

1 **Role of MR Texture Analysis in Histological Subtyping and Grading of Renal Cell**  
2 **Carcinoma: A Preliminary Study**

3 **Abstract**

4 **Purpose:** The study evaluated the usefulness of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) texture  
5 parameters in differentiating clear cell renal carcinoma (CC-RCC) from non-clear cell  
6 carcinoma (NC-RCC) and in the histological grading of CC-RCC.

7 **Material and Methods:** After institutional ethical approval, this retrospective study  
8 analyzed 33 patients with 34 RCC masses (29 CC-RCC and five NC-RCC; 19 low grade  
9 and 10 high grade CC-RCC), who underwent MRI between January 2011 and December  
10 2012 on a 1.5-T scanner (Avanto, Siemens, Erlangen, Germany). The MRI protocol  
11 included T2-weighted imaging (T2WI), diffusion-weighted imaging [DWI; at b 0, 500 and  
12 1000 s/mm<sup>2</sup> with apparent diffusion coefficient (ADC) maps] and T1-weighted pre and  
13 postcontrast [corticomedullary (CM) and nephrographic (NG) phase] acquisition. MR  
14 texture analysis (MRTA) was performed using the TexRAD research software (Feedback  
15 Medical Ltd., Cambridge, UK) by a single reader who placed free-hand polygonal region  
16 of interest (ROI) on the slice showing the maximum viable tumor. Filtration histogram-  
17 based texture analysis was used to generate six first-order statistical parameters [mean  
18 intensity, standard deviation (SD), mean of positive pixels (MPP), entropy, skewness and  
19 kurtosis] at five spatial scaling factors (SSF) as well as on the unfiltered image. Mann-  
20 Whitney test was used to compare the texture parameters of CC-RCC vs. NC-RCC, and

21 high grade vs. low grade CC-RCC. P-value < 0.05 was considered significant. A 3-step  
22 feature selection was used to obtain the best texture metrics for each MRI sequence and  
23 included the receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curve analysis and Pearson's  
24 correlation test.

25 **Results:** The best performing texture parameters in differentiating CC-RCC from NC-RCC  
26 for each sequence included (area under the curve in parentheses): entropy at SSF 4 (0.807)  
27 on T2WI, SD at SSF 4 (0.814) on DWI b500, SD at SSF 6 (0.879) on DWI b1000, mean  
28 at SSF 0 (0.848) on ADC, skewness at SSF 2 (0.854) on T1WI and skewness at SSF 3  
29 (0.908) on CM phase. In differentiating high from low grade CC-RCC, the best parameters  
30 were: entropy at SSF 6 (0.823) on DWI b1000, mean at SSF 3 (0.889) on CM phase and  
31 MPP at SSF 5 (0.870) on NG phase.

32 **Conclusion:** Several MR texture parameters showed excellent diagnostic performance  
33 (AUC > 0.8) in differentiating CC-RCC from NC-RCC, and high grade from low grade  
34 CC-RCC. MRTA could serve as a useful non-invasive tool for this purpose.

### 35 **Keywords**

36 Renal Cell Carcinoma, Fuhrman Grade, Magnetic Resonance Imaging, Radiomics, Texture  
37 Analysis

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## 40 **Introduction**

41 Renal cell carcinoma (RCC) is the 16<sup>th</sup> most common cancer worldwide, accounting for  
42 2.2% of all newly diagnosed cancers (1). About 17% of the cases are found to be metastatic  
43 at presentation (2). The most important prognostic factors are the TNM stage and  
44 Fuhrman's nuclear grade, the latter consisting of four grades (low grade: 1 and 2; high  
45 grade: 3 and 4) based on nuclear morphology and pleomorphism (3). Higher grades are  
46 associated with poor prognosis (4). Clear cell RCC (CC-RCC) accounts for the majority  
47 (75%) of cases, followed by papillary, chromophobe, collecting duct, medullary and  
48 unclassified types which are collectively labeled as non-clear cell RCC (NC-RCC) (5). CC-  
49 RCC has higher mortality than NC-RCC. CC-RCC primarily expresses mutations of the  
50 Von Hippel-Lindau (VHL) gene or the mammalian target of rapamycin (mTOR) pathway  
51 and thus, several targeted-therapy agents (tyrosine kinase inhibitors like sunitinib and  
52 mTOR inhibitors like everolimus) have been used successfully in the management of these  
53 tumors (6). Hence, RCC subtyping and grading provides significant prognostic information  
54 and helps to guide therapy.

55 Currently, this information is obtained from histopathological evaluation of the resected  
56 specimen since most of the suspected RCCs undergo surgery. In case of metastatic disease,  
57 biopsy is performed to obtain the same information. Biopsy carries a small risk (3.5%) of  
58 hemorrhage and remote risk (1:10000) of tract seeding (7,8). In addition, there has been  
59 an increasing interest in exploring the potential of neoadjuvant chemotherapy since it could

60 treat micrometastasis and reduce tumor size, thereby enabling a more conservative surgery  
61 (9). Hence there is a need for preoperative prediction of tumor subtype and grade using  
62 non-invasive tools like imaging. Diffusion-weighted imaging (DWI) and perfusion MRI  
63 were the first modalities to be used for this purpose (10,11).

64 Of late, a lot of interest has emerged in radiomics and texture analysis (TA). Radiomics is  
65 the science of extraction, analysis and interpretation of quantitative imaging parameters  
66 beyond what can be subjectively assessed by the human eye. These findings could reflect  
67 microscopic features of tumors and provide information useful in tumor subtyping and  
68 grading, genetic mapping and prediction of early treatment response. Texture analysis  
69 assesses tumor heterogeneity at the pixel level by evaluating the distribution and spatial  
70 relationship of grayscale values (12).

71 Several studies have used TA to subtype and grade RCC on contrast-enhanced CT images  
72 (13-20). Many authors have also used machine learning algorithms in interpreting and  
73 validating the data in order to generate classifiers which could enhance the findings of  
74 individual metrics and save time in the process. In the present study, we explored MR  
75 texture analysis (MRTA) as a tool for subtyping and grading RCC. MRI provides multiple  
76 paradigms for assessment of the morphology and functional microenvironment of renal  
77 tumors. Hence it is likely that MRTA could provide more robust metrics in comparison to  
78 CT. Being a radiation free modality, MRI is likely to be used more extensively in the future,  
79 particularly in children and those on follow-up. Till date, only one study has evaluated MR

80 texture analysis in RCC (21). Hence the purpose of this study was to evaluate the role of  
81 MRTA in the differentiation of CC-RCC from NC-RCC and high grade CC-RCC from low  
82 grade CC-RCC.

