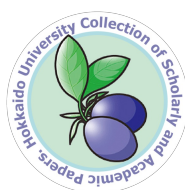




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Original Paper

Evaluation of the motion of lung tumors during stereotactic body radiation therapy (SBRT) with four-dimensional computed tomography (4DCT) using real-time tumor-tracking radiotherapy system (TRTR)



Keiichi Harada ^a, Norio Katoh ^{b,c,*}, Ryusuke Suzuki ^b, Yoichi M. Ito ^d, Shinichi Shimizu ^{c,e}, Rikiya Onimaru ^a, Tetsuya Inoue ^b, Naoki Miyamoto ^b, Hiroki Shirato ^{a,c}

^a Department of Radiation Medicine, Hokkaido University Graduate School of Medicine, North-15 West-7, Kita-ku, Sapporo 060-8638, Japan

^b Department of Radiation Oncology, Hokkaido University Hospital, North-14 West-5, Kita-ku, Sapporo 060-8638, Japan

^c Global Station for Medical Science and Engineering, Global Institution for Collaborative Research and Education, Hokkaido University Graduate School of Medicine, North-15 West-7, Kita-ku, Sapporo 060-8638, Japan

^d Department of Biostatistics, Hokkaido University Graduate School of Medicine, North-15 West-7, Kita-ku, Sapporo 060-8638, Japan

^e Department of Radiation Oncology, Hokkaido University Graduate School of Medicine, North-15 West-7, Kita-ku, Sapporo 060-8638, Japan

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ABSTRACT

Purpose: We investigated the usefulness of four-dimensional computed tomography (4DCT) performed before stereotactic body radiation therapy (SBRT) in determining the internal margins for peripheral lung tumors.

Methods and Materials: The amplitude of the movement of a fiducial marker near a lung tumor measured using the maximum intensity projection (MIP) method in 4DCT imaging was acquired before the SBRT (Amp_{CT}) and compared with the mean amplitude of the marker movement during SBRT (Amp_{mean}) and with the maximum amplitude of the marker movement during SBRT (Amp_{max}) using a real-time tumor-tracking radiotherapy (TRTR) system with 22 patients.

Results: There were no significant differences between the means of the Amp_{mean} and the means of the Amp_{CT} in all directions (LR, $P = 0.45$; CC, $P = 0.80$; AP, $P = 0.65$). The means of the Amp_{max} were significantly larger than the means of the Amp_{CT} in all directions (LR, $P < 0.01$; CC, $P = 0.03$; AP, $P < 0.01$). In the lower lobe, the mean difference of the Amp_{CT} from the mean of the Amp_{max} was 5.7 ± 8.0 mm, 12.5 ± 16.7 mm, and 6.8 ± 8.5 mm in the LR, CC, and AP directions, respectively.

Conclusions: Acquiring 4DCT MIP images before the SBRT treatment is useful to establish the mean amplitude for a patient during SBRT but it underestimates the maximum amplitude during actual SBRT. Caution must be paid to determine the margin with the 4DCT especially for tumors at the lower lobe where it is of the potentially greatest benefit.

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Introduction

Stereotactic body radiation therapy (SBRT) is widely used in the therapy of localized lung malignancies with patients where the malignancy is inoperable or where patients refuse to undergo surgical resection [1–3]. It is important to reduce uncertainties in the target delineation and localization, and thereby limit the doses to the surrounding normal tissue [4–6].

Four-dimensional computed tomography (4DCT) has been widely used to estimate the internal motion of lung cancers in SBRT. Underberg et al. have shown that 4DCT is useful to determine the internal target volume (ITV) in stereotactic body radiation therapy (SBRT) for stage I lung cancer [7]. Using 4DCT, Liu et al. have shown that the principal component of the tumor motion was in the cranial-caudal direction (CC), with only 10.8% of tumors moving >1.0 cm based on the data of 4DCT [8].

The accuracy of the ITV determination based on 4DCT has been compared with other imaging modalities. Cai et al. found that ITVs based on 4DCT were comparatively smaller than those based on dynamic magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) in both phantom studies and lung tumor patient studies [9]. Purdie et al. have shown that tumor motion of the planning 4DCT scan did not match that of

* Corresponding author. Department of Radiation Oncology, Hokkaido University Hospital, North-14 West-5, Kita-ku, Sapporo 060-8638, Japan. Tel.: +81 11 706 5977; fax: +81 11 706 7876.

