

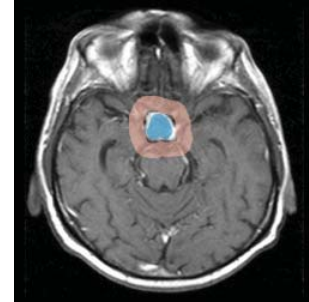
Pituitary Adenoma Segmentation Using the Medical Image Computing Platform *3D Slicer*

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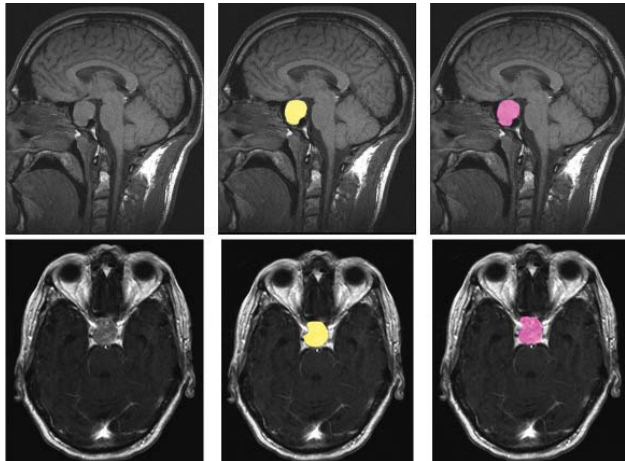
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Purpose – Tumors of the sellar region, mainly pituitary adenomas, represent 10% to 25% of all intracranial neoplasms, with adenomas comprising the largest portion with an estimated prevalence of approximately 17% [1, 2]. These adenomas can be classified according to many criteria including size, histological characteristics, and hormone secretion (hormone active and hormone-inactive). Microadenomas are less than 1 cm in diameter, whereas macroadenomas measure more than 1 cm. Typically for macroadenomas with mass-effect, transphenoidal surgery is the treatment of choice [3]. By contrast, hormone-inactive microadenomas are closely monitored using endocrine and ophthalmological evaluations as well as magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). Microsurgical excision is performed if the tumor volume increases over time. Image analysis that includes segmentation and registration of these successive scans is beneficial in the accurate measurement of tumor progression.

Methods – We performed segmentation of pituitary adenomas on T1- and T2-weighted images acquired on a *MAGNETOM Sonata* 1.5 T MRI scanner (*Siemens Medical Solutions, Erlangen, Germany*) equipped with a standard head coil. The segmentation method we used is the *GrowCut* implementation [4] in *3D Slicer* (or *Slicer*) which is freely downloadable from the website <http://www.slicer.org>. *GrowCut* [5] is an interactive segmentation algorithm based on the idea of cellular automata. The algorithm achieves reliable and fast segmentation of moderately difficult objects in 2D and 3D using an iterative labeling procedure resembling competitive region growing. After trial of the various segmentation facilities available in *Slicer*, we determined that the use of *GrowCut* by initializing it on sagittal, axial, and coronal cross-sections provides the most efficient segmentations. In this initialization step, parts of the tumor and parts of the background are marked on the image with the *Slicer* brush tool. The figure above shows a typical initialization of a pituitary adenoma (blue) and the background (brown) on an axial slice.



Results – The goal of this study was to evaluate the utility of *Slicer* for segmentation of pituitary adenomas. To evaluate the utility of *Slicer*, ground truth was provided by manual slice-by-slice segmentation of five pituitary adenomas by neurological surgeons with several years of experience in resection of pituitary adenomas. These manual segmentations were compared with the *Slicer* segmentation results of the proposed method via the *Dice Similarity Coefficient (DSC)* [6]. Briefly, the *DSC* measures the relative volume overlap between M and S , where M and S are the binary masks from the manual slice-by-slice (M) and the *Slicer* (S) segmentation. The average *DSC* for all data sets was $81.71\% \pm 4.78\%$ and shows that the two are comparable. The figures on the right present segmentation results on a sagittal (upper row) and an axial (lower row) slice for the manual segmentation (middle images, yellow) and the *Slicer* segmentation (right images, magenta).



Conclusions – In this contribution, we present segmentation results for pituitary adenoma in MRI data using the medical platform *3D Slicer* and showed that it is valuable to support the time-consuming process of volumetric assessment. The time and user effort required for *GrowCut* segmentation was on an average 50% compared to pure manual segmentation. There are several areas of future work including comparison with graph-based segmentation methods such as [7, 8].

Acknowledgements

We acknowledge the members of the *Slicer* Community and in particular Steve Pieper for their contributions, and moreover Harini Veeraraghavan and Jim Miller from GE for developing the *GrowCut* module in *Slicer*. Furthermore, the authors would like to thank the physicians Dr. med. Daniela Kuhnt, Dr. med. Barbara Carl, Christoph Kappus and Rivka Colen, M.D. for participating in this study. This work was supported by National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant P41EB015898.

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