

Chapter 02: Specialized Imaging Techniques

Eisenberg: Comprehensive Radiographic Pathology, 6th Edition

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. The first modality capable of producing images without the use of ionizing radiation was
 - a. ultrasound
 - b. magnetic resonance imaging
 - c. nuclear medicine
 - d. computerized tomography

ANS: A

The first of these new modalities was ultrasound, which was capable of producing images without the use of ionizing radiation.

REF: Page 15

2. Which of the following was the first modality to provide sectional anatomy images with increased visibility of soft-tissue structures?
 - a. Conventional tomography.
 - b. Computed tomography.
 - c. Positron emission tomography.
 - d. Magnetic resonance imaging.

ANS: B

In the early to mid-1970s, computed axial tomography (now known as CT) provided revolutionary new images as a slice of anatomy.

REF: Page 20

3. With the integration of strong magnets and radio frequencies, high resolution soft-tissue imaging in multiple planes became available with
 - a. nuclear medicine
 - b. single-photon emission computed tomography
 - c. computed tomography
 - d. magnetic resonance imaging

ANS: D

Scientists integrated the use of strong magnets and radio frequencies to provide another mode of producing images without the use of ionizing radiation – nuclear magnetic resonance (now known as MRI). Magnetic resonance imaging offers clinicians images with high soft-tissue resolution and the ability to visualize structural and functional tissue.

REF: Pages 15-16

4. Single-photon emission computed tomography took nuclear medicine imaging concepts and added the use of
 - a. new pharmaceuticals
 - b. new pulsing sequences
 - c. gamma camera movement

d. stronger frequency transducers

ANS: C

Nuclear medicine expanded its role by adding movement and a computer that allowed more than anterior and posterior projections, resulting in the development of single-photon emission computed tomography (SPECT).

REF: Page 16

5. Which of the following uses gamma-emitting radionuclides to produce images?
- X-ray images.
 - Nuclear medicine images.
 - PET images.
 - Sonography images.

ANS: B

Gamma-emitting radionuclides are detected by the gamma camera to produce an image.

REF: Page 28

6. Molecular imaging advancements using a positron-emitting radiopharmaceutical is
- SPECT
 - CAT
 - MRI
 - PET

ANS: D

The creation of a positron-emitting radionuclide resulted in the newest modality – positron emission tomography (PET).

REF: Page 16

7. The superimposition of images from two different digital modalities produces images
- of anatomic and physiologic perspectives
 - using software for image integration
 - from hybrid equipment, such as PET-CT
 - all of the above

ANS: D

Imaging modalities with special software can now be integrated to create a fused image (superimposition of two different modalities). PET-CT is the most prominent hybrid equipment available today.

REF: Page 16

8. The complexity of technology requires the radiographer to
- have a more specific skill set
 - have an extensive knowledge of anatomy
 - have computer networking classes
 - A and B

ANS: D

Complex technology requires the radiographer to have a broader and more specific skill set to produce quality images.

REF: Page 15

9. Which of the following specialized imaging techniques provides cross-sectional images at a low cost, is readily available, and has the ability to differentiate cystic, solid, and complex tissue?
- Sonography.
 - CT.
 - MRI.
 - PET.

ANS: A

Ultrasound (sonography) is a widely accepted cross-sectional imaging technique because of its low cost, availability, and ability to differentiate cystic (gallbladder), solid (liver), and complex (liver tumor) tissue.

REF: Page 17

10. In ultrasound the high-frequency sound waves are produced by
- sound waves emanating from the body
 - electrical stimulation of a specialized crystal
 - magnets and pulse radiofrequencies
 - radiopharmaceuticals

ANS: B

Ultrasound relies on high-frequency sound waves produced by electrical stimulation of a specialized crystal to produce an image.

REF: Page 17

11. Reflections in ultrasound produced by tissue interaction are called
- isoechoic
 - echoes
 - pulses
 - frequencies

ANS: B

The transducer records the tiny changes of the signal's pitch and direction. A water-tissue interface can produce strong reflections (echoes), whereas a solid tissue mass that contains small differences in composition can cause weak reflections.

REF: Page 17

12. Fluid-filled structures transmitting sound waves easily and appearing as a dark region on the image are _____ tissue.
- hyperechoic
 - hypoechoic
 - anechoic
 - isoechoic

ANS: C

Anechoic tissue or structures (which are echo free or lacking a signal) transmit sound waves easily and appear as the dark region on the image.