E-mail address: noriwokatoh@med.hokudai.ac.jp (N. Katoh).

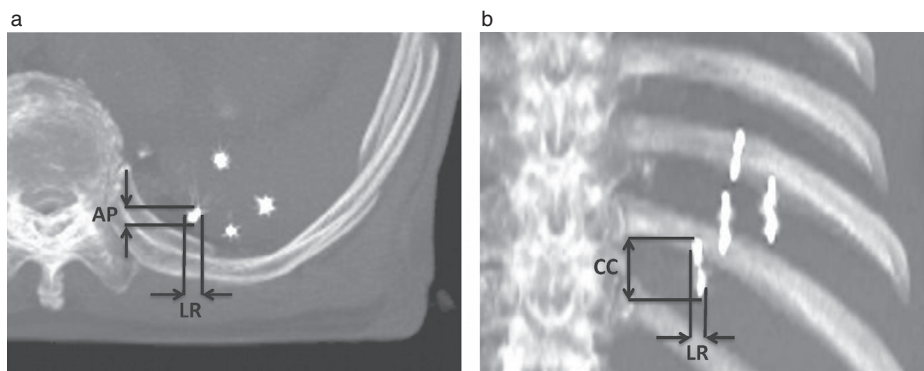


Figure 1. a. A maximum intensity projection (MIP) image in the axial plane generated from all 10 phase-based bins of the 3DCT images. The amplitude of the marker measured with the MIP (Amp_{CT}) was defined as the maximum minus the minimum coordinates in the left-right (LR) and anterior-posterior (AP) directions. b. Another MIP image in the sagittal plane generated by the same method in the same patient as in (a). The amplitudes of the marker measured with the MIP (Amp_{CT}) in the left-right (LR) and cranio-caudal (CC) directions are shown.

cone-beam CT on the treatment unit at the start of treatment in 2 of 12 patients [10]. They suggested that ITV based on 4DCT could underestimate the tumor motion and not be suitable for patients receiving SBRT. However, there is little information about the accuracy of the motion estimated from 4DCT in comparison with the actual internal motion of tumors during SBRT.

The internal motion of tumors has been shown to vary in the same patient by analysis of internal fiducial marker movements near the tumor using a real-time tumor-tracking radiotherapy (RTTRT) system [11]. The purpose of this study is to evaluate the accuracy of the amplitude of internal fiducial markers in the lung by comparing 4DCT data with RTTRT log data obtained during SBRT in the same patient. We have not compared displacement of the tumor location between treatments, which would be relevant to the so called 'inter-fractional motion'. We have compared the amplitude of the tumor motion during the treatment, which is more relevant to the so called 'intra-fractional motion'.

Methods and materials

Patients

We obtained approval from the research ethics committee of Hokkaido University Hospital for this retrospective study (No. 012-0395). From May 2011 to October 2013, 22 patients with peripheral lung tumors, who underwent 4DCT and SBRT with a RTTRT system, were included in this study. The median age was 77.5 years (range 63–89). Tumor locations were: 11 upper-middle lobes and 11 lower lobes (Table S1). As previously described, in a RTTRT system, the three-dimensional (3D) coordinates of a fiducial marker which has been implanted near the lung tumor were recorded every 0.033 seconds during the SBRT using two sets of fluoroscopes [12]. The outcome of the SBRT using RTTRT has been reported elsewhere [13]. In our institution, we used RTTRT for the lung SBRT using the RTTRT system. The RTTRT is basically a gated radiotherapy where the therapeutic beam is delivered only when the internal fiducial marker near the tumor is within a ± 2 -mm of the planned position at the end of expiration. This is the reason why we used breath-hold CT images acquired at the end of expiration for the determination of CTV and for dose calculations. Five mm was added to the CTV to make the PTV. The 4DCT image was used for research purposes in this study. The prescription was 40 Gy in 4 fractions to the 95% of PTV in principle.

