

Predictive quantitative multidetector computed tomography models for characterization of renal cell carcinoma subtypes and diferentiation from renal oncocytoma: nomogram algorithmic approach analysis

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Abstract

Background Our objective is to develop an algorithmic approach using predictive models to discriminate between common solid renal masses, including renal cell carcinoma [RCC] subtypes and renal oncocytoma [RO], using multiphase computed tomography [CT].

Methods We retrospectively analyzed a group of solid renal masses between January 2011 and January 2023 regarding the CT attenuation values using a multiphase multidetector CT and clinical parameters. Inclusion criteria included patients who had four phases of CT with a partial or radical nephrectomy. Exclusion criteria were patients with biphasic or one-phase CT, poor imaging quality, patients under surveillance, radiofrequency ablation, or indeterminate pathology fndings as oncocytic tumor variants. We divided our cohort into training and internal validation sets.

Results Our results revealed that a total of 467 cases, 351 patients assigned for the training cohort and 116 cases assigned for validation cohort. There is a signifcant diference between hypervascular clear RCC [CRCC and RO] and hypovascular chromophobe and papillary [ChRCC and PRCC] masses in both training and validation sets, AUC=0.95, 0.98, respectively. The predictive model for diferentiation between CRCC and RO showed AUC=0.83, 0.85 in both training and validation sets, respectively. At the same time, the discrimination of ChRCC from PRCC showed AUC=0.94 in the training set and 0.93 in the validation cohort.

Conclusions Using the largest sample to our knowledge, we developed a three-phase analytical approach to initiate a practical method to discriminate between diferent solid renal masses that can be used in daily clinical practice.

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- 1. This study aims to diferentiate between malignant and benign renal masses.
- 2. Computed tomography with new approach can solve this issue.
- 3. *Multiphasic CT can predict malignant probability with high accuracy.*

Keywords Carcinoma, Renal cell, Nomograms, Chromophobe, Papillary, Oncocytoma, Renal

Background

Universally, renal cell carcinoma [RCC] represents 5% and 3% of all urological malignancies in men and women $[1]$ $[1]$. The incidence of RCC diagnosis has increased since 1990 without clear, defnite reasons. One of the reasons for such a rise is due to an increase in incidental detection by using imaging modalities, especially computed tomography $|CT|$ $[2]$ $[2]$ $[2]$. The three commonest subtypes of RCC include clear cell [CRCC] [75–80%], papillary type [PRCC] [14–17%], and chro-mophobe [ChRCC] [4–8%] [\[3](#page-10-2)]. There are established imaging features for RCC diagnosis, and some features may identify its subtypes. However, the current imaging techniques still have controversy and weak accuracy in diferentiating RCC from benign masses such as renal oncocytoma [RO], which arises from the collecting duct and accounts for 3–5% of all solid renal masses $[4-7]$ $[4-7]$ $[4-7]$ $[4-7]$ $[4-7]$. The similarity of origin and pattern of enhancement between RCCs and ROs may contribute to the difculty of this diferentiation in the preoperative stage. Therefore, the definite diagnosis is based on histopathologic analysis of the surgically removed mass rather than imaging [[4](#page-10-3)]**.**

Accordingly, preoperative imaging diagnosis is of special importance to avoid unnecessary kidney resection or benign tumor. In the last few years, there has been a growing concept of less aggressive management, including active surveillance for the small renal masses even if they were diagnosed as malignant because they could be low-grade RCCs with low potential morbidity [\[8](#page-10-5), [9\]](#page-10-6)**.** On the other hand, new treatment options such as target and immune therapy are developing for advanced cases [[10\]](#page-10-7). For all those reasons, the characterization, stratification of RCC subtypes, and their diferentiation from benign RO have necessary implications in clinical practice. Therefore, there were many attempts to develop and enhance the imaging techniques to predict this diferentiation in the preoperative stage. Some studies utilized quantitative, and others used qualitative CT features for diferentiation [\[11](#page-10-8)[–13](#page-10-9)]**.**

In the last few years, the introduction of machine learning and textural analysis to diferentiate between RCC subtypes has had promising results [\[14](#page-10-10)–[17\]](#page-10-11)**.** However, due to the diferent techniques and multiple productions of diferent radiomics software, in addition to the need for highly expert individuals with diferent levels experience that produce wide variability in the utilized features, no standard methods could be achieved [\[18](#page-10-12), [19](#page-10-13)]**.**

Furthermore, other studies tried to develop multivariable predictive models to enhance the diferentiation between RCC subtypes, and other studies included RO using diferent separate variables [\[20,](#page-10-14) [21](#page-10-15)]**.** However, these studies examined a small sample size with incomparable numbers of tumors at the diferent arms. Unlike previous studies, we included the largest sample size in diferent RCC subtypes and RO to our knowledge.