REF: Page 17

13. The major advantage of ultrasound is
- no adverse effects on human tissue
 - ability to image anatomy in cross-section
 - ionizing radiation is used to produce an image
 - only low energy gamma radiation is used to produce an image

ANS: A

The major advantage of ultrasound is its safety.

REF: Page 18

14. To produce quantitative data in ultrasound, the equipment must
- integrate real-time imaging with sono CT
 - include harmonic technology
 - fuse conventional real-time with Doppler imaging
 - have a multifrequency transducer

ANS: C

The color-flow duplex system, in which conventional real-time imaging is integrated with Doppler imaging (to produce quantitative data).

REF: Page 18

15. To demonstrate stenoses, blood clots, plaques, and emboli requires
- a multifrequency transducer
 - a color-flow duplex system
 - sono CT real-time compound imaging
 - harmonic imaging

ANS: B

Vascular or color-flow Doppler studies assess the patency of major blood vessels, demonstrating obstructions (stenoses), blood clots, plaques, and emboli.

REF: Page 18

16. Using a narrow x-ray beam and scanning from multiple angles, the amount of radiation absorbed in tissue is represented by
- a relative linear attenuation coefficient
 - data for computer reconstruction
 - a gray scale on the computer monitor
 - all of the above

ANS: D

Scanning a slice of tissue from multiple angles with a narrow x-ray beam, then calculating a relative linear attenuation coefficient (representing the amount of radiation absorbed in tissue for the various tissue elements in the section), and finally displaying the computed reconstruction as a gray-scale image on a television monitor is CT.

REF: Page 20

17. The attenuation of a specific tissue relative to water is the
- CT number
 - echo coefficient
 - positron absorption
 - pulse sequence

ANS: A

The CT number reflects the attenuation of a specific tissue relative to that of water, which is arbitrarily assigned a CT number of 0 and appears gray on the image.

REF: Page 20

18. Window width in CT controls
- density
 - gray scale
 - midrange of densities
 - resolution

ANS: B

Window widths control gray scale – contrast scale and window levels control brightness (density). From the radiographer's perspective, this means the window width determines the number of shades of gray that will be visualized on the monitor.

REF: Page 20

19. The midpoint or center of the number of densities being viewed in a selected window on CT is the
- window width
 - pulse width
 - window level
 - x-ray level

ANS: C

The window level is the midpoint or center of the total number of densities being viewed in a selected window width.

REF: Page 19

20. High-resolution CT requires the slice sections to be
- 1.5 to 2.0 mm
 - 2 to 5 mm
 - 5 to 10 mm
 - 1 to 2 cm

ANS: A

In high-resolution CT, thin sections (1.5 to 2.0 mm slices) are used to produce a very detailed display of lung anatomy.

REF: Page 21

21. CT scanning permitting data that can easily be reformatted to produce multiplanes (coronal and sagittal) is accomplished by
- high-resolution scans
 - conventional scans
 - helical scanning
 - single-scan protocols

ANS: C

Spiral (helical) scanning is the technique where continual CT scanning is performed as the patient moves through the gantry (unlike the multiple single scans in conventional CT). This permits much faster scanning without respiratory motion and provides data that can be easily reformatted in coronal and sagittal planes.

REF: Page 21

22. What made CT angiography more precise and prevalent?
- The development of 16-slice (and greater) scanners.
 - Multiplanar images produced by multifrequency transducers.
 - Three-dimensional images.
 - A and C.

ANS: D

Using volume-rendered imaging and 3-D volume rendering, the vascular system can be viewed from all perspectives (360°). CT angiography is more prevalent and precise as a result of the development of 16-slice and greater scanners.

REF: Page 21

23. All of the following are post-processing techniques used in CT, *except*
- maximum intensity projections
 - shaded surface rendering
 - time-of-flight technique
 - volume rendering

ANS: C

Time-of-flight is an angiographic technique used with MRI.

REF: Pages 22-23

24. The modality of choice to image the central nervous system is
- CT
 - MRI
 - ultrasound
 - PET

ANS: B

MRI has become the modality of choice for imaging the central nervous system and spine.

REF: Page 24

25. What atom's energy is manipulated to produce MRI images?
- Radiofrequency (RF) pulse hydrogen.
 - Echo time (TE) carbon.
 - Relaxation time (T1/T2) nitrogen.
 - Repetition time (TR) oxygen.

ANS: A

The basic technique consists of inducing hydrogen atoms (protons) to alternate between a high-energy state and a low-energy state by absorbing and then releasing, or transferring, energy. This absorption of energy is accomplished by placing the anatomic part to be imaged in a strong static magnetic field and directing an RF pulse at the area.