Measurement of amplitudes using 4DCT

Fiducial markers with a diameter of 2 mm were implanted through endoscopy before the 4DCT. For each lung tumor, 3–4 markers were implanted near the tumor. No training or visual monitoring of breath was used during the 4DCT and RTTRT. Patients were breathing freely and naturally throughout the 4DCT and SBRT procedures in this study. The marker nearest the tumor center is used for the RTTRT. The 4DCT scan was performed on a 16-slice CT scanner (Optima CT580 W; GE Healthcare, Waukesha, WI) within one week before the SBRT, with transaxial images acquired during free breathing in the cine mode. The scan parameters were: 1.0 s gantry rotation, 0.5 s cine interval, 20 mm beam collimation, and 2.5-mm slice thickness. The datasets at each table position were acquired for at least the duration of one respiratory cycle of the patient. During the CT scan, the respiratory signals of each patient were recorded and monitored using a Varian Real-time Position Management (RPM) system (Varian Medical Systems, Palo Alto, CA): a box with two infrared reflective markers was placed on the upper abdomen of the patient and its movement was captured by an infrared camera. The raw 4DCT images and the corresponding respiratory signal data were transferred to an Advantage Workstation 4.5 (GE Healthcare, Waukesha, WI) to sort the 4DCT images into 10 respiratory phase-based bins of 3DCT images. Maximum intensity projection (MIP) images were automatically generated from all 10 phase-based bins of the 3DCT images using the Advantage 4D software (GE Healthcare, Waukesha, WI).

We used the MIP images from the 4DCT (4DCT MIP) for the measurements of the amplitude of the fiducial marker that was tracked by the RTTRT system during the SBRT. The window width was set to 2000 HU and the window level as 150 HU, and defined a high-density area over 1000 HU as the trajectory of the marker. We selected areas of more than 1000 HU as the trajectory of the marker to distinguish metallic fiducial markers from bone or calcification. The amplitude of the marker measured with the 4DCT MIP (Amp_{CT}) was defined as the maximum coordinates minus the minimum coordinates in the left-right (LR), cranio-caudal (CC), and anterior-posterior (AP) direction coordinates, respectively (Fig. 1). The 3D scalar amplitude (3DSA) was defined as the Amp_{CT} distance in 3D coordinates and calculated as $DSA = (LR^2 + CC^2 + AP^2)^{1/2}$.

Measurement of amplitudes during SBRT using RTTRT log data

In the RTTRT system, log files are created continuously during the delivery of the therapeutic beam for each port unless there is a

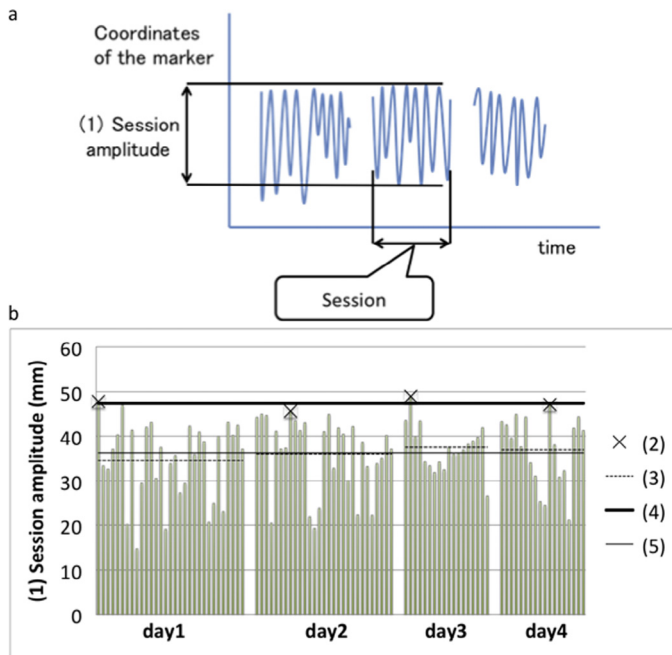


Figure 2. a. Definition of the amplitude of the marker determined in RTRT. Each continuous recording is one session. In each session, the maximum minus the minimum is the difference in the LR, CC, and AP directions. b. Example of the RTRT amplitude of one patient. (1) Session amplitude, (2) the maximum amplitude of the day, (3) the mean amplitude of the day, (4) the maximum amplitude of the patient during SBRT (Amp_{max}), (5) the mean amplitude of the patient during SBRT (Amp_{mean}).

baseline shift or recognition of the marker is insufficient; in such situations, tracking of the marker stopped and the recording of the log file is discontinued. A continuous recording is termed as one 'session' here and thus each session is recorded in one log file (Fig. 2a).