As a result, we intend to develop a stepwise analytical approach based on multiple predictive models, including the best classifers, by creating training and validation cohorts using multiphase CT parameters for the most common types of RCC and attempting to distinguish them from RO.

Methods

Patients

The institutional review board approved this retrospective study, and informed consent was waived. We searched our medical records from January 2011 to January 2023 for patients with proven pathology for various RCC subtypes and RO.

Patients with four phases of CT and a partial or radical nephrectomy met the inclusion criteria. Patients with biphasic or one-phase CT, poor imaging quality, patients under radiofrequency ablation, surveillance, or uncertain pathology results as an oncocytic tumor variant were excluded.

Finally, we identifed 467 cases with the fnal diagnosis of RO and diferent subtypes of RCC.

CT Examinations

The examinations were carried out using a multidetector CT scanner with 64 parallel detector rows (Brilliance CT; Philips Medical Systems Nederland, Veenpluis 4–6, the Netherlands) and post-processing was carried out on a (Brilliance; Philips) workstation V3.01.5000. Patients were advised to refrain from eating or drinking for two

Fig. 1 Axial scans of the abdomen of a case of renal cell carcinoma clear cell type (**A**–**D**), oncocytoma (**E**–**H**), chromophobe renal cell carcinoma (**I**–**L**), and papillary renal cell carcinoma (M-P), with average attenuation values at non-contrast, arterial, venous, and delayed phases

hours prior to the scan, and no oral contrast was administered. Intravenous contrast [100–120 ml nonionic contrast, concentration 300 mg/ml] was injected at a rate of 4 ml/sec using a mechanical injector. During the noncontrast and venous phases, patients were scanned from the diaphragm to the symphysis pubis, and during the arterial and delayed phases, they were scanned via the kidney region.

The scanning parameters were as follows: tube voltage, 120 kVp (all phases); tube current, average 220 mA; slice thickness, 2.5 mm; reconstructed thickness, 5 mm; pitch, 0.984; rotation period, 0.75 s. The four CT phases were non-contrast, arterial, venous, and delayed. The arterial phase was delayed by 25–40 s, the parenchymal phase by 85 s, and the delayed phase by 300–420 s. All patients had their scans reconstructed in the axial, sagittal, and coronal planes.

Image analysis

Attenuation values in Hounsfeld units [HUs] and regions of interest [ROI] were measured entirely within the solid part of the mass, avoiding the periphery or any areas with calcifcation, cystic degeneration, or visible vasculature. In each CT phase, three ROIs with a range of [13–20 mm] were applied to each tumor, and one average value was obtained (Fig. [1](#page-2-0)). Variations in lesion enhancement, or absolute enhancement [AE], were computed by subtracting the non-contrast phase's attenuation value from the post-contrast phase's attenuation value. Tumor size was calculated using the largest diameter in either the sagittal or coronal reformatted images. These measurements were taken by consensus by two highly experienced radiologists [El-Diasty T and Shebel H] who had 35 and 25 years of experience reporting genitourinary CT images, respectively]. The final pathology reports were

not disclosed for them. They examined the scans at a certain workstation (Advantage Window 4.1; Philips).

Statistical analysis

Our outcome was tumor discrimination and validation. Our cohort was randomly divided into a training cohort and an internal validation cohort with a 75:25 ratio using random numbers. Age, size, gender, attenuation values, and AE of the tumors in four diferent CT phases were used as predictors. The mean and standard deviation were used as estimation points for continuous variables. For categorical variables, the frequency. The Shapiro-Wilk test was used to determine the data's normality. A Student t test was used to determine whether there was a signifcant diference between tumor types in terms of age, size, gender, and attenuation values. We developed three phases of analysis. The goal of phase I is tumor categorization into hypervascular and hypovascular groups by using longitudinal analysis for each study phase for all tumors. The odds ratio of association between tumor vascularity and the aforementioned predictors was then predicted using logistic analysis. Our goal in phases II and III was to distinguish between tumor types that belonged to each group, hypervascular or hypovascular. To identify the most signifcant combination for tumor characterization, stepwise variable selection was used. The area under the curve [AUC] was plotted and estimated after determining the most signifcant independent predictors for each phase. The area under the curve and the odds ratio of the fnal version, with 95% confdence intervals, are reported. For all statistical tests, a *P* value of less than 0.05 was considered statistically signifcant. After determining the best classifers for each phase of the analysis, a nomogram was created to provide a visual predictive tool. Statistical analyses were carried out using the STATA/IC version 16.1 software package.

