

Contents

Abstract	1
Resum	3
Resumen	5
Motivation	7
Objetives and structure	11
Chaper 1. Introduction	13
1.1 Clinical bases	13
1.1.1 Angiogenesis	13
1.1.2 Ovarian hyperstimulation syndrome	16
1.1.3 Articular cartilage degeneration	17
1.1.4 Brain tumors: glioblastomas	19
1.1.5 Liver tumors: hepatocellular carcinoma	21
1.2 MR imaging	22
1.2.1 Physical bases	23
1.2.2 Equipment	27
1.2.3 Image formation	29
1.2.4 Sequences	31
1.2.5 Exogenous contrast agents	34
1.2.6 Acquisition requirements for a PK study	36
1.3 Pharmacokinetic models	39
1.3.1 Definition of pharmacokinetics	39
1.3.2 Quantitative MR perfusion studies: from empirical measurements to PK modeling	40
Chapter 2. Methodology	55
2.1 Image preparation	55
2.1.1 Image filters	55
2.1.2 Image registration	63

2.2 Application of PK modeling	70
2.2.1 Study cases	70
2.2.2 Curve fitting	92
2.2.3 New developments	93
Chapter 3. Results and discussion	109
3.1 Evaluation of ovarian hyperstimulation syndrome	109
3.2 Assessment of cartilage degeneration in 1.5 T	112
3.3 Assessment of cartilage degeneration in 3.0 T	115
3.4 Evaluation of glucosamine sulfate for the osteoarthritis treatment	117
3.5 Characterization of grade-IV astrocytomas	123
3.6 Magnetic field strength influence	127
3.7 Assessment of the arterial contribution in liver carcinomas	129
3.8 Assessment of region heterogeneities in hepatocarcinomas	135
Chapter 4. Future work	137
4.1 Arterial input function	137
4.2 PK modeling of the kidneys	138
4.3 Multivariate image analysis	138
4.4 Analysis of curve fitting results	139
4.5 Methodological standardization	139
4.6 Comparison of DCE-MRI PK modeling with IVIM and ASL	140
4.7 Development of a post-processing integrated clinical tool	141
Chapter 5. Conclusions	143
References	147
Publications	159
Appendix	165