We measured several types of amplitudes for each patient in this study in the LR, CC, and AP directions: (1) session amplitude, the maximum amplitude in each session; (2) the maximum amplitude of the day, the maximum session amplitude on the day; (3) the mean amplitude of the day, the mean of session amplitudes of the day; (4) the maximum amplitude of the patient during SBRT (Amp_{max}), the mean of the maximum amplitudes of one day for the whole of the treatment; (5) the mean amplitude of the patient during SBRT (Amp_{mean}), the average of the mean amplitudes of the day during the whole of the treatment (Fig. 2b).

Statistical analysis

The JMP 9 (SAS, Cary, NC) software was used for the statistical analysis. The Amp_{CT} was compared with the mean of the Amp_{mean} and Amp_{max} using the Wilcoxon test. The mean difference of the Amp_{CT} from the mean of the Amp_{mean} and Amp_{max} was compared for the upper-middle and the lower lobes also using the Wilcoxon test. The statistical relationships between several clinical characteristics and the difference in the Amp_{CT} versus the Amp_{mean} and the Amp_{max} were investigated using analysis of variance (ANOVA). The restricted maximum likelihood (REML) method in linear random effects model was used to estimate the variance components. As the clinical characteristics in the analysis, the age, the forced expiratory volume in 1 second (FEV1.0), lobe, and the 3DSA were used. In clinical practice, emphysematous and fibrotic changes in lung tissue are more common in old age. Also FEV1.0 is often changed in the diseased lung tissue. Therefore, we have included these parameters in the analysis. For each factor, the median value was used

to divide the whole of the obtained data into two groups: ages 77 or younger vs. 78 or older, FEV1.0 <1.8 L vs. ≥ 1.8 L or larger, lobe upper-middle vs. lower and 3DSA <10 mm vs. ≥ 10 mm or larger. The means of the differences in the amplitudes were compared between groups using the Wilcoxon test. A P value < 0.05 was considered to show statistical significance.

Results

The mean period between the dates of the 4DCT scan and the start of the SBRT was 5.6 days (range 3–6). The duration for acquisition of 4DCT images ranged from 87.8 to 139.5 seconds (mean 104.6). In 96 treatments with the 22 patients, the length of the log-data of the RTRT system for one treatment was from 395 to 1924.3 seconds (mean 1025.5). The duration of the SBRT was about 10 times longer than the 4DCT. The average length of session of RTRT log data was 92.4 seconds (range: 49.6–174.2). There were 11.3 sessions per fraction of SBRT.

Measurement of amplitudes using 4DCT

The mean of the Amp_{CT} in the 22 patients was 3.6 ± 1.3 mm (range 1.9–6.4), 9.4 ± 8.1 mm (1.9–36.1), and 5.5 ± 1.9 mm (3.4–10.4) in the LR, CC, and AP directions, respectively. The median 3DSA was 9.8 mm (range 4.6–37.7) (Tables S1 and S2).

Analysis based on the mean amplitude of each patient during SBRT

The mean of the Amp_{mean} was 4.2 ± 2.8 mm (0.9–13), 11.4 ± 11.6 mm (1.1–38.0), and 5.7 ± 3.6 mm (1.5–15.7) in the LR, CC, and AP directions, respectively (Table S2). There were no significant differences between the mean of the Amp_{mean} and the mean of the Amp_{CT} in any direction (LR, $P = 0.45$; CC, $P = 0.80$; and AP, $P = 0.65$) (Fig. 3a).

In the upper-middle lobe, the mean difference from the amplitude measured with the 4DCT to the mean of the Amp_{mean} in the 22 patients was -0.2 ± 0.8 mm, -1.2 ± 2.7 mm, and -0.9 ± 1.1 mm in the LR, CC, and AP directions, respectively. In the lower lobe, it was 1.5 ± 3.5 mm, 5.2 ± 11.7 mm, and 1.2 ± 3.8 mm in the LR, CC, and AP directions, respectively. There were no statistically significant differences between the differences in the lower lobe and in the upper-middle lobe in any of the directions (LR, $P = 0.15$; CC, $P = 0.19$; and AP, $P = 0.26$).

