Author's response to reviews

Title: Vibration response imaging evaluation

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

Please find enclosed our manuscript titled “Vibration response imaging evaluation” by Konstantinos Bartziokas et al. On behalf of the authors, I would like to ask you to consider the possibility of review of this manuscript for publication in BMC Medical Imaging.

This manuscript evaluated the inter- and intrapulmonologist variability and the reproducibility of Vibration Response Imaging (VRI) in patients hospitalized for community acquired pneumonia and controls.

Previous reports presented the advancement in lung sound analysis from human-based auscultation to a computer-based analysis tool [1-3]. These methods are not complicated by radiation and thus, they attract clinical interest. Vibration response imaging is a novel technology that measures vibration energy of lung sounds generated during the respiratory process. However, there are few data regarding the role of VRI in the diagnosis of lung diseases.

The present prospective study demonstrated that the VRI technique is a reproducible imaging method that has the potential to be applied at the bedside and may be helpful in the diagnosis and follow up of patients with community acquired pneumonia. We showed that by using VRI sound distribution images, the agreement between different raters – physicians was considerably high. In this respect this novel method of imaging which does not involve radiation exposure of patients and personnel deserves consideration.

Therefore, this report could be of interest for a broad range of medical practitioners ranging from general practitioners to pulmonary physicians and radiologists.

Thus, we believe that our manuscript, integrating these different disciplines, is appropriate for publication in BMC Medical Imaging.
We would like to state that neither the work nor any part of its essential substance, tables or figures have been or will be published or submitted to another scientific journal or is being considered for publication elsewhere.

None of the authors of this study presents any potential conflict of interest related to the article or the research described.

We are looking forward to your favorable decision

I will be the corresponding author and deal with all prepublications issues.

Thank you in advance for your kind cooperation.

Sincerely Yours,

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References

