Reviewer’s report

Title: Diagnostic effect of shear wave elastography imaging for differentiation of malignant liver lesions: a meta-analysis

Version: 0 Date: 29 Jan 2019

Reviewer: Ming-Jen Chen

Reviewer's report:

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1. In the selection criteria, there is a diversity of reference standard and unclear study designs of included studies might contribute clinical heterogeneities and the authors did not take it seriously.

2. The baseline adjacent liver stiffness might interfere with the SWE of the tumors, and the authors did not deal with the data seriously. Moreover, the diagnostic flow and timing are unclear.

3. The quality review of the studies is poorly conducted with hidden information including the judgement of the degree of risk of bias. Besides, there is a high portion of the measurement failure among the included studies (from 1.2% to 26.3%), it is not appropriate to pool the summarize effects without taking in consideration of high attrition rate. It might not be able to pool the biased data and give a simple conclusion. Moreover, the final the application might be an overstatement.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes
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No

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
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No

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