Analysis based on the maximum amplitude of a patient during SBRT

The mean of the Amp_{max} of all patients was 7.0 ± 6.0 mm (1.7–28.8), 15.9 ± 16.4 mm (2.0–52.3), and 9.5 ± 7.5 mm (2.4–34.8) in the LR, CC, and AP directions, respectively (Table S2). The mean of the Amp_{max} was statistically significantly larger than the Amp_{CT} in all three directions (LR, $P < 0.01$; CC, $P = 0.03$; and AP, $P < 0.01$) (Fig. 3b).

In the upper-middle lobe, the mean difference between the Amp_{CT} and the mean of the Amp_{max} was 1.3 ± 1.1 mm, 0.6 ± 3.1 mm, and 1.1 ± 1.7 mm in the LR, CC, and AP directions. In the lower lobe, it was 5.7 ± 8.0 mm, 12.5 ± 16.7 mm, and 6.8 ± 8.5 mm in the LR, CC, and AP directions. The differences in the lower lobe were larger than those in the upper-middle lobe in the CC and AP directions (LR, $P = 0.15$; CC, $P < 0.05$; and AP, $P = 0.21$) (Fig. 4). Figure 5 illustrates the position of the markers and the differences between the means of the Amp_{max} and Amp_{CT} .

The mean and standard deviations of the difference between the Amp_{CT} and the Amp_{max} for the selected clinical characteristics (age, FEV1.0, lobe, and 3DSA) are shown in Table 1. The difference was significantly larger in the lower lobe than in the upper-middle lobe in the CC (Upper-middle 0.6 ± 3.1 , Lower 12.5 ± 16.7 , $P < 0.05$). The difference was also larger for those with 3DSA 10 mm or larger than

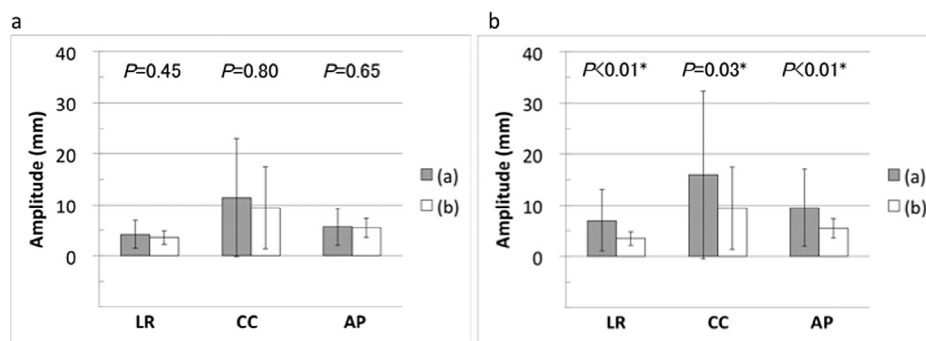


Figure 3. a. Plots of the mean of the Amp_{mean} and the mean of the Amp_{CT} . (a) The mean of the Amp_{mean} and (b) the mean of the Amp_{CT} in the LR, CC, and AP directions. b. Plots of the mean of the Amp_{max} and the mean of the Amp_{CT} . (a) The mean of the Amp_{max} and (b) the mean of the Amp_{CT} in the LR, CC, and AP directions.

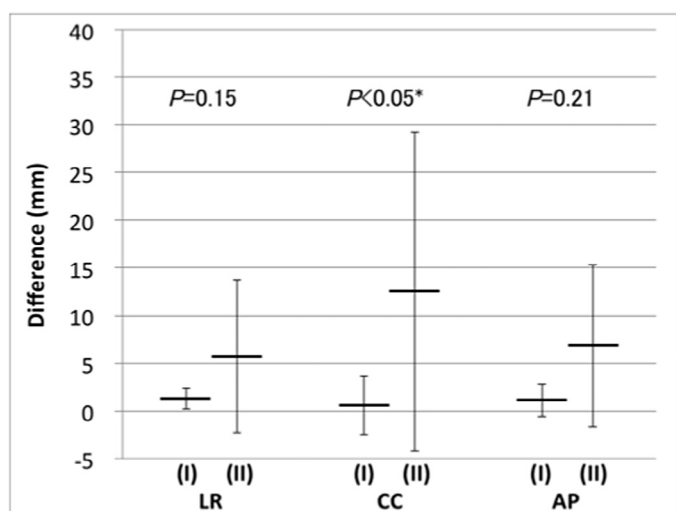


Figure 4. The mean differences of the Amp_{CT} from the Amp_{max} . (I) In the upper-middle lobe and (II) in the lower lobe for the LR, CC, and AP directions.

