Author's response to reviews

Title: Clearance of Technetium-99m-DTPA and HRCT Findings in the Evaluation of Patients with Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis

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Author's response to reviews: see over
A POINT-BY POINT REPLY

- Could you please clarify whether you had informed consent and ethical approval for the study and provide the name of the body that gave approval.

If you do not have them, could you please explain the reasons why.

REPLY: We have not asked for an ethical approval for the study. The reason was all the investigations included in the study (HRCT of the thorax, bronchoalveolar lavage fluid and DTPA scan) are incorporated in the routine procedure for diagnosis and evaluation in IPF patients in our hospital.

Competing interests - Please include a section between conclusions and authors' contributions. If there are none to declare, please write The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

REPLY: We have included the "competing interests" section between conclusions and authors' contributions.

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REPLY: We have not any financial competing interest.

Non-financial competing interests

Are there any non-financial competing interests (political, personal, religious, academic, intellectual, commercial or any other) to declare in relation to this manuscript? If so, please specify.

REPLY: We declare that we do not have financial or non-financial competing interests.

Authors' contributions - Please include an Authors’ contributions section between the Methods and Acknowledgements. Please refer to our instructions for authors on the journals website to determine who should be included as an author. Contributors who do not meet the criteria for authorship should be listed in the acknowledgments section.

REPLY: KMA, NMS and DB participated in the design and coordination of the study. KMA wrote the manuscript. KM carried out the HRCT scoring, NT carried out the Bronchoalveolar Lavage, KP and NK carried out the DTPA scans. NT and EKS carried out the statistical analysis. DB and NMS corrected the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

In addition, we have included the sections: conclusion, abbreviations, authors’ contributions, competing interests and acknowledgements according to the journal’s format.

On behalf of the authors,

Katerina M. Antoniou, MD, PhD