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SOCIETY OF MAGNETIC RESONANCE IN MEDICINE

14TH ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING
NEW YORK HILTON & TOWERS
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August 14-20, 1993

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CATEGORIES
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IMAGING
CATEGORY
Clinical Observations
Models

- Nervous System—Brain
- Nervous System—Spine and Other
- Head and Neck
- Cardiovascular (cardiac)
- Chest/Pulmonary
- Gastrointestinal
- Genitourinary
- Musculoskeletal/Sports Medicine
- Magnetic Resonance Imaging—Neuro
- Magnetic Resonance Imaging—Body
- Positron Emission Tomography
- Breast
- Functional Neuroimaging
- Interventional MRI
- Immunology/Bone Marrow

INTERVENTION
CATEGORY
Clinical Applications
Technique Development

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- Nervous System—Other
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- Gastrointestinal (liver, gut, etc.)
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- Musculoskeletal (including bone)
- Tumor
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- Microscopy
- Sequences/Pulse Design
- Fast Scans
- Gradient/RF Coils
- Processing/Display Techniques
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- Contrast Agents
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Somatotopic Mapping of the Primary Motor Cortex with Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging

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INTRODUCTION:

Recent functional MRI (fMRI) studies have demonstrated changes in signal intensity within the contralateral primary motor cortex during simple, self-paced, repetitive finger movements [1,2,3,4]. Most of our current knowledge of the somatotopic organization of the primary motor cortex in humans is derived from the electrophysiological stimulation studies of Penfield [5]. Curiously, only one PET study [6] has examined the somatotopic organization of the primary motor cortex. A replication of this work with fMRI is needed for three reasons: (a) the somatotopic organization of the motor cortex is well-defined and can serve as a validation of the fMRI technique, (b) results from electrical stimulation studies may differ from those derived from imaging studies of voluntary movements, and (c) *in vivo* functional mapping of the primary motor cortex with fMRI may be useful in evaluating patients with various cerebral disorders, particularly in the operating suite.

METHODS:

Six healthy right-handed subjects were imaged using a standard GE 1.5-T Signa scanner equipped with a 30.5 cm i.d. three-axis local gradient coil and an endcapped quadrature birdcage RF coil. A blipped gradient-echo echo-planar pulse sequence (TE = 40 ms; FOV = 24 cm; 64 x 64 matrix; 3.75 mm in-plane resolution) was used. Three contiguous coronal slices (10 mm slice thickness) were obtained through the primary motor cortex (subjects' heads were flexed 25° forward in the scanner relative to standard MR orientation).

During each task, 104 consecutive images (TR = 2 s) were obtained during 10 alternating baseline (rest) and activation periods of 10 s each. Activation tasks included simple, self-paced, repetitive movements of the right fingers (digits 2-5 in unison), toes, and elbow. In addition, subjects performed isometric contraction of the tongue to avoid motion artifact. Pixels demonstrating functional activity were identified by correlating raw MR signal intensity values with reference sine functions [4,7], using a cut-off value of $|r| \geq .50$ ($p < 2.7 \times 10^{-6}$) corresponding to the Bonferroni-adjusted alpha level required for multiple comparisons.

RESULTS:

In general, active pixels closely corresponded to the known somatotopic organization of the primary motor cortex (see Figure 1 for results from a representative subject). Toe movements produced signal changes within the interhemispheric fissure, while finger and elbow movements resulted in changes approximately two-thirds of the distance from the lateral fissure to the interhemispheric fissure. Elbow

movements, however, did not produce the more lateral activity observed during finger movements. Tongue movements resulted in bilateral signal changes nearer the lateral fissure.

CONCLUSIONS:

Results of this preliminary study suggest that fMRI is capable of demonstrating the somatotopic organization of the primary motor cortex. In contrast to the present investigation, a PET study [6] was unable to distinguish arm from finger movements. The cortical areas activated by voluntary movements were generally similar in spatial topography to those derived from stimulation studies. Future studies are needed to directly correlate fMRI results with electrical stimulation findings derived from patients undergoing intraoperative cortical mapping.

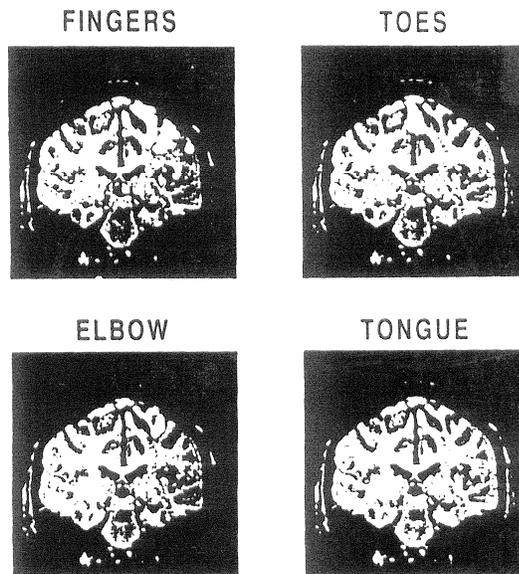


Figure 1

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