those with 3DSA less than 10 mm in the LR direction (<10 mm 0.9 ± 1.7 , 10 mm 6.0 ± 1.7 , $P = 0.01$). No other statistical differences were observed.

Relationships between the several clinical characteristics and the mean difference between the Amp_{CT} and the mean of the Amp_{max} were investigated using ANOVA. Estimated percentages of total variance components using the REML method were determined as shown in Table 2. For age, FEV1.0, lobe, and 3DSA, it was 0.0%, 4.4%, 5.1%, and 24.0%, respectively, in the LR direction; 0.0%, 1.1%, 29.7%, and 0.0% in the CC direction; and 0.0%, 0.0%, 21.3%, and 5.5% in the AP direction. These percentages suggest that the lobe and the 3DSA contribute to the mean difference in the LR, CC, and AP directions (Table 2). However, the residual component other than these clinical characteristics in the variance is still large in all three directions.

Discussion

As a simple approach to generate individualized ITVs from 4DCT, Ezhil et al. have investigated the accuracy of MIP-based ITV compared with the method of contouring on all 10 phases [14]. Here it was found that the MIP-based ITV underestimated the volume

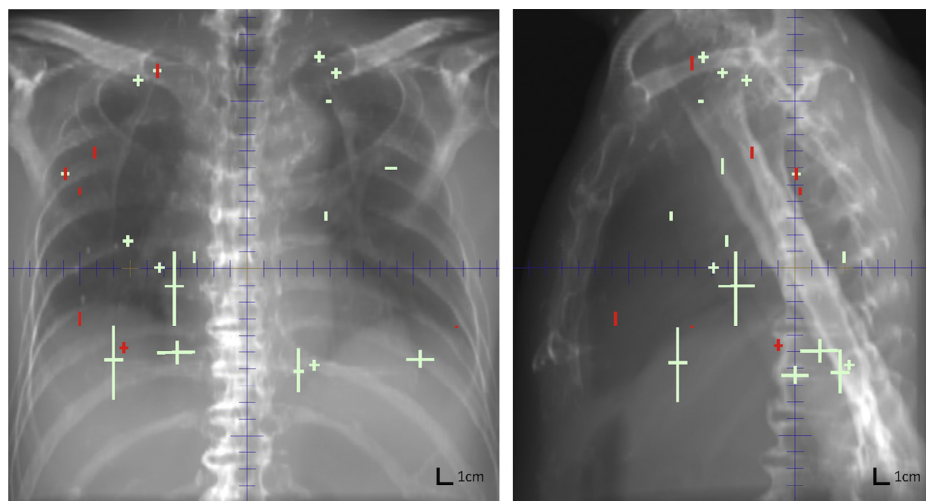


Figure 5. The positions of each marker and its corresponding difference between the Amp_{max} and the Amp_{CT} . On the frontal chest image (left panel), the vertical and horizontal bars indicate the degrees of the differences expressed by 'the Amp_{max} minus the Amp_{CT} ' in the CC and LR directions, respectively. On the lateral chest image (right panel), the vertical and horizontal bars indicate the degrees of the differences in the CC and AP directions, respectively. Green lines represent plus values and red lines represent minus values of the differences. (For interpretation of the references to color in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)

Table 1Difference of the Amp_{CT} from the mean of the Amp_{max} (Mean ± Standard Deviation).