Table 1 Demographic distribution and CT parameters of the training cohort

| Subtype | number | mean | median | SD | max | min |
|-------------|--------|-----------|--------------|-----------|--------------|---------------------|
| Chromophore | | | | | | |
| Age | 32 | 51.46875 | 52.5 | 11.13838 | 70 | 23 |
| Sex | 32 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5080005 | $\mathbf{1}$ | \circ |
| Size | 32 | 9.034375 | 8.3 | 3.660302 | 16.5 | $\overline{4}$ |
| artHU | 32 | 77.25 | 71 | 21.26788 | 125 | 45 |
| venousHU | 32 | 79.59375 | 80 | 15.21642 | 119 | 37 |
| delayedHU | 32 | 56.78125 | 54.5 | 12.24148 | 97 | 37 |
| Clear | | | | | | |
| Age | 48 | 53.16667 | 52.5 | 10.90058 | 76 | 19 |
| Sex | 48 | 0.7291667 | $\mathbf{1}$ | 0.4490929 | $\mathbf{1}$ | \circ |
| Size | 48 | 8.7125 | 9 | 4.219793 | 21 | 2.5 |
| artHU | 48 | 118.6042 | 124 | 27.21681 | 180 | 69 |
| venousHU | 48 | 100.9792 | 101 | 19.75649 | 155 | 55 |
| delayedHU | 48 | 63.83333 | 62 | 12.06954 | 90 | 35 |
| Oncocytoma | | | | | | |
| Age | 20 | 56.25 | 59 | 14.60308 | 76 | 30 |
| Sex | 20 | 0.6 | $\mathbf{1}$ | 0.5026247 | $\mathbf{1}$ | \circ |
| Size | 20 | 6.155 | 5.85 | 1.499289 | 9.5 | $\overline{4}$ |
| artHU | 20 | 95.5 | 99.5 | 25.01052 | 145 | 39 |
| venousHU | 20 | 93.95 | 90 | 16.48436 | 141 | 78 |
| delayedHU | 20 | 62.95 | 66.5 | 12.98775 | 83 | 45 |
| Papillary | | | | | | |
| Age | 16 | 55.375 | 55.5 | 13.36101 | 76 | 32 |
| Sex | 16 | 0.875 | $\mathbf{1}$ | 0.341565 | $\mathbf{1}$ | $\mathsf{O}\xspace$ |
| Size | 16 | 6.58125 | 5.25 | 3.690026 | 17 | $\overline{2}$ |
| artHU | 16 | 47.875 | 47 | 9.708244 | 66 | 30 |
| venousHU | 16 | 58.3125 | 59 | 7.471892 | 70 | 42 |
| delayedHU | 16 | 49.0625 | 45.5 | 10.66751 | 81 | 40 |

Table 2 Demographic distribution and CT parameters of the validation cohort

Fig. 2 A,B: A longitudinal analysis curve shows the significant difference in the attenuation mean of the different pattern of the renal masses, in the four phases of the CT study. **B** Spaghetti Time Plot curve shows the individualized renal masses attenuation enhancement pattern

Results

Our results revealed a total of 467 cases were included in the fnal analysis, with 351 patients assigned to the training cohort [mean age, 54+11 years; 147 CRCC, 61 RO, 92 ChRCC, and 51 PRCC] and 116 patients assigned to the internal validation cohort [mean age, $53+12$ years; 48 CRCC, 20 RO, 32 ChRCC, and 16 PRCC]. The demographic data, including the mass distribution, age, frequency between genders, and the mean attenuation value regarding CT parameters in both training and validation cohorts, are illustrated in Tables [1](#page-3-0) and [2.](#page-4-0)

We established three phases of analysis to build a practical approach that can be used in daily clinical practice.

Statistical analysis revealed that the attenuation means and the absolute means showed identical correlation and signifcance in all phases of analysis; therefore, the absolute mean values were backward from analysis. To assess the generalization ability of the model, there were no signifcant diferences between both cohorts regarding age, size, sex, or mean attenuation values.

