Reviewer's report

Title: Diffusion-weighted imaging: a valuable aid for the evaluation of the tumor aggressiveness in breast carcinoma

Version: 3 Date: 13 June 2008

Reviewer: Evelyn Wenkel

Reviewer's report:

- Major Compulsory Revisions

1. The new title is completely inadequate as “aggressiveness” wasn’t addressed at all.
2. Introduction (I): “Emerging evidence…” This sentence is misleading as MRI does not provide more detailed images...
3. I: “However, the conventional breast MRI is still a morphological diagnostic technique and therefore, can not provide definite and quantitative information.” Please specify.
4. I: I think “aggressiveness” is not the correct term.
5. I: “On the contrary, DWI, based on its imaging mechanism, could reflect the microstructural changes of tissues and theoretically detect the transition from carcinoma tissue to its surrounding normal tissue.” Yes maybe, but to prove this DWI must be compared with histological specimen. “Therefore, another possible application of DWI in breast cancer is the detection of tumor aggressiveness in molecular perspective.” No, I don’t think so.
6. I: “Our main aim was to study the extent of tumor aggressiveness” If so, you should compare DWI to histological specimen.
7. Discussion: “Another important aim in our study is try to assess the tumor aggressiveness of breast carcinoma in molecular perspective through DWI.” You have to compare/prove your hypothesis with histological specimen. Otherwise you can’t draw this conclusion and you have to omit the second part of the discussion.

Level of interest: An article of insufficient interest to warrant publication in a scientific/medical journal

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

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests