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Differentiation of benign and malignant adrenal masses by using unenhanced and enhanced CT attenuation values

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Adrenal masses are accidentally found in approximately 5-10% of patients on imaging. Most incidentalomas are benign adenoma. However in case of known extra-adrenal primary cancer, there is great difficulty for radiologist to distinguish between benign and metastasis adrenal lesion. Furthermore, it is essential to characterize any adrenal lesion in patients with a known cancer because many tumors may be metastasis might contraindicate a curative treatment of the patient and affect survival. Aim of the study to evaluate optimal threshold for CT attenuation value in unenhanced and enhanced scan and imaging feature for differentiated benign and malignant adrenal lesion. The study including 72 patients with 74 adrenal masses and pathological proved. Result of the study including benign adrenal lesion 63, 85.1% and malignant 11, 14.9 % respectively. It is concluded that the attenuation values on unenhanced CT scan has good potential for differentiating between benign and malignant adrenal masses with cutoff point at 47 HU with high specificity. The morphology and imaging characteristics which were considered of malignant adrenal masses including large size, heterogeneous on unenhanced and enhanced scan irregular shape, rough margin, central necrosis and perilesional fat stranding.

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