Phase I

Categorization based on tumor vascularity

We used longitudinal analysis to examine the enhancement pattern in all tumor types, which revealed that CRCC and RO have higher signifcant enhancement values than ChRCC and PRCC in arterial, venous, and delayed phases, with p value $\left[< 0.001 \right]$ for all phases. Additionally, there is a signifcant diference in the noncontrast phase, *p* value [0.004], Fig. [2](#page-4-1) Therefore, we categorize the included masses into hypervascular and hypovascular groups.

Discrimination model and validation for hypervascular and hypovascular masses

Clinical predictor variables Age as a clinical predictor showed a signifcant diference between both groups, *p* value [0.009]. The mean age of the hypervascular masses was higher [55 years] compared with the hypovascular masses [52 years]. In contrast, sex and the size of the tumors did not show a signifcant diference between both groups, *p* value [0.781], and *p* value [0.075], respectively. Univariable analysis for the age showed a positive association with the hypervascular masses, with an odds ratio [1.02], and a *p* value [0.007].

Development and validation of the fnal model of phase I Multivariable logistic model for attenuation values in the four phases of the CT study showed that arterial and venous attenuation had a signifcant positive association with hypervascular masses. In contrast, non-contrast and delayed attenuations exhibit a signifcant negative association with tumor hypervascularity; the coefficient and *P* values are shown in Table [3](#page-5-0). This model had a high AUC [0.94] for discrimination between renal masses based on vascularity pattern. Including age as the only clinically signifcant predictor in the fnal model gives a higher AUC [0.95] for discrimination between both groups. The arterial and venous attenuations had higher odds of prediction (1.10 and 1.05, respectively). Applying this model to the validation cohort yields a higher AUC [0.98] for such discrimination Fig. [3](#page-6-0).

Phase II

Discrimination model and validation for hypervascular masses [CRCC Vs. RO]

Renal oncocytoma and CRCC were involved in this group. Univariable logistic analysis of the above predictors revealed age, sex, size, non-contrast, and arterial and delayed attenuations were signifcantly associated with the tumor types. In contrast, venous attenuations showed no signifcant association Table [4.](#page-6-1) While age and delayed attenuations had a negative association with CRCC, the remaining predictors showed a positive relationship with CRCC. Further multivariable analysis to build the best model included the above signifcant predictors revealed; the size had no longer signifcant correlation; thus, it was excluded from this model. For clinical predictors including age and sex, the AUC was [0.67]. However, the combination of these predictors [age and sex] with the signifcant attenuation predictors, [non-contrast, arterial, and delayed HU] produced the best fnal model

Fig. 3 A,B, and C: **A** AUC of the training cohort with accuracy=0.95 for discrimination between hypervascular and hypovascular groups. **B** AUC of the validation cohort with accuracy=0.98 for discrimination between hypervascular and hypovascular groups. **C** Nomogram using the signifcant predictors that can classify between both groups

| hypotumor | Coefficient | Std.Err | | P-value | [95% Conf. Interval] | | |
|--------------|--------------|-----------|---------|---------|----------------------|--------------|--|
| artHU | 0.0534177 | 0.0102644 | 5.20 | 0.000 | 0.0332999 | 0.0735355 | |
| delayedHU | -0.0712916 | 0.0187747 | -3.80 | 0.000 | -0.10808939 | -0.0344938 | |
| Age | -0.0602021 | 0.0197716 | -3.04 | 0.002 | -0.0989537 | -0.0214505 | |
| Sex | 1.009846 | 0.3809394 | 2.65 | 0.008 | 0.2632182 | 1.756473 | |
| nocontrastHU | 0.0827004 | 0.0365006 | 2.27 | 0.023 | 0.0111605 | 0.1542402 | |
| $_cons$ | 0.0472721 | .739649 | -0.03 | 0.978 | -3.362376 | 3.456921 | |

Table 4 Signifcant predictors used to discriminate between hypervascular masses [CRCC Vs. RO]

describing the data, with an AUC value of [0.83] in the training set and [0.85] in the validation cohort Fig. [4](#page-7-0).