### 83 **Methodology**

#### 84 *Patient Selection*

85 A retrospective review of the MRI records between January 2011 and December 2012 was  
86 done to look for adult patients with suspected RCC. These patients were part of an ethically  
87 approved study to evaluate renal lesions using CT and MRI and informed consent had been  
88 taken from all the patients. This dataset yielded a consecutive sample of 39 patients who  
89 underwent MRI and were subsequently proven to have renal cell carcinoma on  
90 histopathological evaluation of the biopsy or nephrectomy specimen. Among these, two  
91 were excluded since their complete imaging data could not be retrieved from the local  
92 picture archiving and communications system (PACS). Four patients were excluded since  
93 their tumors were predominantly cystic and had insufficient solid component ( $< 1 \text{ cm}^2$ )  
94 where a region of interest (ROI) could be drawn. Finally, a total of 33 patients were  
95 included. Among these, one patient had two tumors. Thus, a total of 34 tumors underwent  
96 texture analysis.

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99 *MRI Acquisition Parameters*

100 All the MR examinations were performed on a 1.5-T scanner (Avanto, Siemens, Erlangen,  
101 Germany) using a 16-channel phased array torso coil. Non-contrast sequences included  
102 axial and coronal fat-suppressed T2-weighted turbo spine-echo (T2W TSE) acquired in  
103 multiple breath-holds, axial T1-weighted dual gradient-echo in-phase (TE: 4.76 ms) and  
104 out-of-phase (TE: 2.34 ms) images acquired in multiple breath-holds, axial and coronal  
105 true fast imaging with steady-state precession (TrueFISP) in a single breath-hold and  
106 diffusion-weighted images (DWI). For DWI, fat-suppressed echo-planar imaging (EPI)  
107 was used to acquire the images in the axial plane using diffusion-sensing gradients in all  
108 the three orthogonal planes at b values of 0, 500 and 1000 s/mm<sup>2</sup>. Navigator-triggered  
109 respiratory gating was used to acquire the images. Following acquisition, a pixel-wise  
110 apparent diffusion coefficient (ADC) map was generated by the inbuilt software using b-  
111 values of 0 and 500 s/mm<sup>2</sup>.

112 All patients with eGFR above 60 mL/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup> underwent multiphase contrast-  
113 enhanced study. Nine patients (10 tumors) did not undergo postcontrast imaging due to  
114 deranged renal parameters. For the remaining 24 patients, contrast imaging was performed  
115 using fat-suppressed 3D T1-weighted volume interpolated breath-hold examination  
116 (VIBE) sequence in the axial plane after injection of gadobenate dimeglumine (Multihance,  
117 Bracco, Milan, Italy), at the rate of 2 mL/s followed by 20 mL saline chase using a dual-  
118 head pressure injector. The bolus-tracking method was used to time the multiphase

119 acquisition at 40-50 seconds [corticomedullary (CM) phase], 80-100 seconds  
120 [nephrographic (NG) phase] and 180 seconds (delayed phase). Precontrast images were  
121 also acquired for the purpose of subtraction and post contrast coronal acquisition was also  
122 done. The imaging protocol is described in **table 1**.

### 123 *Feature Extraction: MRTA*

124 Both the non-contrast and post-contrast images were available for TA in 24 patients,  
125 whereas in the remaining 9 patients (10 tumors), only the non-contrast images were  
126 available. The texture analysis was performed by a single radiologist (A.R., with 5 years  
127 of experience in diagnostic imaging) who was blinded to the final histopathologic  
128 diagnosis. For the analysis, the axial dataset of the fat-suppressed pre-contrast T1-VIBE,  
129 T2W TSE images, DWI images at b500 and 1000 s/mm<sup>2</sup>, ADC map as well as the  
130 postcontrast (CM and NG phase) T1-VIBE images were used. The image data was  
131 uploaded onto the TexRAD software (Feedback Medical Ltd., Cambridge, UK-  
132 www.fbkmed.com). The NG phase T1-VIBE images were screened initially to map the  
133 distribution of the enhancing, viable tumor component. Subsequently, single representative  
134 slice which showed the maximum amount of viable tumor component was chosen and a  
135 free-hand polygonal ROI of minimum size 1cm<sup>2</sup> was drawn within the tumor (**Fig. 1A**).  
136 Care was taken to avoid extending the margins of the ROI into the peripheral 2-3 mm of  
137 the tumor to avoid potential errors arising from volume averaging and inclusion of perirenal  
138 fat. Predominantly cystic tumors not having contiguous solid component of at least 1 cm<sup>2</sup>

139 were excluded. ROIs were similarly placed on the other sequences at the same anatomical  
140 section using the NG phase image as the reference to avoid mapping the necrotic portions  
141 of the tumor. Necrotic areas were avoided in an effort to remove the confounding effect of  
142 macroscopic necrosis, so that the texture parameters would truly reflect microscopic  
143 heterogeneity. Multiple ROIs or volumetric ROI were not used since they were  
144 cumbersome, time-consuming and more prone to compounding of errors resulting from  
145 incorrect drawing of the ROI and inclusion of the necrotic component.

146 MRTA using TexRAD comprises of a filtration-histogram technique, where an initial  
147 Laplacian of Gaussian spatial band-pass filter is applied to extract and enhance features of  
148 different sizes corresponding to the spatial scaling factors (SSF) applied. The filtration step  
149 further reduces the effects of photon noise on texture quantification. Five spatial scale  
150 filters (SSF) were used- 2 mm (fine texture), 3, 4 and 5 mm (medium texture) as well as 6  
151 mm (coarse texture) (**Fig. 1B-D**). In addition, the unfiltered images (SSF: 0 mm) were also  
152 analyzed. Subsequently, a pixel intensity distribution histogram was generated and texture  
153 feature extraction was performed to derive six quantitative first-order statistical metrics for  
154 each SSF: mean intensity (average of the grey-level intensity), standard deviation (SD;  
155 dispersion of pixel intensities from the mean), entropy (irregularity or disorder in the  
156 distribution of the pixel intensities), mean of positive pixels (MPP), skewness (asymmetry  
157 of the histogram) and kurtosis (peakedness of the histogram). Thus, 36 texture variables  
158 were obtained for each tumor.