	Age			FEV1.0			Lobe			3DSA		
	<77 (n = 11)	78≤ (n = 11)	P	<1.8 L (n = 11)	1.8 L≤ (n = 11)	P	Upper-middle (n = 11)	Lower (n = 11)	P	<10 mm (n = 11)	10 mm≤ (n = 11)	P
LR (mm)	3.1 ± 3.7	3.9 ± 7.9	0.51	4.6 ± 8.2	2.4 ± 2.4	0.74	1.3 ± 1.1	5.7 ± 8.0	0.15	0.9 ± 1.7	6.0 ± 1.7	0.010*
CC (mm)	5.0 ± 8.0	8.1 ± 17.3	0.43	5.2 ± 12.1	7.9 ± 14.8	0.65	0.6 ± 3.1	12.5 ± 16.7	0.049*	4.0 ± 11.9	9.1 ± 14.6	0.17
AP (mm)	3.7 ± 4.8	4.3 ± 8.3	0.36	5.4 ± 8.7	2.5 ± 3.5	1.0	1.1 ± 1.7	6.8 ± 8.5	0.21	1.7 ± 4.6	6.2 ± 7.8	0.10

Abbreviations: LR = left-right, CC = cranial-caudal, AP = anterior-posterior, FEV1.0 = forced expiratory volume in 1 second, 3DSA = three-dimensional scalar amplitude. The asterisk in Table 1 shows the statistical significance ($P < 0.05$).

in stage I and stage III NSCLC patients. It was further pointed out that the MIP images may not fully display mobile structures if the adjacent structures have similar densities, which is the case for lesions located near the mediastinum, diaphragm, liver, and chest wall. Mancosu et al. have proposed a semiautomatic technique for defining the internal margins of lung tumors close to the liver cupola by 4DCT to overcome measurement errors due to the limitations of MIP images [15]. In the present study, there are possible measurement errors by metal marker artifacts on the 4DCT MIP images. However, since the CT image number is much higher than that of the surrounding tissue, we considered that any ambiguity in the motion measurements was less than in the measurements of the tumor mass which is composed of soft tissue and would present the possibility of partial volume effects at the edge of the tumor.

The present study showed that the mean of the Amp_{mean} was not statistically different from the mean of the Amp_{CT} in all three of the LP, CC, and AP directions. This allows the conclusion that, as long as the object is to determine the Amp_{mean} it is sufficient and acceptable to use the Amp_{CT}.

At the same time, the present study also showed that the mean of the Amp_{max} was statistically significantly larger than the mean of the Amp_{CT} in all of the LP, CC, and AP directions. This is consistent with previous suggestions of possible underestimation of the maximum amplitudes measured with 4DCT MIP images [9]. The reason why Amp_{CT} is underestimated may be because the reconstructed 4DCT MIP images are vulnerable to variations in respiratory motion and to differences between internal respiratory motion [16,17] as well as to the motion of the skin surface marker used in 4DCT.

The longer time period for the delivery of SBRT compared to the time needed for the 4DCT may also be a cause. Baseline drift of the respiratory motion and changes in the depth of respiration may occur during the longer period of the SBRT [18]. Remaining and new challenges of radiotherapy of 4D imaging have been reported previously [19].

The mean difference between the Amp_{CT} and the mean of the Amp_{max} was larger in the lower lobe. This may be because of an inaccurate reconstruction due to higher speed of motion of the tumor in the lower lobe [11]. It is reasonable to expect that the smaller motion in the upper and middle lobes resulted in the smaller

differences in the amplitudes of the upper and middle lobes. These results do not disagree with previous results of differences in the three-dimensional trajectory of skin surface and internal fiducial markers either [20].

In general, previous reports have suggested that 4DCT can be expected to be useful especially for the lower lobe where the tumor motion is large. However, the present study showed that the difference is significantly larger in the lower lobe. This result stresses that it is not safe to reduce the internal margin for tumors in the lower lobe by using an ITV solely based on the 4DCT MIP. The magnitude of the difference reached 12.5 ± 16.7 mm in the CC direction, leading us to suggest that it cannot be recommended to use 4DCT to estimate the internal margin for tumors in the lower lobe in general. For tumors in the upper and middle lobes, Onodera et al. have reported that an insignificant proportion of these tumors have large amplitudes in patients with poor pulmonary function and in patients who have a history of surgical operations of the thorax [21]. Based on these results, 4DCT may be considered adequate to estimate the internal margins for tumors at the upper and middle lobes in patients with normal pulmonary function.

