A New Quantitative Approach for Measuring Changes of 3D Structures in Trabecular Bone

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Bone Loss in Space

- bone loss in space: 1.5% per month
- 2nd important problem after radiation
- monitoring bone alterations during space flights



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Trabecular Bone Structure

- plays important role for bone strength
- changes during development of osteoporosis or in microgravity



Purpose of this Study

- define measures of complexity for 3D
- quantification of microarchitecture of trabecular bone (3D µCT)
- osteoporosis used as a model for bone loss in micro-gravity



Structural Quantification

Histomorphometry

- "gold standard"
- invasive method



Structural Quantification

Measures of Complexity

- three symbols
- marrow (blue)
- internal bone (green)
- surface (red)



Structural Quantification

Measures of Complexity (cont.)

• 3D Normalised Entropy (NormEnt)

- Structure Complexity Indices (SCI_{BV/TV}, SCI3D)
- Surface Complexity Index (SurfCI)

Saparin, et al: Quantification of spatial structure of human proximal tibial bone biopsies using 3D measures of complexity, Acta Astronautica, 56, 2005

New Approach

Shape Related Measures

• quantification of the 3D shape by volume and surface



Shape Related Measures

• Shape Index (SHI) $SHI = \frac{S_{\text{bone}}}{S_{\text{sphere}}} = \frac{S_{\text{bone}}}{\sqrt[3]{36\pi V_{\text{bone}}^2}}$

• Averaged Shape Index (ASHI) $ASHI = \langle SHI_{loc} \rangle_{VOI}$



Shape Related Measures

- Shape Complexity (SHC) $SHC = -\sum p(S_{1oc}, V_{1oc}) \log \frac{p(S_{1oc}, V_{1oc})}{p(V_{1oc})}$
- Shape Index Entropy (ISHI) $ISHI = -\sum p(SHI_{loc}) \log p(SHI_{loc})$

variability/ complexity of the shapes

Volume and Surface Estimation





marching cube (MC)

voxel counting

Marching Cubes

- eight voxels form a marching cube (MC)
- iso-surfaces
- 3D rendering



Lorensen, et al: Marching cubes, SIGGRAPH, 21, 1987

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Marching Cubes Filling (Volume Estimation)



Marching Cubes Filling (Volume Estimation)



Marching Cubes Cases



Marching Cubes Based Measures

• Marching Cubes Entropy Index MCE $MCE = -\sum p(MC) \log p(MC)$

• Marching Cubes Complexity MCC $MCC = \langle N_{\text{tetra}} \rangle_{\text{VOI}}$

complexity of the surface

Data & Results

Proximal Tibia

- cylindrical biospies
- 7 mm diameter
- 17 mm below tibial plateau
- 29 specimens
- VOI: 5 mm below cortical shell, 10 mm long

Proximal Tibia



Shape Index Distribution

concave structures



Shape Index

• correlation with bone density

concave structures





Bone Volume Fraction

• correlation with SHC and MCE





MC Entropy

• correlation with TBPf and Tb.Sp





Histomorphometry

• correlation with MCE, ASHI and SHC





Rank Correlation

	ASHI	ISHI	SHC	MCE
3D BV/TV	-0.74		-0.72	0.87
TBPf	0.66		0.63	-0.88
Nd/Tm	-0.68		-0.63	0.68
Tb.Sp	0.50	0.51	0.66	-0.68

Lumbar Vertebra

• confirmation of results







Conclusions

- measures of complexity for 3D image analysis
- quantify 3D micro-structure of trabecular bone
- bone loss (proximal tibia):
 - > complexity of bone surface decreases
 - > amount of concave structures decreases
 - > variation of the trabecular' shapes increases

Conclusions

• potential applications:

- > quantification of bone loss in micro-gravity
- > diagnostics of pathological changes in bone structure in patients on Earth
- > evaluation of medical treatment results