159 *Statistical Analysis*

160 Statistical analysis was performed using the IBM SPSS software for Windows, version  
161 24.0 (IBM Corp, Armonk, NY, USA). To compare the differences in texture parameters  
162 between CC-RCC and NC-RCC, the non-parametric Mann-Whitney U test was used. To  
163 assess any significant association between texture parameters and the different Fuhrman  
164 grades (0-4) of CC-RCC, the non-parametric Spearman's rank correlation test was  
165 performed. A distinction was also sought between the texture parameters of the clinically  
166 relevant groupings of tumor grade i.e. high (grades 3 and 4) vs. low (grades 1 and 2) grade,  
167 using the Mann-Whitney U test. P-value < 0.05 was considered significant.

168 Since the volume of data was large, data reduction was essential to deduce meaningful  
169 conclusions. Feature selection was performed using a predefined, three-step approach so  
170 as to obtain the best performing metric (parameter) for each MR sequence after removing  
171 irrelevant and redundant metrics (**Fig. 2**). As the first step in differentiating CC-RCC vs.  
172 NC-RCC and high grade from low grade CC-RCC, all parameters which showed  
173 significant p-value underwent receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curve analysis to  
174 generate the area under the curve (AUC) and optimal cut-off value. Only the parameters  
175 which showed a high class separation capacity i.e.  $AUC > 0.8$ , were selected. The second  
176 step was targeted at identifying and removing the redundant data. For this, if the same  
177 metric showed  $AUC > 0.8$  at multiple SSFs in the same sequence, only the SSF with highest  
178 AUC was selected since the texture parameters at different SSF values are known to

179 correlate with each other. If parameters at more than one SSF showed the same AUC, only  
180 the one at the higher SSF was retained since higher SSF is known to mitigate photon noise  
181 and provide more accurate texture parameters than lower SSF filters. For the remaining  
182 parameters in each sequence, Pearson's correlation test was applied to look for mutual  
183 correlation. In case a strong mutual correlation ( $r > 0.9$ ) was observed, only the parameter  
184 with the highest AUC value was retained. The remaining parameters underwent the third  
185 step, where only the parameter with the highest AUC for each sequence was retained as  
186 the best performing metric.

187 Similarly, in differentiating the Fuhrman grades of CC-RCC, all the p-values were  
188 tabulated and Spearman's correlation coefficient was extracted for the significant p-values  
189 ( $< 0.05$ ) and only the parameters which showed a correlation coefficient  $\rho > 0.8$ , were  
190 selected for the second step. The second and third steps of feature selection were similar to  
191 the previous scenario.

## 192 **Results**

193 Mean age of the study population (33 patients) was 50.2 years and a male predominance  
194 (26 males vs. 7 females) was observed. The study population had a total of 34 RCCs (29  
195 CC-RCCs, four papillary RCCs and one chromophobe RCC). Among CC-RCC, there were  
196 10 high grade and 19 low grade tumors. The mean diameter of the tumors was  $6.63 \pm 3.2$   
197 cms and the mean ROI size was  $2.6 \pm 0.8$  cm<sup>2</sup>.

198 *Differentiation of CC-RCC from NC- RCC*

199 After Mann-Whitney analysis, the p-values of all the parameters were tabulated separately  
200 for each MR sequence and the metrics with significant p-value were identified (**Table 2**).  
201 This yielded a total of 25 metrics across all the sequences (three on T2W imaging, five on  
202 DWI b500, nine on DWI b1000, five on the ADC maps, one on the unenhanced T1W  
203 image, and two on the postcontrast CM phase images). On the NG images, no parameter  
204 was observed to be significant in differentiating CC-RCC from NC-RCC.

205 Subsequently, AUC values of all the parameters which showed a significant p-value were  
206 tabulated (**Table 3**). After the first step in feature selection (selecting only those metrics  
207 with  $AUC > 0.8$ ) the number of metrics reduced from 25 to 19. In the second step, for each  
208 metric on an MRI sequence, only the SSF with highest AUC was selected thereby reducing  
209 the number of metrics to nine (one each on T2W, DWI b500, T1W and CM phase images,  
210 two on ADC and three on DWI b1000). After this, for sequences with more than one  
211 remaining parameter, the Pearson's correlation test was applied sequence-wise, on which  
212 no strong correlation ( $r > 0.9$ ) was observed between the parameters on DWI b1000 images  
213 [SD at SSF 6 vs. entropy at SSF 0 ( $r = 0.199$ ), entropy at SSF 0 vs. MPP at SSF 2 ( $r = 0.089$ )  
214 and SD at SSF 6 vs. MPP at SSF 2 ( $r = 0.756$ )]. On the ADC images, mean and MPP at  
215 SSF 0 showed strong correlation ( $r = 1.0$ ), a finding which was expected since ADC maps  
216 possess only positive pixels. Hence only mean was retained.

217 After the third step of data reduction, the following features were selected as the sequence-  
218 wise best parameters in distinguishing CC-RCC from NC-RCC: (a) entropy at SSF 4  
219 [AUC: 0.807, 95% confidence interval (CI): 0.664-0.950] on the T2W images (b) SD at  
220 SSF 4 (AUC: 0.814, 95% CI: 0.577-1.000) on DWI b500 (c) SD at SSF 6 (AUC: 0.879,  
221 95% CI: 0.748-1.000) on DWI b1000 (d) mean at SSF 0 (AUC: 0.848, 95% CI: 0.609-  
222 0.950) on the ADC map (e) skewness at SSF 2 (AUC: 0.854, 95% CI: 0.673-1.000) on  
223 T1W images and (f) skewness at SSF 3 (AUC: 0.908, 95% CI: 0.782-1.000) on the CM  
224 phase images. The optimal cut-off values with their diagnostic performance are shown in  
225 **Table 3**. A box and whisker plot of the single best forming parameter (skewness at SSF3  
226 on the CM phase) is given in **Fig 3**.

### 227 *Correlation of Texture Parameters with Fuhrman Grades of CC-RCC*

228 Forty-six texture parameters showed significant correlation with the Fuhrman grades of  
229 RCC. These included four parameters on DWI b500 images, six on DWI b1000, nine on  
230 ADC map, 13 on the CM phase images and 14 on the NG images (**Table 4**). However,  
231 after the first step of feature selection, none of the metrics showed strong correlation ( $\rho >$   
232 0.8).

### 233 *Differentiation of High Grade from Low Grade CC-RCC*

234 On combining the nuclear grades into groups of two (i.e. high and low grades), 49  
235 parameters showed significant difference across all the sequences (**Table 5**). This included

236 two each on T1W, T2W and DWI b500, 10 on DWI b1000, 11 on the ADC map, 10 on the  
237 CM phase images and 12 on the NG phase images.

