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CURRENT KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE, AND PRACTICE PATTERNS AMONG UROLOGISTS REGARDING PROSTATE MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING (MRI) AND MR TARGETED BIOPSY

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Introduction and Objective: Multiparametric MRI (mpMRI) and MR targeted biopsy have a growing role in the screening and evaluation of prostate cancer. Its acceptance in the urologic community has been steadily increasing. We aim to evaluate the current knowledge, attitude, and practice patterns of urologists regarding this new technique.

Methods: A brief online questionnaire was designed to collect information on knowledge, preferences, and practice patterns of urologists regarding prostate mpMRI and MR targeted biopsy. The survey was sent to the members of the Endourological Society (ES), European Association of Urology (EAU), and Society of Urologic Oncology (SUO). Data was collected in an anonymous manner.

Results: A total of 302 responses were received [ES: 175, EAU: 23, SUO: 104]. Mean age of the respondents was 48.5 (± 11.9) years, with 59.7% practicing urology for > 10 years and 68.9% practicing in an academic setting. The majority of respondents (83.6%) believe MR targeted biopsy to be moderately to extremely beneficial in the evaluation of prostate cancer. 85.7% of responders utilize prostate MR imaging in their practice, and 63% utilize MR targeted biopsy. Practicing in an academic setting ($p = 0.005$), fellowship training in urologic oncology ($p = 0.004$), performing more than 5 biopsies per month ($p = 0.016$), and doing more than 25 radical prostatectomies per month ($p < 0.001$) were associated with utilizing MR targeted biopsy. MRI-ultrasound fusion biopsy was the most commonly reported technique utilized for targeted biopsy (73.0%). The two most common settings for utilization of MR targeted biopsy include patients with history of prior negative biopsy (96.3%) and monitoring patients on active surveillance (72.5%). In those who do not utilize MR targeted biopsy, the principal reasons were lack of necessary infrastructure (64.1%) and prohibitive costs (48.1%). A large proportion of respondents (66.0%) consider the MR targeted biopsy technique to be "not difficult at all" or only "slightly difficult" to learn. Fellowship training in urologic oncology was associated ($p = 0.014$) with perceived lower difficulty in learning the MR targeted biopsy technique.

Conclusions: A majority of respondents to our survey seem to look favorably upon use of prostate MRI and MR targeted biopsy in clinical practice. These results provide further insight into current beliefs and practice patterns among urologists regarding this novel and potentially transformative technology.

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