exposure. In this study, otologic surgeons did not use autoendoscopes in their operative procedures.

Comparison is difficult and time-consuming due to the disappearance of anatomical marks in the operated ears. Yamashita et al.<sup>19</sup> revealed no significant differences between the fused images and the intraoperative findings and that the fused images were associated with significantly higher accuracy (87.5%) in estimating the cholesteatoma extent. Similarly, our study revealed high accuracy (97.44%). The anatomical landmarks were disrupted in the earlier surgery, thus radiologically localizing cholesteatoma might be difficult. Hence, the preoperative radiological evaluation before revision surgery may yield limited results because of permanent anatomical changes. Revision surgery may also require more aggressive treatment since they are sometimes performed due to intracranial or intratemporal complications.

### Study Limitations

This study had a couple of limitations. First, the lack of variety among patients with non-cholesteatomatous lesions, such as those with bone dust/powder, wax, or retraction pouch, narrowed the spectrum of the study. Second, we did not evaluate inter-observer or intra-observer variability.

Notwithstanding the relatively limited patient population, this work offers valuable insights into the importance of cholesteatoma imaging. The anatomical precision of the CT scan replaces the MRI's limited spatial resolution, and the enhancing cholesteatoma becomes dramatically apparent.

### CONCLUSIONS

The surgeons' determinations are guided by temporal CT and non-EPI DWI fused images. Therefore, preferring the fusion imaging technique could increase the quality of life by reducing the frequency of patients' exposure to unnecessary operations and reducing costs.

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## Ethics

**Ethics Committee Approval:** The study was approved by the Clinical Research Ethics Committee of the Haydarpasa Numune Training and Research Hospital (decision no: KAEK 2021/265, date: 04.10.2021).

**Informed Consent:** Signed informed consent forms were waived due to the retrospective cross-sectional design of the study.

**Peer-review:** Externally and internally peer-reviewed.

## Author Contributions

**Concept:** A.O.B., L.S., A.V., **Design:** A.O.B., L.S., A.V., **Data Collection and/or Processing:** A.O.B., L.S., B.A., M.B.E., **Analysis and/or Interpretation:** A.O.B., L.S., **Critical Revision:** A.O.B., A.V., S.Z.T., **Writing:** A.O.B., A.V., S.Z.T.

**Conflict of Interest:** The authors have no conflict of interest to declare.

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