238 Next, AUC values of all the significant parameters were tabulated sequence-wise (**Table**  
239 **6**). The first step of feature selection reduced the number of metrics from 49 to 16. In the  
240 second step, for each metric, only the SSF with the highest AUC was retained, thereby  
241 reducing the number of metrics to seven (one on DWI b1000, three each on the CM and  
242 NG phase images). However, on the CM phase images, the texture parameter of mean  
243 intensity showed the same AUC value at two SSF (0.889 for both SSF 2 and SSF 3). In  
244 this case, only the mean at the higher SSF (i.e. SSF 3) was retained. Subsequently, for  
245 sequences with more than one remaining parameter, the Pearson's correlation test was  
246 applied sequence-wise, on which no strong correlation ( $r > 0.9$ ) was observed between  
247 mean at SSF 2 vs. MPP at SSF 5 ( $r = 0.586$ ) and mean at SSF 3 vs. MPP at SSF 5 on the  
248 CM phase images ( $r = 0.722$ ); mean at SSF 6 vs. SD at SSF 5 ( $r = 0.296$ ), mean at SSF 6 vs.  
249 MPP at SSF 5 ( $r = 0.796$ ) and SD at SSF 5 vs. MPP at SSF 5 ( $r = 0.642$ ) on the NG phase  
250 images.

251 After the third step of data reduction, the following features were selected as the sequence-  
252 wise best parameters in distinguishing high grade from low grade clear cell RCC: (a)  
253 entropy at SSF 6 (AUC: 0.823, 95% CI: 0.618-1.000) on DWI b1000 (b) mean at SSF 3  
254 (AUC: 0.889, 95% CI: 0.655-1.000) on the CM phase images and (c) MPP at SSF 5 (AUC:  
255 0.870, 95% CI: 0.712-1.000) on the NG phase images. The optimal cut-off values with

256 their diagnostic performance are shown in **table 6**. A box and whisker plot of the best  
257 forming parameter (mean at SSF3 on the CM phase) is given in **Fig 4**.

## 258 **Discussion**

259 Although currently histopathology is the gold standard, for tumor subtype and grade there  
260 is an intensive search for non-invasive imaging biomarkers which can provide prognostic  
261 information preoperatively and reduce the need for biopsy. Radiomics has generated  
262 significant interest with multiple studies finding a satisfactory diagnostic performance in  
263 grading and subtyping RCC on contrast-enhanced CT images using texture analysis (13-  
264 20).

265 In this study, we explored the performance of MRTA in differentiating CC-RCC from NC-  
266 RCC and high grade from low grade CC-RCC. MRI provides multiple paradigms for  
267 assessment of the morphology (T1, T2-weighted and postcontrast images) and functional  
268 microenvironment (DWI, perfusion-MRI) of tumors. Hence it is likely that MRTA could  
269 provide more robust and reliable metrics in comparison to CT texture analysis. Only one  
270 published study has previously used MRTA in RCC, where they attempted to differentiate  
271 the two subtypes of papillary RCC and observed that addition of TA to qualitative analysis  
272 improved the prediction of type 2 tumors (21). In our study, several texture parameters  
273 demonstrated strong diagnostic performance in differentiating CC-RCC from NC-RCC  
274 and high grade from low grade CC-RCC.

275 Texture analysis quantifies heterogeneity by assessing the differences in the brightness of  
276 the highlighted features from the background signal intensity. Miles et al. has demonstrated  
277 how imaging findings are related to texture parameters (22). SD and entropy, which are  
278 measures of dispersion and disorder respectively, tend to be higher with greater degrees of  
279 heterogeneity. On the other hand, kurtosis, which is a measure of the peakedness of the  
280 histogram, decreases with greater heterogeneity (17). Mean and MPP are related to overall  
281 brightness, with mean and MPP showing a positive correlation with greater signal intensity  
282 and enhancement (17,23). An increase in the number of brighter pixels also shifts the tail  
283 of the histogram to the right, resulting in positive skewness.

284 CC-RCC shows greater degree of heterogeneity than NC-RCC on morphologic imaging,  
285 attributable to the larger extent of necrosis (17). Consistent with this logic, T2W images  
286 showed higher entropy for CC-RCC in our study, although no such observations were  
287 significant on the postcontrast images. CC-RCC also shows higher mean enhancement as  
288 compared to papillary RCC which is a hypoenhancing tumor (24). Consistent with this,  
289 CC-RCC showed more positively skewed values than NC-RCC on the postcontrast CM  
290 phase images at SSF 3. On DWI, papillary RCC tumors are known to show greater  
291 diffusion restriction than CC-RCC (11). In agreement with this principle, CC-RCC had  
292 lower MPP values on DWI b1000 and higher mean values on the ADC map. On DWI, CC-  
293 RCC had lower SD and entropy values, suggesting a more homogeneous pattern of  
294 diffusion restriction within the pixels.

295 In the differentiation of tumor grades, high grade tumors are expected to show greater  
296 diffusion restriction and hence, higher mean and MPP with more positive skewness on  
297 DWI (25). However, our study failed to demonstrate any significant difference in this  
298 regard, although high grade tumors showed higher degree of entropy than low grade tumors  
299 on the DWI b1000 images. Due to higher predisposition for necrosis, high grade tumors  
300 show more heterogeneity on morphologic imaging (17). High grade tumors showed lower  
301 mean and MPP on the CM and NG phase images than low grade tumors, suggestive of  
302 lower net enhancement which could be attributed to greater necrosis at the microscopic  
303 level. However, as against expectation, the SD values of high grade tumors were below  
304 those of low grade tumors on the NG phase images.

305 In summary, our study yielded several individual texture parameters which demonstrated  
306 good performance in differentiating CC-RCC from NC-RCC and high grade from low  
307 grade CC-RCC. Best differentiation for both type and grade was achieved on the CM phase  
308 using SSF 3. An effort was made to remove the confounding effect of macroscopic necrosis  
309 by excluding such areas from ROI analysis, so that the texture parameters truly reflect  
310 heterogeneity at the microscopic level. However, texture analysis is an emerging field and  
311 the exact basis for the translation of texture data to histologic findings is not yet completely  
312 understood. In addition, challenges like the need for uniform acquisition protocols and  
313 reproducibility across vendors and institutions are to be met. However, in the future, if  
314 definite evidence becomes available and the hurdles could be mitigated, automated or semi-



315 automated TA could serve as an adjunct quantitative tool to morphologic assessment of  
316 renal lesions. At present, histological assessment of the biopsy or surgical specimens  
317 remains the gold standard tool for predicting tumor aggressiveness and guide therapeutic  
318 decisions.