REF: Page 24

26. Relaxation is
- the energy transfer of the radiofrequency pulse to tissue
 - the proton releasing energy to return to its original state
 - the listening time of the MR unit to hear an echo
 - the repetition of the energy signal

ANS: B

The protons begin to release, or transfer, their absorbed energy as they move back to a low-energy state. This process is called relaxation, and it occurs over time.

REF: Page 24

27. By selecting different pulses, sequences, and frequencies, the MR T1-weighted image produces images with a
- high signal intensity (bright) water
 - high signal intensity (bright) fat, subacute hemorrhage, and contrast material
 - low signal intensity (intermediate to dark) fat
 - low signal intensity (very dark) bone and air

ANS: B

On T1-weighted images, substances causing high signal intensity (i.e., appearing bright) include fat, subacute hemorrhage, highly proteinaceous material (e.g., mucus), slow-flowing blood, and intravenous contrast material (e.g., gadolinium).

REF: Page 24

28. To best increase the exam specificity in MRI, the technologist must
- use contrast enhancement
 - change relaxation time
 - change pulse sequences
 - A and C

ANS: D

The introduction of intravenous contrast materials and different types of pulse sequences are helping increase specificity.

REF: Page 25

29. Diffusion imaging relies on _____ aiding in diagnosis of early stroke.
- tissue diffused with contrast material
 - decreased microcirculation demonstrating less blood volume
 - random movement of water
 - A and C

ANS: C

Diffusion imaging relies on the movement of molecules and random thermal motion. (In this instance, random movement of water is known as diffusion.)

REF: Page 25

30. Motor, sensory, and vision neurons (nervous system) can be demonstrated by
- diffusion imaging
 - perfusion imaging
 - fat-suppressed images
 - functional MR

ANS: D

Functional MR (fMR) allows the localization of specific regions of the brain that correspond to various functions, such as the motor, sensory, memory, vision, and language functions.

REF: Page 27

31. Ionizing radiation, which is emitted from the patient to produce images, is the modality of
- conventional x-ray
 - ultrasound
 - nuclear medicine
 - magnetic resonance imaging

ANS: C

In nuclear medicine, the patient ingests, or is injected with, a radiopharmaceutical that emits radiation, and an image is created from the signals radiating from the patient.

REF: Page 28

32. The patient is injected or ingests the ionizing radiation through
- a radiopharmaceutical
 - an iodinated contrast agent
 - gadolinium
 - barium

ANS: A

The dose of radiopharmaceutical is calculated on the basis of the specific half-life and decay rate of its attached radionuclide. The amount of ionizing radiation to the patient in a nuclear medicine study is similar to that in a plain radiographic examination.

REF: Page 28

33. To detect the ionizing radiation being emitted from the patient to produce an image, a _____ is used.
- Geiger counter
 - gamma camera
 - pocket dosimeter
 - dose calibrator

ANS: B

A gamma camera with a sodium iodide crystal detects the ionizing radiation emitted from the patient.

REF: Page 28

34. To best demonstrate a physiologic map, the modality of choice is
- MRI
 - CT
 - ultrasound
 - nuclear medicine

ANS: D

The physiologic map produced by some nuclear medicine procedures allows changes to be detected earlier than plain radiographic images because the functional perspective makes it more sensitive.

REF: Page 28

35. Increased radionuclide uptake produces a _____ on the image.
- hot spot
 - blank spot
 - cold spot
 - homogeneous area

ANS: A

Abnormal nuclear medicine images demonstrate hot spots produced by an increase in the uptake.

REF: Page 28

36. To enhance the nuclear medicine image, researchers applied the use of _____ to increase accuracy.
- computers and movement
 - multiple gamma cameras and movement
 - multiple digital cameras
 - A and B

ANS: D

SPECT imaging involves the movement of the gamma camera(s) rotating around the patient and the computer software to perform the reconstruction of the image.

REF: Page 28

37. A collimator in the SPECT imaging system

- a. contains multiple parallel channels allowing rays to pass
- b. provides a lead plate increasing image contrast
- c. is a device to allow rotation of the camera
- d. allows more gamma rays to reach the camera

ANS: A

SPECT has a collimator containing multiple parallel channels to allow the rays to pass.

REF: Page 29

38. The greatest difference in PET and SPECT is the type of
- a. ionizing radiation emitted by radiopharmaceuticals
 - b. camera used to detect the ionizing radiation
 - c. physiologic map produced
 - d. computer image produced

ANS: A

In positron emission tomography (PET), as in nuclear medicine procedures, a radionuclide tracer is used to produce images. However, here the radiopharmaceutical is different because it decays by positron emission.

