NUCLEAR MAGNETIC RESONANCE APPLICATIONS

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Outline

- Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy
 - Proton NMR Spectroscopy
- Magnetic Resonance Imaging
 - How MRI works
 - What Components Are Used for MRI?
 - What is MRI Used For?
 - MRI safety
- Conclusion



Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy (NMR)



- A spinning charge generates a magnetic field.
 - The resulting spin-magnet has a magnetic moment (μ) proportional to the spin.
- In a magnetic field, two spin states exist for a proton, $+\frac{1}{2}$ and $-\frac{1}{2}$.
 - The lower energy $+\frac{1}{2}$ spin state is aligned with the external field, but the higher energy $-\frac{1}{2}$ state is opposed to the external field.



Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy (NMR)

- The difference in energy between the two spin states is dependent on the external magnetic field strength.
- Strong magnetic fields in the range of 1 to 20 Tesla are necessary for NMR spectroscopy.
 - Earth's magnetic field is approximately 10^{-4} T at ground level.
- The small energy difference (ΔE) is usually given as a frequency in units of MHz ranging from 20 to 900 MHz.
- For spin ½ nuclei, the energy difference between the two spin states at a given magnetic field strength will be proportional to their magnetic moments.



WHAT DOES ALL THIS MEAN?



PROTON NMR SPECTROSCOPY

The simplest method to obtain the spectrum of the proton is known as the continuous wave (CW) method.

NMR and MRI





Magnetic Resonance Imaging

- MRI uses Nuclear Magnetic Resonance to get an image of the inside of the body.
 - Typically concentrated on one nucleus like hydrogen.



HOW MRI WORKS

What Components Are Used for MRI?

- Magnetic Fields
 - Human body is 60% water (water molecules are polar).
 - The protons of the molecules align in the same direction.
- Radio Transmitter & Receiver
 - Short bursts of radio waves knock the protons out of alignment.
 - After the burst of radio waves, the protons realign with the magnetic field.
 - Based on the time it takes and energy released, tissues are differentiable.





What is MRI Used For? Functional MRI

- Measures brain activity by detecting changes in blood flow.
- Relies on use of blood-oxygen-level dependent (BOLD) contrast.



What is MRI Used For? Diffusion-weighted MRI

- Maps diffusion process of molecules (primarily water) in tissues.
- Commonly used for mapping white matter of the brain.



What is MRI Used For? Magnetic Resonance Angiography Magnetic Resonance Venography

- Primarily image blood vessels.
- MRA uses a contrast material like gadolinium.
- MRV uses intravenous contrast dye.



MRI Safety Pros

- No Ionizing Radiation
 - No damage to cells.
 - No risk of cancer.
 - No radiation burns.
- Non-Invasive Procedure
 - No surgery.
 - Contrast dyes are not necessary.
- Magnets
 - No known harmful effects.





MRI Safety Cons

- Loud Noises
 - Headphones are given to the patient due to the really loud tapping noises.
- Strong Magnets
 - People with metallic implants, such as a pacemaker, cannot get an MRI scan.
 - All metal objects must be removed from the patient before the scan.





Conclusion

Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) uses nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) by utilizing powerful magnets and radio waves to create detailed pictures of the inside your body.

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