319 Our study had few limitations. Firstly, our sample size of 34 tumors was small with skewed  
320 distribution of the different subgroups. Secondly, we acknowledge that though MR  
321 provides multiple paradigms compared to CT; reproducibility of MRTA is less owing to  
322 lack of standardized acquisition protocols. Thirdly, we assessed only first-order statistical  
323 texture parameters. Higher-order statistical parameters may provide more dimensions of  
324 data; but on the other hand, the large volume of data generated makes data reduction more  
325 computationally intensive. In addition, the biologic basis for many of these higher-order  
326 statistical parameters is not yet known. Finally, a combination of texture parameters, as  
327 with machine learning, may be more useful in classifying lesions rather than individual  
328 parameters since it summates and enhances subtle findings from the different component  
329 parameters (13,17). We could not incorporate machine learning or deep learning techniques  
330 in our study due to the small, skewed sample. But machine learning or algorithm-based  
331 combinations may not always be productive since they may undermine the biologic basis  
332 of individual parameters.

333 In conclusion MR texture analysis revealed several parameters with excellent diagnostic  
334 performance ( $AUC > 0.8$ ) in differentiating CC-RCC from NC-RCC, and high grade from

335 low grade CC-RCC. MR texture analysis can potentially serve as a useful non-invasive  
336 tool in subtyping and grading RCC. However, histopathology still remains the gold  
337 standard in the current clinical practice. Larger validation studies are needed before TA  
338 can be adopted in routine radiology practice.

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### 435 **Image Legends**

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437 **Figure 1:** 56-year-old male with low grade clear cell RCC in the right kidney. (A)

438 Demonstration of ROI placement on the nephrographic (NG) phase MR image. The free-

439 hand polygonal ROI (blue contour) is placed on the slice containing maximum viable

440 component of the tumor, taking care to avoid the peripheral 3 mm and any necrotic

441 component. **(B, C and D)** Colour display of the post-filtration texture analysis images at  
 442 fine (B), medium (C) and coarse (D) spatial scaling factors. **(E)** A pixel intensity  
 443 distribution histogram is subsequently generated.

444 **Figure 2:** Flowchart depicting the three-step approach to feature selection.

445 **Figure 3:** Box and whisker plot of the best forming parameter in differentiating CC-RCC  
 446 from NC-RCC (skewness at SSF3 on the corticomedullary phase).

447 **Figure 4:** Box and whisker plot of the best forming parameter in differentiating high grade  
 448 from low grade CC-RCC (mean at SSF3 on the corticomedullary phase).

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453 **Table 1:** MR-imaging sequences and acquisition parameters

Sequence	TR (ms)	TE (ms)	Slice thickness (mm)	Flip angle (degrees)	No. of averages	FOV (mm)	Matrix
<b>T2W TSE FS Axial</b>	2520	100	5	137	1	278 x 370	288 x 512

<b>T2W TSE FS Coronal</b>	2700	100	5	137	1	410 x 430	171 x 256
<b>T1W GRE In-phase</b>	125	4.76	5	70	1	278 x 370	288 x 512
<b>T1W GRE Out-of-phase</b>	125	2.34	5	70	1	278 x 370	288 x 512
<b>True FISP Axial</b>	3.4	1.4	5	39	1	263 x 350	288 x 512
<b>True FISP Coronal</b>	3.4	1.4	5	36	1	380 x 380	410 x 512
<b>DWI FS Axial (b0, 500, 1000 s/mm<sup>2</sup>)</b>	1600	62	7	90	6	249 x 380	94 x 192
<b>T1W FS VIBE 3D (Axial)</b>	5.1	2.3	3	10	1	253 x 450	158 x 512

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455 **TR:** Time to repeat, **TE:** Time to echo, **FOV:** Field of view, **T2W:** T2-weighted, **TSE:**

456 Turbo spin echo, **FS:** Fat suppressed, **T1W:** T1-weighted, **GRE:** Gradient-recalled echo,

457 **FISP:** Fast imaging with steady state precession, **DWI:** Diffusion-weighted imaging,

458 **VIBE:** Volume interpolated breath-hold examination.

459 **Table 2:** Mann-Whitney U test in the differentiation of CC-RCC from NC-RCC: P-value  
 460 of all the evaluated texture parameters, listed MR sequence-wise. Parameters showing  
 461 statistical significance ( $p < 0.05$ ) are highlighted in bold.

SSF	Mean	SD	Entropy	MPP	Skewness	Kurtosis
<b>T2WI</b>						
0	0.888	0.393	0.110	0.888	0.888	0.213
2	0.367	0.448	<b>0.033</b>	0.393	0.851	0.777
3	0.603	0.671	<b>0.029</b>	0.962	0.420	0.925
4	0.851	0.925	<b>0.025</b>	0.741	0.089	0.741
5	0.925	0.925	0.056	0.777	0.232	0.273
6	1.000	0.888	0.089	0.851	0.888	0.135
<b>DWI b 500</b>						
0	0.196	<b>0.025</b>	0.273	0.196	0.925	0.539
2	0.925	<b>0.029</b>	0.814	0.089	0.420	0.741
3	0.508	<b>0.044</b>	0.925	0.135	0.122	0.273
4	0.273	<b>0.029</b>	0.962	0.135	0.295	0.110
5	0.122	0.063	1.000	0.149	0.196	<b>0.038</b>
6	0.099	0.063	0.962	0.149	0.342	0.080
<b>DWI b 1000</b>						
0	0.213	<b>0.025</b>	<b>0.029</b>	0.213	0.637	0.110
2	0.637	<b>0.022</b>	0.342	<b>0.033</b>	0.888	0.477
3	0.342	<b>0.025</b>	0.179	<b>0.038</b>	0.706	0.342
4	0.448	<b>0.029</b>	0.318	0.056	0.671	0.232
5	0.530	<b>0.010</b>	0.342	0.071	0.962	0.477
6	0.393	<b>0.007</b>	0.273	0.071	0.671	0.814
<b>ADC</b>						
0	<b>0.012</b>	0.122	0.295	<b>0.012</b>	0.348	0.270
2	0.539	<b>0.016</b>	0.342	<b>0.050</b>	0.163	0.213
3	1.000	0.163	0.295	0.213	0.149	0.135
4	0.962	0.671	0.393	0.539	0.342	0.080
5	0.706	1.000	0.342	0.508	0.888	0.099
6	0.539	0.777	0.295	0.342	0.925	<b>0.038</b>



