



Cardiovascular

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The Status of Cardiac Magnetic Resonance Imaging in South Korea: The Past

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First clinical images of the heart were acquired in 1983. CMR was first used for calculation of volume and function in 1983, velocity mapping in 1989, late Gd enhancement in 1998, and T2* mapping in 2001. CMR myocardial perfusion imaging was approved in 2019 by FDA after >30 years incubation period.

As breath-hold MR imaging was difficult, CMR was used for imaging congenital heart diseases in early 1990 in Korea. Widespread use of CMR began in 2010 globally. Korean radiologists and cardiologists followed the global trend. Hurdles to clinical cardiac MR in Korea included high fees for cardiac MR, lack of understanding of the clinical benefits of CMR, limited time slots for CMR in busy MR suites, and inadequate education in CMR techniques and CMR interpretation. KOSCI, KSMRM, KSR and ASCI have been playing important roles in CMR education for Korean radiologists to date.

There were 33 PubMed publications on cardiac and vascular MR from Korea during the period of 1990-1999. Around 208 PubMed articles authored by Korean during 2000-2009, 927 during 2001-2009, 568 during 2010-2024 with a peak (n = 157) in 2016.