Author's response to reviews

Title: Validity of a computer-assisted manual segmentation software to quantify wrist erosion volume using computed tomography scans in rheumatoid arthritis

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Version: 2 Date: 10 June 2013

Author's response to reviews: see over
Jesi, 10th of June 2013

Dear Sir,

In reply to your kind e-mail, please find enclosed the revised version of our paper entitled “Validity of a computer-assisted manual segmentation software to quantify wrist erosion volume using computed tomography scans in rheumatoid arthritis”. The paper has been modified according to the reviewers’ suggestions (see “Point by point response” below).

We thank you very much for your interest in our paper and for the reviewers’ constructive and expert criticism, and hope that the paper will now be suitable for publication in your Journal.

Looking forward to hearing from you soon.
Yours sincerely,

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Point by point response

Referee (1) Comments to the Author:
II. Minor Essential Revisions:
1. Descriptions of gray and black boxes in Figure 4 have been added in the figure legend.

III. Discretionary Revisions:
1. The sentence has been changed as suggested by the reviewer.

Referee (2) Comments to the Author:

1. We agree with the referee's view that the Wilcoxon Signed-Ranks Test is more appropriate rather than Mann-Whitney-U-Test since we are considering paired samples. Therefore, we have recalculated the difference between the two observers with Wilcoxon Signed-Ranks Test and reported the new values of significance and statistic Z in the text.

2. Descriptions of gray and black boxes in Figure 4 have been added in the figure legend.

3. According to the reviewer’s comment we have added new details in the discussion.

4. The distributed open source application for working with DICOM has resulted in high quality and has been demonstrated to be superior, in some cases, to commercial software applications. Therefore, many freeware viewers have been described in the literature and are supported on a range of platform operating systems (Windows, Mac OS, Linux) which not guarantee that applications will be interchangeable. A comparison study between the various tools in imaging processing it is difficult, although we agree with the referee about its great interest. In this context OsiriX was proposed as the most reliable and valid instrument for assessing post-processing images both in rheumatology and radiology settings. However, one of our future goals is to compare the results obtained from OsiriX for MSAC OSX environment to a second open source viewer for Window environment.