Phase III

Discrimination model and validation for hypovascular masses [ChRCC Vs. PRCC]

Regarding hypovascular masses, while age, sex, noncontrast, and venous attenuation showed no signifcant diferences between tumor subtypes, size, arterial, and delayed attenuation showed a signifcant association between both subtypes Table [5.](#page-7-1) Both size and arterial attenuation revealed positive associations with ChRCC;

delayed attenuation showed a negative association. The multivariable analysis revealed that the above three predictors showed the best model for tumor type discrimination for this group, with a high AUC value of 0.94 and 0.93 in the training and validation cohorts, respectively Fig. [5.](#page-8-0)

For each phase of the analysis, a nomogram chart was created using the best classifers predictors as a primarily graphical tool Figs. [3](#page-6-0), [4](#page-7-0), and [5](#page-8-0). Finally, we developed a diagram describing the core analysis of the above three phases, illustrating the signifcant predictors in each

AUC of the validation cohort with accuracy=0.85 for discrimination between hypervascular masses including CRCCC and RO. **C** Nomogram using the signifcant predictors that can classify between two types of masses

| hypotumor | Coefficient | Std.Err | | P-value | [95% Conf. Interval] | |
|-----------|--------------|-----------|---------|---------|----------------------|--------------|
| artHU | 0.1729865 | 0.0315355 | 5.49 | 0.000 | 0.111178 | 0.2347949 |
| delayedHU | -0.1121923 | 0.0314759 | -3.56 | 0.000 | -0.1738839 | -0.0505007 |
| Size | 0.2166496 | 0.0938781 | 2.31 | 0.021 | 0.0326519 | 0.4006472 |
| $_cons$ | -5.170288 | .680627 | -3.08 | 0.002 | -8.464256 | -1.876321 |

Table 5 Signifcant predictors used to discriminate between hypovascular masses [ChRCC Vs. PRCC]

phase and the best classifers used for tumor discrimination Fig. [6.](#page-8-1)

Discussion

Both radiologists and clinicians struggle with the diagnosis of solid benign kidney tumors without fat content. As a result, many surgeries are unnecessary [[22](#page-10-16)]. Making the diagnosis and characterization of such masses is a difficult day-to-day task in clinical practice, especially given the increased incidence of discovering such masses presumably related to the growth in the use of cross-sectional imaging, especially CT.

Our study demonstrated a signifcant diference in tumor vascularity between the investigated renal masses. Longitudinal analysis showed that CRCC had the strongest enhancement and rapid washout, followed by RO, and both were signifcantly higher in vascularity than ChRCC and PRCC in all phases of the study $(p \text{ value}=0.01)$. Multivariable analysis showed the best predictors were arterial and venous attenuations, which were positively associated with CRCC and RO, while non-contrast and delayed attenuations were negatively associated with them. The most significant clinical predictor for such discrimination was the age p value [0.009]. The mean age value was higher in CRCC and RO when compared with ChRCC and PRCC.

Based on these fndings, we created our frst model, which produced high accuracy with AUC values of 0.95 and 0.98 in the training and validation cohorts,

Fig. 5 A, B: **A** AUC of the training cohort with accuracy=0.94 for discrimination between hypovascular masses including ChRCC and PRCC. **B** AUC of the validation cohort with accuracy=0.93 for discrimination between hypovascular masses including ChRCC and PRCC. **C** Nomogram using the signifcant predictors that can classify between two types of masses

Diagram describes the best predictors and classifiers for each phase of the tumor discrimination

Fig. 6 Diagram describes the best predictors and classifers for each phase of tumor discrimination

respectively. As a result, we begin the frst step of our strategy by classifying our sample into two groups: hypovascular masses, which include ChRCC and PRCC, and hypervascular masses, that include CRCC and RO. As a result, we created our frst nomogram for this type of discriminating using the aforementioned predictors.

Diferent researchers in the literature agreed with our fndings and confrmed the pattern of substantial enhancement linked to CRCC and RO, whereas PRCC has the weakest enhancement and ChRCC has an intermediate pattern [[12,](#page-10-17) [23–](#page-10-18)[25\]](#page-10-19). As a result, our classifcation of these tumors, which includes RO, is a trustworthy method.

The second step of our approach is to discriminate between CRCC and RO. Many CT features other than enhancement have been suggested to be related to RO, such as the central stellate scar, and segmental enhancement inversion [SEI] [[26](#page-10-20)[–29](#page-11-0)]. However, both features are not diagnostic for RO or distinguishable from other subtypes of RCC [\[30–](#page-11-1)[35\]](#page-11-2). For these reasons, we rely on the degree of enhancement and the signifcant clinical predictors to build our second model.

