Author's response to reviews

Title: Interstitial magnetic resonance lymphography is an effective diagnostic tool for the detection of lymph node metastases in patients with cervical cancer.

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Version: 3 Date: 24 March 2012

Author's response to reviews: see over
Christina Chap, PhD
Executive Editor
Biochemical and Biophysical Research Communications

Mar. 25, 2012

Dear PhD Chap,

Please find enclosed our manuscript entitled “INTERSTITIAL MAGNETIC RESONANCE LYMPHOGRAPHY IS AN EFFECTIVE DIAGNOSTIC TOOL FOR THE DETECTION OF LYMPH NODE METASTASES IN PATIENTS WITH CERVICAL CANCER”, which we would like to submit for publication as a Original Article in Biochemical and Biophysical Research Communications.

In addition, revise part of the manuscript in the following aspects. The manuscript has been shortened less than 3500 words, excluding abstract, tables and figures. I have been deleted table 1, table 2, Figure2-1, Figure 2-3, and Figure 2-4, and to update the references. This part display in trackedcopy manuscripts, clearcopy to the manuscript.

This paper has not been published elsewhere in whole. All authors have read and approved the content, and agree to submit for consideration for publication in the journal. There are no any ethical/legal conflicts involved in the article.

I shall look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,

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Letters from Executive Editor of BMC Cancer:
BMC Cancer MS: 1873214115683198
"BMC Editorial" Editorial@biomedcentral.com
on march 6, 2012 at 00 a.m.: 20
Dear Prof Hong,

Thank you for your recent submission to BMC Cancer. However before we can proceed further, we would need you to please address ALL the comments which were passed onto you during your previous submission. For your convenience, please find these comments below.

Comments from the Editorial Board:
This is a description of 28 women with cervical cancer who underwent interstitial magnetic resonance (MR) lymphography in order to detect sentinel lymph node (SLN) metastasis. Women were enrolled and studied during a long period of time, from January 2006 to December 2010.
Lymphography technique vary during the study: Initially, Gadodiamide was injected intradermally into the bipedal toe web (four cases), to evaluate the image quality before the study was continued, using different injection locations. Subsequently, Gadodiamide was injected into the labium majus in two cases and into the cervical tissue in 22 cases.
The entire article is very long and in my opinion, it needs to be shortened before being considered for revision by peer reviews (the manuscript has more than 3500 words, excluding abstract, tables and figures). Some parts of introduction and essentially the discussion are not related to the purpose of the study. There are also many tables (3) and figures (11). Apart of this, most of the references are too old:
among the 29 references cited by the authors in the text, there are two from 2010, 1 from 2008, 4 from 2006, and all the others have more than 5 years, including 10 that had been published for over 10 years.
Some parts of the article can be rewritten in a clearest manner. For example, in the result section, the authors write: Of the 28 cervical cancer patients who were scanned with MR lymphography, four patients were diagnosed to have lymph node involvement as well. All positive cases were confirmed using pathology. One case with an MR positive result in the deep inguinal lymph node was diagnosed by the pathologist as internal iliac lymph node metastasis. MR lymphography of the other 23 cases was negative, of which 22 cases were also confirmed to be negative by pathology. The false-negative case was found to have a left obturator lymph node metastasis. But I understand that there is 5 MR lymphography positive and 23 MR negative. And 6 pathologically proved metastasis, five true positive and 1 false negative.
The authors could rewrite the article as a shorter and more objective paper and send it back to reevaluation.

In particular, please shorten your manuscript and the number of figures as suggested by the Editorial Board Member. In addition, please update the references you cite.

Once you have done this, please upload the revised version by following these instructions:

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Please can you resubmit your files with the changes I've requested within the next three weeks.

With best wishes,

Christna

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