<b>T1WI</b>						
0	0.126	0.635	0.505	0.126	0.164	0.144
2	0.262	0.262	0.390	0.776	<b>0.024</b>	0.547
3	0.144	0.505	0.465	0.924	0.126	0.825
4	0.110	0.547	0.776	0.728	0.505	0.390
5	0.095	0.590	0.635	0.776	0.355	0.505
6	0.110	0.681	0.681	0.547	0.465	1.000
<b>CM phase</b>						
0	0.366	0.505	0.667	0.366	0.667	1.000
2	0.785	0.138	0.162	0.250	0.611	1.000
3	0.505	0.188	0.409	0.188	<b>0.009</b>	0.907
4	0.286	0.286	0.667	0.162	<b>0.009</b>	0.505
5	0.188	0.324	0.725	0.162	0.097	0.250
6	0.218	0.324	0.725	0.250	0.557	0.785
<b>NG phase</b>						
0	0.183	0.347	0.682	1.000	0.852	0.682
2	0.183	0.794	0.347	1.000	0.388	0.135
3	0.135	0.627	0.347	0.911	0.627	0.347
4	0.157	0.794	0.575	0.737	0.627	0.737
5	0.183	0.431	0.627	0.737	0.682	0.794
6	0.183	0.347	0.682	1.000	0.852	0.682

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465 **Table 3:** AUC values and diagnostic performance of all the parameters which showed  
466 statistical significance ( $p < 0.05$ ) in the differentiation of CC-RCC from NC-RCC, listed  
467 MR sequence-wise. Parameters remaining after the second step of feature selection are  
468 shown in bold. The sequence-wise single best parameters are highlighted with asterisk.

Parameter	SS F	AUC	Cut-off	Sensitivity	Specificity	PPV	NPV	Accuracy
<b>T2W</b>								
Entropy	2	0.793	$\geq 5.220$	60.7	100	100	31.3	66.7
Entropy	3	0.800	$\geq 5.180$	67.9	100	100	35.7	72.7
Entropy	4	<b>0.807*</b>	$\geq 5.130$	71.4	100	100	38.5	75.8
<b>DWI b500</b>								
SD	0	0.814	$\leq 11.260$	72.4	100	100	38.5	76.5
SD	2	0.807	$\leq 35.680$	82.1	80.0	95.8	44.4	81.8
SD	3	0.793	$\leq 45.190$	82.1	80.0	95.8	44.4	81.8
SD	4	<b>0.814*</b>	$\leq 53.050$	85.7	80.0	96.0	50.0	84.8
Kurtosis	5	0.786	$\leq 0.020$	71.4	80.0	95.2	33.3	72.7
<b>DWI b1000</b>								
SD	0	0.807	$\leq 7.200$	57.1	100	100	29.4	63.6
SD	2	0.821	$\leq 23.700$	82.1	80	95.8	44.4	81.8
SD	3	0.821	$\leq 23.120$	60.7	100	100	31.3	66.7
SD	4	0.821	$\leq 26.300$	67.9	100	100	35.7	72.7
SD	5	0.871	$\leq 28.550$	75.0	100	100	41.7	78.8
SD	6	<b>0.879*</b>	$\leq 26.300$	67.9	100	100	35.7	72.7
Entropy	0	<b>0.800</b>	$\leq 3.140$	53.6	100	100	27.8	60.6
MPP	2	<b>0.800</b>	$\leq 20.690$	78.6	80.0	95.7	40.0	78.8
MPP	3	0.800	$\leq 18.590$	60.7	100	100	31.3	66.7

<b>ADC</b>								
Mean	0	<b>0.848*</b>	$\geq 1042.41$	89.7	80	96.3	57.1	88.2
SD	2	0.724	$\geq 141.980$	58.6	80	94.4	25	61.8
MPP	0	<b>0.848</b>	$\geq 1042.41$	89.7	80	96.3	57.1	88.2
MPP	2	0.779	$\geq 360.850$	58.6	100	100	29.4	64.7
Kurtosis	6	0.793	$\geq -0.420$	72.4	100	100	38.5	76.5
<b>T1W</b>								
Skewness	2	<b>0.854*</b>	$\geq -0.100$	70.8	100	100	36.4	75.0
<b>CM phase</b>								
Skewness	3	<b>0.908*</b>	$\geq 0.170$	78.9	100	100	50	82.6
Skewness	4	0.908	$\geq 0.200$	73.7	100	100	44.4	78.3
<b>NG phase</b>								
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471 **Table 4:** Spearman's rank correlation test in the association of MR texture features with  
472 the Fuhrman grades of CC-RCC: P-value of all the evaluated texture parameters, listed MR  
473 sequence-wise. Parameters showing statistical significance ( $p < 0.05$ ) are highlighted in  
474 bold with the corresponding correlation coefficient ( $\rho$ ) in parentheses.

SSF	Mean	SD	Entropy	MPP	Skewness	Kurtosis
<b>T2WI</b>						
0	0.258	0.779	0.579	0.258	0.990	0.093
2	0.053	0.365	0.668	0.212	0.585	0.249
3	0.298	0.290	0.648	0.334	0.291	0.787
4	0.804	0.105	0.933	0.334	0.241	0.971
5	0.923	0.104	0.819	0.540	0.653	0.241
6	0.949	0.103	0.910	0.408	0.753	0.175
<b>DWI b 500</b>						
0	<b>0.021(0.419)</b>	0.147	0.074	<b>0.021 (0.419)</b>	0.354	0.365
2	0.569	0.115	0.083	0.598	0.500	0.840
3	0.496	0.365	<b>0.046 (0.368)</b>	0.653	0.885	0.758
4	0.542	0.501	0.051	0.968	0.631	0.383
5	0.589	0.580	<b>0.045 (0.368)</b>	0.873	0.724	0.139
6	0.533	0.476	0.069	0.970	0.443	0.074
<b>DWI b 1000</b>						
0	0.179	<b>0.049 (0.363)</b>	<b>0.027 (0.403)</b>	0.179	0.352	0.923
2	0.288	0.180	0.085	0.474	0.972	0.613
3	0.655	0.140	<b>0.020 (0.422)</b>	0.242	0.925	0.870
4	0.737	0.116	<b>0.012 (0.455)</b>	0.194	0.704	0.946
5	0.770	0.075	<b>0.015 (0.438)</b>	0.060	0.576	0.902
6	0.722	0.080	<b>0.009 (0.467)</b>	0.185	0.961	0.802
<b>ADC</b>						
0	0.306	0.964	<b>0.017 (0.432)</b>	0.306	0.968	0.466

