Author's response to reviews

Title: Grey scale enhancement by a new self-made contrast agent in early cirrhotic stage of rabbit liver

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear editor,

This is the new revised version of the submitted article “Grey scale enhancement by a new self-made contrast agent in early cirrhotic stage of rabbit liver". According to the opinions of PH.D John H Kalbfleisch, stage summary statistics for the comparisons indicated in the current Table 3, which is the statistics about contrast agent intensity is added as new Table 3 shows. We choose each rabbit as one studied subject and analyzed by the self-comparison in order to minimize the error caused by individual difference in different stage. This point is also mentioned in the Animal Model section. The specific method of the statistical method GLM-ANOVA accounting for both the animal factor and the stage factor and the Tukey-pairwise-comparison procedure by SPSS 13.0 software, this was mentioned clearly in Statistical Analysis section. The section of Statistical Analysis was made corresponding changes. The point-to-point response to PH.D John H Kalbfleisch is as followed.

We sincerely hope the article could be published and share our findings with other researchers.

Thank you very much!

Yours sincerely,

Zhang Li
Point-to-point response to John H Kalbfleisch

The big issue I have is with the statistical analysis. The authors are still vague about their analysis details. Publication of the manuscript would be acceptable if the authors address these aspects.

1) mention the specific kind of analysis of variance that was used,
-----The specific kind of analysis of variance we used in the study is GLM-ANOVA accounting for both animal factor and stage factor. Differences between every two stages were compared by the Turkey’s T test. The method is mentioned in the Statistical Analysis section. We hope this time the kind of analysis had been illustrated clearly.

2) indicate why that choice is appropriate for the design of their study in which 12 animals were measured at different study conditions, and
----- Each rabbit was considered as one studied subject and studied by the self comparison method in order to minimize the error caused by individual difference in different stage. This point is added in the Animal Model section. We think the choice is appropriate for the design of the study under the situation of small sample size.

3) give stage summary statistics for the comparisons indicated in the current Table 3 (as the combination of Table 1 and Table 2 go together).

----- Table 3 PSI of the contrast agent in animal model at different stage a

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Liver fibrosis stage</th>
<th>PSI of PV</th>
<th>PSI of parenchyma</th>
<th>PSI difference of PV an parenchyma</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>F0</td>
<td>-26.75±1.09</td>
<td>-32.24±0.89</td>
<td>6.09±1.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F1</td>
<td>-27.45±0.35</td>
<td>-32.71±0.46</td>
<td>5.40±0.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F2</td>
<td>-27.88±1.35</td>
<td>-33.19±0.51</td>
<td>5.00±1.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F3</td>
<td>-28.89±2.72</td>
<td>-37.34±0.69</td>
<td>7.12±1.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F4</td>
<td>-27.46±0.22</td>
<td>-41.08±0.86</td>
<td>13.62±0.80</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

a Values are Mean ±SD