Reviewer's report

Title: Real-time ultrasound elastography in 180 axillary lymph nodes: elasticity distribution in healthy lymph nodes and prediction of breast cancer metastases

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Reviewer: BongJoo Kang

Reviewer's report:

The authors present an interesting concept of real-time elastography in axillary lymph nodes. Unfortunately, the authors have produced an overly long paper. I think the paper would be better 'slimmed down' and resubmitted.

The uses of English are sometimes a little clumsy and so it is not always entirely clear what is being said.

Introduction, materials, results, and discussion are so long and redundant. Furthermore, there are so many tables and figures.

For instance, I do not think the weight and BMI are needed at the Table 1, and whole Table 7. And I think authors can combine 3 tables (Table 3-5).

I do not think Figure 1 and 2 are necessary as the concept of elastography in axillary lymph nodes.

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

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.