2	0.473	0.327	<b>0.011</b> <b>(0.457)</b>	0.142	0.052	0.154
3	0.551	0.964	<b>0.011</b> <b>(0.457)</b>	0.214	0.122	0.085
4	0.551	0.529	<b>0.012</b> <b>(0.452)</b>	0.580	0.157	<b>0.036</b> <b>(0.385)</b>
5	0.378	0.445	<b>0.009</b> <b>(0.469)</b>	0.161	<b>0.028</b> <b>(-0.401)</b>	0.695
6	0.329	0.683	<b>0.013</b> <b>(0.448)</b>	0.064	<b>0.017</b> <b>(-0.434)</b>	0.743
<b>T1WI</b>						
0	0.707	0.076	0.071	0.707	0.181	0.087
2	0.840	0.783	0.514	0.853	0.857	0.571
3	0.188	0.982	0.733	0.818	0.783	0.832
4	0.117	0.985	0.526	0.826	0.557	0.752
5	0.146	0.901	0.693	0.645	0.111	0.822
6	0.094	0.715	0.901	0.423	0.195	0.727
<b>CM phase</b>						
0	0.168	0.164	0.291	0.168	<b>0.020</b> <b>(0.530)</b>	0.213
2	<b>0.004</b> <b>(-0.626)</b>	0.085	0.261	<b>0.034</b> <b>(-0.489)</b>	0.352	<b>0.038</b> <b>(0.480)</b>
3	<b>0.002</b> <b>(-0.661)</b>	0.054	0.310	<b>0.013</b> <b>(-0.556)</b>	0.855	0.181
4	<b>0.002</b> <b>(-0.662)</b>	0.135	0.393	<b>0.014</b> <b>(-0.555)</b>	0.940	0.368
5	<b>0.002</b> <b>(-0.654)</b>	0.101	0.372	<b>0.007</b> <b>(-0.597)</b>	0.849	0.118
6	<b>0.002</b> <b>(-0.663)</b>	0.086	0.371	<b>0.014</b> <b>(-0.555)</b>	0.549	<b>0.023</b> <b>(0.518)</b>
<b>NG phase</b>						
0	0.206	0.385	0.864	0.206	0.067	0.626
2	<b>0.019</b> <b>(-0.519)</b>	0.100	0.703	<b>0.015</b> <b>(-0.537)</b>	0.997	0.087
3	<b>0.021</b> <b>(-0.512)</b>	<b>0.040</b> <b>(-0.462)</b>	0.507	<b>0.012</b> <b>(-0.552)</b>	0.580	0.064

4	<b>0.008</b> (-0.572)	<b>0.023</b> (-0.506)	0.523	<b>0.004</b> (-0.612)	0.511	0.132
5	<b>0.006</b> (-0.596)	<b>0.009</b> (-0.567)	0.541	<b>0.001</b> (-0.673)	0.967	0.405
6	<b>0.003</b> (-0.627)	<b>0.022</b> (-0.507)	0.672	<b>0.001</b> (-0.683)	0.409	0.275

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483 **Table 5:** Mann-Whitney U test in the differentiation of high grade CC-RCC from low

484 grade CC-RCC: P-value of all the evaluated texture parameters, listed MR sequence-wise.

485 Parameters showing statistical significance ( $p < 0.05$ ) are highlighted in bold.

SSF	Mean	SD	Entropy	MPP	Skewness	Kurtosis
<b>T2WI</b>						
0	0.448	1.000	0.746	0.448	0.713	<b>0.049</b>
2	<b>0.039</b>	0.214	0.650	0.109	0.588	0.100

3	0.248	0.183	0.619	0.231	0.248	0.350
4	0.812	0.120	0.812	0.328	0.155	0.530
5	0.948	0.198	0.983	0.588	0.373	0.231
6	0.948	0.214	0.914	0.502	0.880	0.350
<b>DWI b 500</b>						
0	<b>0.035</b>	0.328	0.120	<b>0.035</b>	0.779	0.713
2	0.812	0.143	0.100	0.713	0.948	0.422
3	0.746	0.307	0.061	0.559	0.619	0.559
4	0.812	0.475	0.074	0.846	0.948	0.530
5	0.880	0.559	0.061	1.000	0.559	0.328
6	0.812	0.475	0.109	0.948	0.248	0.183
<b>DWI b 1000</b>						
0	0.067	0.074	<b>0.039</b>	0.067	0.475	0.948
2	0.448	0.100	<b>0.049</b>	0.307	0.650	0.746
3	1.000	0.074	<b>0.010</b>	0.120	0.559	0.983
4	0.914	<b>0.039</b>	<b>0.003</b>	0.082	0.422	0.713
5	0.880	<b>0.024</b>	<b>0.005</b>	<b>0.019</b>	0.448	0.746
6	0.880	<b>0.024</b>	<b>0.003</b>	0.061	0.983	0.948
<b>ADC</b>						
0	0.131	0.650	<b>0.028</b>	0.131	0.846	0.143
2	0.373	0.155	<b>0.019</b>	<b>0.049</b>	<b>0.044</b>	0.131
3	0.373	0.983	<b>0.019</b>	0.100	0.074	<b>0.028</b>
4	0.373	0.530	<b>0.019</b>	0.422	0.198	<b>0.017</b>
5	0.267	0.397	<b>0.017</b>	0.248	0.061	0.502
6	0.267	0.502	<b>0.022</b>	0.074	<b>0.035</b>	0.812
<b>T1WI</b>						
0	0.677	<b>0.023</b>	<b>0.020</b>	0.677	0.187	0.152
2	1.000	0.522	0.276	0.559	0.803	0.598
3	0.276	0.598	0.329	0.487	0.846	0.637
4	0.276	0.559	0.169	0.677	0.718	0.846
5	0.388	0.522	0.229	0.846	0.108	1.000
6	0.329	0.677	0.357	0.890	0.108	0.846
<b>CM phase</b>						
0	0.278	0.211	0.278	0.278	<b>0.043</b>	0.497