REF: Pages 28-29

39. Epileptic foci and Alzheimer's disease are best demonstrated by
- a. SPECT
 - b. CT
 - c. MRI
 - d. PET

ANS: D

PET can be used to evaluate for stroke and to identify epileptic foci for surgical intervention. Brain disorders that can be demonstrated by PET imaging include Parkinson's disease, schizophrenia, Huntington's disease, and Alzheimer's disease.

REF: Page 31

40. Which imaging technique analyzes the chemical composition of tissues in vivo?
- a. CTA
 - b. MRA
 - c. fMRI
 - d. MR spectroscopy

ANS: D

The development of magnetic resonance spectroscopy (MRS) has made it possible to analyze the chemical composition of tissues in vivo.

REF: Page 25

MATCHING

Match the following terms related to specialty imaging technologies.

- a. Gamma camera movement and computer enhancement

- b. Hybrid equipment producing two modality images simultaneously
- c. Modality of choice for examinations of children and pregnant women
- d. Radiofrequency pulses used to excite protons in the atoms
- e. Radiopharmaceutical emitting gamma radiation to produce an image
- f. Scanning a slice of tissue from multiple angles with a narrow x-ray beam
- g. Software specially designed to overlay multidimensional computed data
- h. Uses a decaying radiopharmaceutical emitting a positron

- 1. Computed tomography
- 2. Direct fusion imaging
- 3. Integrated imaging
- 4. Magnetic resonance imaging
- 5. Nuclear medicine
- 6. PET
- 7. SPECT
- 8. Ultrasound

- 1. ANS: F REF: Page 21
- 2. ANS: B REF: Page 32
- 3. ANS: G REF: Page 32
- 4. ANS: D REF: Page 24
- 5. ANS: E REF: Page 28
- 6. ANS: H REF: Pages 29-30
- 7. ANS: A REF: Pages 28-29
- 8. ANS: C REF: Page 17

Match the following terms related to ultrasound.

- a. Echo free appearing as a dark region on the image
- b. Reflections from body structures
- c. Structure exhibits a relatively strong reflection appearing light gray to white
- d. Tissue producing weak reflections that appear gray on the image
- e. Two structures producing the same reflection

- 9. Anechoic
- 10. Echoes
- 11. Echogenic
- 12. Hypoechoic
- 13. Isoechoic

- 9. ANS: A REF: Page 17
- 10. ANS: B REF: Page 17
- 11. ANS: C REF: Page 17
- 12. ANS: D REF: Page 17
- 13. ANS: E REF: Page 17

Match the following terms related to computed tomography.

- a. Ability to collect data from multiple sections per rotation
- b. Attenuation of a specific tissue relative to water
- c. Calculation of data collected from multiple angles using a narrow x-ray beam

- d. Continuous scanning while the patient moves through the gantry
- e. Contrast scale to be demonstrated on computer monitor
- f. Midpoint selected of densities to be viewed on the computer monitor
- g. Single scans that are integrated to produce multiplanar images

- 14. Conventional scanning
- 15. CT number
- 16. Helical scanning
- 17. Multidetector scanning
- 18. Relative linear attenuation coefficient
- 19. Window level
- 20. Window width

- 14. ANS: G REF: Page 21
- 15. ANS: B REF: Page 20
- 16. ANS: D REF: Page 21
- 17. ANS: A REF: Page 21
- 18. ANS: C REF: Page 20
- 19. ANS: F REF: Page 20
- 20. ANS: E REF: Page 20

Match the following terms related to nuclear medicine.

- a. Annihilation produces two high-energy photons in opposite directions
- b. Distribution of radionuclide representing the organ or system
- c. Drug or chemical emitting radiation
- d. Interaction of gamma rays with the sodium iodide crystal to produce light
- e. Multiple gamma cameras with movement
- f. Sodium iodide crystal to detect ionizing radiation emitted from patient

- 21. Gamma camera
- 22. Physiologic map
- 23. Positron emission tomography
- 24. Radiopharmaceutical
- 25. Scintigraphic image
- 26. Single-photon emission computed tomography

- 21. ANS: F REF: Page 28
- 22. ANS: B REF: Page 28
- 23. ANS: A REF: Page 29
- 24. ANS: C REF: Page 16| Page 28
- 25. ANS: D REF: Page 28
- 26. ANS: E REF: Page 16| Page 28