Reviewer's report

Title: Digital image analysis is helpful in diagnosing gastric mesenchymal tumors

Version: 1 Date: 9 September 2013

Reviewer: Neven Ljubicic

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REPORT TEMPLATE
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- Major Compulsory Revisions

The authors wished to analyze the efficacy of digital image analysis (DIA) in differentiating gastric mesenchimal tumors, which is a novel method and the similar papers on this matter are scarce. The authors have found that this method is valuable in differentiating GIST from other benign tumors. However, we believe that the difference between those tumors is obvious on EUS without using DIA. Differentiation between benign and malignant GIST is challenging, and the authors found that DIA is not helpful on this matter. The authors presented the results as positive; however those “positive” results add little to clinical practice. Additionally, the number of patients with tumors other than GIST is too small to draw any conclusions. The real strength of the study lies in the fact that the authors used novel method in differentiating benign and malignant GIST. Although the results are negative, they should be published if presented in that way.

The title should be modified in a way that emphasizes that DIA is not useful in differentiation of malignant and benign GIST.

In Table 1, T value for benign and malignant should be presented separately. The abstract, discussion and conclusions should be also modified in this way.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

- In the past five years I did not receive reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary
from an organization that may in any way gain or lose financially from the
publication of this paper
- I do not hold any stocks or shares in an organization that may in any way gain
or lose financially from the publication of this paper
- I am not currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the
manuscript and I have not received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from
an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the
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- I do not have any other financial competing interests
- I do not have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper