Reviewer's report

Title: Normal kidney size and its influencing factors - a prospective 64-slice MDCT study of 1,040 asymptomatic patients

Version: 1 Date: 18 July 2009

Reviewer: Ahmet Tuncay Turgut

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Major Compulsory Revisions
1. Taking into consideration that MDCT is not available in every center and spiral CT is still commonly used in clinical practice, the comparison of the two techniques for size measurements should be noted in the “Discussion” section and the advantages MDCT over spiral CT should be emphasized accordingly. In addition, further information should be given regarding the comparison of MDCT with other modalities like US and MRI for kidney size measurements.

Minor Essential Revisions
1. Choose either sonography or ultrasound in the appropriate places within the text.
2. Use the abbreviation “CT” for computed tomography where necessary in the text.
3. Delete the word “methods” which has been mistakenly placed at the end of the “Background” section.
4. The last sentence of the “Background” section should be corrected as “The objectives ...establish normal computed tomography values...”.
5. In the “Results” section, revise the first sentence as “Pole to kidney length....”.
6. In “Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria” of “Methods” section, the second sentence should be rephrased and clarified.
7. In page 6, “Contrasting the Vessels” section, use “vena cava inferior” rather than “vena cava”.
8. In the first paragraph of the “Discussion” section, the 3rd sentence; “In principle, all the structures assessed here can be depicted in an MRI, but there were too few examinations available for the study.” should be explained further. The reason for mentioning about the MRI studies should be specified. If not necessary, the author should consider deleting the sentence.

Discretionary Revisions
None

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