Our results demonstrated the size, and venous attenuation showed no signifcant association for such discrimination. Older age is associated with renal oncocytoma compared with CRCC, while sex, non-contrast, and arterial HU were positively associated with CRCC. The male gender had twice the odds of being associated with CRCCC compared with the RO. Combining age and sex with CT attenuation other than venous phase produced the best model. AUC values of [0.83] in the training set and [0.85] in the validation cohort represent the total accuracy of this model at this stage. Therefore, we developed the second Nomogram for this phase using the above signifcant predictors.

Our analysis is in good agreement with the literature in many points, seventh decade is a peak incidence period associated with RO compared with other types of RCC [[25\]](#page-10-19). Although the reported variable degree of enhancement of RO is based on many studies, RO seems to show a strong enhancement like CRCC, with less washout when compared with CRCC [[20,](#page-10-14) [25–](#page-10-19)[27\]](#page-10-21). However, the current results are not in complete agreement with Pano et al. [[36](#page-11-3)], who examined a small sample size of RO, just 13 cases against 84 cases of diferent types of RCC, of which 52 were clear cell and 25 were lowgrade, including papillary and chromophobe RCCs. They reported that there is no signifcant diference between the mean enhancement of all types of RCC and RO in the corticomedullary phase. Additionally, RO showed higher enhancement in the nephrographic and excretory phases than RCC, including CRCC. These discrepancies are likely due to the small sample size used for RO and other subtypes of RCC, making the statistical signifcance assessment not appropriate or reliable. Additionally, they considered PRCC and ChRCC as one low-grading group, which is not reliable due to the signifcant enhancement diference between PRCC and ChRCC. Furthermore, they did not indicate how many cases for each subtype they had.

On the other hand, Pierorazio et al. [\[37](#page-11-4)] with similar sample size to Pano et al. agreed with our results as reported CRCC and RO had the higher peaks of enhancement especially in the corticomedullary and nephrographic phases, respectively, compared with PRCC and ChRCC. Moreover, other studies are supporting our results and concluded that CRCC and RO had the highest enhancement changes compared with ChRCC and PRCC and the last has the least degree of enhancement [\[11](#page-10-8), [38\]](#page-11-5).

Separating ChRCC and PRCC is the third phase in our methodology. During this phase, only size, arterial, and delayed attenuations represent the best classifer, with AUC values of 0.94 and 0.93 in the validation and training cohorts, respectively. Size and vascular attenuations had a favorable correlation with ChRCC. On the other hand, delayed attenuations demonstrated a favorable correlation with PRCC. These patterns of enhancement suggest that PRCC has almost progressive enhancement, particularly when contrasted to ChRCC in the delayed phase. Widespread agreement on this pattern of PRCC enhancement has been found in the literature [\[11,](#page-10-8) [25](#page-10-19), [38](#page-11-5)[–41](#page-11-6)], confrming our fndings and giving a clear explanation for the high AUC [94%].

The present study has some limitations. First, due to its retrospective nature, it could have a selection bias; however, this study design provided us with this large number in each category. Secondly, being a single-center study, this necessitates being implemented for validation with a multicenter project, preferably a prospective study design. Third, this study does not include low fat angiomyolipoma which has a low incidence in our target sample make it unsuitable for statistical analysis which favors multicenter study.

Conclusion

In conclusion, this study presents a new and simple analytical approach using a large sample size of RCC subtypes and RO based on MDCT fndings and clinical parameters and indicates that the provided models can diferentiate between RCC and RO with multiphase analysis with high accuracy. Furthermore, the radiologists can simply apply the provided algorithm Fig. [6](#page-8-1) during the daily practice to enhance the interpretation accuracy regarding the subtype discrimination. Additionally, these results can present additional insights and future

recommendations for research work, taking into consideration the current apply of radiomics features and machine learning models [\[42–](#page-11-7)[44\]](#page-11-8).

Abbreviations

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Not applicable.

Author contributions

HS was responsible for the idea, planning for study design and performed the statistical analysis with substantial involvement in the writing and reviewing the whole manuscript. DE was responsible for collection of the data and interpreting CT Images, in addition to writing the manuscript. HA was responsible for organizing the data and sharing in analysis as well as writing the manuscript. TE shared in image interpretation, wrote and reviewed the manuscript.

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Availability of data and materials

The datasets used and/or analyzed during the current study are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

Declarations

Ethics approval and consent to participate

This retrospective cohort study was approved by Institutional consent from the board of Faculty of Medicine Mansoura University, Egypt. IRB number is R.22.02.1629

Consent for publication

Informed consent was waived.

Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

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