In dynamic tracking of radiation therapy with real-time monitoring, the margins added to the clinical target volume (CTV) can in principle be kept smaller than those determined for SBRT in free-breathing [22–24]. However, our results suggest that extreme caution must be paid not to miss-estimate the CTV when the external skin surface or surrogate signals are used during the dynamic tracking of a tumor based on the 4DCT data. Similarly, the most careful attention should be paid to passive scattering particle therapy and even more caution shown with intensity modulated radiotherapy and spot scanning particle therapy where interplay effects of beam and organ motion may deteriorate the dose distribution further.

It could be possible to improve the accuracy of the 4DCT by increasing the time period where images are taken but this would result in additional X-ray exposure. Also the difference in the respiratory pattern at the treatment planning and at the actual treatment will not be overcome by increasing the time for the 4DCT. This study found that 3DSA and the position of the lobe contributed to the variation in the difference between treatment planning and the actual treatment patterns. However, the residual

Table 2Variance components for the mean of the Amp_{CT} around the mean of the Amp_{max}.

	LR			CC			AP		
	Variance (mm ²)	95% CI (mm ²)	%*	Variance (mm ²)	95% CI (mm ²)	%*	Variance (mm ²)	95% CI (mm ²)	%*
Age	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
FEV1.0	1.9	0.2–8.7	4.4	2.3	0.6–4.0	1.1	0	0	0.0
Lobe	2.2	0.2–3.0	5.1	61.4	9.9–3,106,996.7	29.7	10.5	1.6–2,857,152.6	21.3
3DSA	10.3	1.5–8,265,330.5	24.0	0	0	0.0	2.7	0.3–1.8	5.5
Residual	28.5	16.3–61.9	66.5	143.4	82.3–310.4	69.2	36.2	21.0–76.6	73.2
Total	42.9		100.0	207.1		100.0	49.4		100.0

Abbreviations: LR = left-right, CC = cranial-caudal, AP = anterior-posterior, CI = confidence interval, FEV1.0 = forced expiratory volume in 1 second, 3DSA = three-dimensional scalar amplitude.

* Contribution of clinical characteristics to the total variance was shown as the percentage.

component of variance was too large to be able to confidently predict the difference by using the clinical characteristics identified before the treatment. The large residual component is probably reflecting randomness in the respiratory motion and would be difficult to reduce by adding further clinical characteristics in the analysis.

Gated radiotherapy using the RTRT system has been suggested to be useful to reduce the amount of residual error both for lung as well as for abdominal tumors because of the real-time monitoring of the tumor position [25]. The safety and efficacy of RTRT for treatment of stage I NSCLC has also been reported [13]. However, caution must also be paid to possible dislocation of the fiducial marker during the actual treatment (making its position different from that at treatment planning) adding additional differences between the motion of a tumor and the motion of the fiducial marker near the tumor [26,27]. Jang et al. reported the importance of setting an appropriate gating window regarding tumor characteristics as necessary in gated SBRT in general for lung cancer [28].

The limitations of the present study relate to these problems of gated SBRT using an RTRT system and fiducial markers. The relationship between the tumor motion and that of the fiducial marker motion may change during the treatment. Ueki et al. reported that the root mean squares of the standard deviations for each phase were 0.6, 0.9, and 1.5 mm in the right-left, anterior-posterior, and superior-inferior directions, respectively [29]. Therefore, since this study is dealing with the discrepancies between the 4DCT and RTRT for fiducial markers, the results should be interpreted with caution. When applying the present results for general purposes, the possible discrepancy between the tumor itself and the fiducial markers must be considered. Further investigation will be required to more accurately detect real-time three-dimensional motion of the CTV during the delivery of the irradiation.

Conclusion

The present study found that determining the amplitude measured with 4DCT MIP before SBRT treatment is adequate to know the mean amplitude for a patient prior to SBRT. However, the study also found that amplitudes measured with 4DCT MIP underestimate the maximum amplitude of tumors at the lower lobe. This stresses that great care must be paid to determine the margin of organ motion accurately with 4DCT especially for tumors at the lower lobe when the benefits of the SBRT here are especially critical.

Conflict of interest

The Corresponding Author (N.K.) has received grants from a Grant-in-Aid for Young Scientists (B) from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of the Japanese Government (No. 24791260) during the conduct of the study.

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Appendix Supplementary material

Supplementary data to this article can be found online at doi:10.1016/j.ejmp.2015.10.093.

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