2	<b>0.003</b>	0.182	0.243	0.079	0.549	0.065
3	<b>0.003</b>	0.156	0.278	<b>0.043</b>	0.968	0.278
4	<b>0.004</b>	0.278	0.315	<b>0.035</b>	0.780	0.447
5	<b>0.006</b>	0.182	0.356	<b>0.022</b>	0.661	0.182
6	<b>0.006</b>	0.156	0.356	<b>0.035</b>	0.842	0.053
<b>NG phase</b>						
0	0.353	0.631	0.971	0.353	0.143	1.000
2	<b>0.029</b>	0.190	0.684	<b>0.035</b>	1.000	0.143
3	<b>0.035</b>	0.089	0.436	<b>0.029</b>	0.436	0.089
4	<b>0.015</b>	<b>0.043</b>	0.529	<b>0.011</b>	0.315	0.165
5	<b>0.011</b>	<b>0.023</b>	0.579	<b>0.004</b>	0.796	0.393
6	<b>0.009</b>	0.052	0.739	<b>0.005</b>	0.579	0.218

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494 **Table 6:** AUC values and diagnostic performance of all the parameters which showed  
495 statistical significance ( $p < 0.05$ ) in the differentiation of high grade from low grade CC-  
496 RCC, listed MR sequence-wise. Parameters remaining after the second step of feature  
497 selection are shown in bold. The sequence-wise single best parameters are highlighted with  
498 asterisk.

Parameter	SSF	AUC	Cut-off	Sensitivity	Specificity	PPV	NPV	Accuracy
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<b>T2W</b>								
Mean	2	0.735	$\leq 2.170$	60.0	90.0	75.0	81.8	80.0
Kurtosis	0	0.723	$\geq 0.620$	60.0	95.0	85.7	82.6	83.3
<b>DWI b500</b>								
Mean	0	0.570	$\leq 78.220$	30.0	90.0	60.0	72.0	70.0
MPP	0	0.740	$\leq 133.14$	60.0	90.0	75.0	81.8	80.0
<b>DWI b1000</b>								
SD	4	0.735	$\geq 26.300$	70.0	75.0	58.3	83.3	73.3
SD	5	0.755	$\geq 25.920$	80.0	75.0	61.5	88.2	76.7
SD	6	0.755	$\geq 22.220$	90.0	60.0	52.9	92.3	70.0
Entropy	0	0.735	$\geq 3.410$	60.0	95.0	85.7	82.6	83.3
Entropy	2	0.723	$\geq 3.780$	80.0	70.0	57.1	87.5	73.3
Entropy	3	0.790	$\geq 4.140$	50.0	100	100	80.0	83.3
Entropy	4	0.823	$\geq 3.980$	80.0	80.0	66.7	88.9	80.0
Entropy	5	0.810	$\geq 4.140$	70.0	90.0	77.8	85.7	83.3
Entropy	6	<b>0.823*</b>	$\geq 4.140$	70.0	90.0	77.8	85.7	<b>83.3</b>
MPP	5	0.765	$\geq 24.910$	70.0	75.0	58.3	83.3	73.3
<b>ADC</b>								
Entropy	0	0.748	$\geq 4.920$	60.0	85.0	66.7	81.0	76.7
Entropy	2	0.765	$\geq 5.510$	50.0	100	100	80.0	83.3
Entropy	3	0.765	$\geq 5.510$	50.0	100	100	80.0	83.3
Entropy	4	0.765	$\geq 5.510$	50.0	100	100	80.0	83.3

Entropy	5	0.770	$\geq 5.520$	50.0	100	100	80.0	83.3
Entropy	6	0.760	$\geq 5.520$	50.0	95.0	83.3	79.2	80.0
MPP	2	0.725	$\leq 372.71$	90.0	65.0	56.3	92.9	73.3
Skewness	2	0.730	$\leq -0.030$	80.0	65.0	53.3	86.7	70.0
Skewness	6	0.738	$\leq -0.110$	70.0	75.0	58.3	83.3	73.3
Kurtosis	3	0.748	$\geq -0.100$	90.0	60.0	52.9	92.3	70.0
Kurtosis	4	0.770	$\geq -0.360$	100	50.0	50.0	100	66.7
<b>T1W</b>								
SD	0	0.778	$\geq 14.760$	66.7	87.5	75.0	82.4	80.0
Entropy	0	0.781	$\geq 3.970$	66.7	87.5	75.0	82.4	80.0
<b>CM phase</b>								
Mean	2	<b>0.889</b>	$\leq 0.200$	88.9	100	100	90.9	94.7
Mean	3	<b>0.889*</b>	$\leq 7.550$	88.9	100	100	90.9	94.7
Mean	4	0.878	$\leq 39.920$	88.9	90.0	88.9	90.0	89.5
Mean	5	0.867	$\leq 31.280$	77.8	100	100	83.3	89.5
Mean	6	0.867	$\leq 75.030$	77.8	100	100	83.3	89.5
MPP	3	0.778	$\leq 67.320$	66.7	100	100	76.9	84.2
MPP	4	0.789	$\leq 80.380$	66.7	100	100	76.9	84.2
MPP	5	<b>0.811</b>	$\leq 113.49$	66.7	100	100	76.9	84.2
MPP	6	0.789	$\leq 130.99$	66.7	90.0	85.7	75.0	78.9
Skewness	0	0.778	$\geq -0.110$	100	70.0	75.0	100	84.2

NG phase								
Mean	2	0.790	$\leq 7.400$	80.0	90.0	88.9	81.8	85.0
Mean	3	0.780	$\leq 25.690$	80.0	80.0	80.0	80.0	80.0
Mean	4	0.820	$\leq 9.720$	70.0	90.0	87.5	75.0	80.0
Mean	5	0.830	19.260	70.0	90.0	87.5	75.0	80.0
Mean	6	<b>0.840</b>	$\leq 31.140$	70.0	100	100	76.9	85.0
SD	4	0.770	$\leq 135.91$	80.0	80.0	80.0	80.0	80.0
SD	5	<b>0.800</b>	$\leq 165.52$	90.0	70.0	75.0	87.5	80.0
MPP	2	0.780	$\leq 71.790$	70.0	80.0	77.8	72.7	75.0
MPP	3	0.790	$\leq 93.250$	70.0	90.0	87.5	75.0	80.0
MPP	4	0.830	$\leq 125.88$	70.0	90.0	87.5	75.0	80.0
MPP	5	<b>0.870*</b>	$\leq 193.67$	90.0	80.0	81.8	88.9	85.0
MPP	6	0.860	$\leq 217.36$	90.0	80.0	81.8	88.9	85.0