Author’s response to reviews

Title: Non-Contrast-Enhanced Magnetic Resonance Angiography of Facial Arteries for Pre-operative Evaluation of Vascularized Submental Lymph Node Flaps

Authors:

Ming-Chen Wu (tigercatpig@yahoo.com.tw)
Ming-Yi Hsu (m7259@cgmh.org.tw)
Ren-Fu Shie (cloud@cgmh.org.tw)
Ming-Huei Cheng (minghueicheng@gmail.com)
Fang-I Chu (fangiucsb@gmail.com)
Chien-Yuan Lin (eddy.lin@ge.com)
Yui-Ping Fan (ping490114@gmail.com)
Sung-Yu Chu (sungyu.chu@msa.hinet.net)

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Author’s response to reviews:

Reviewer 1:

1. Add the unique of this study compared to other studies discuss the same issue.

Response:

Thanks for reviewer’s comment. In Conclusion section, Line 2-4, we had mentioned “Inhance 3D-MRA provides similar diagnostic accuracy and acceptable image quality compared to CE-MRA without the risk of adverse drug reactions due to CM or nephrogenic systemic fibrosis”.

2. Add more on the basic of this disease in the introduction

Response:

Thanks for reviewer’s comment. We add “Lymphedema is a disease characterized by the abnormal collection of fluid and proteins in the interstitial space. The lymphedema could be due to congenital lymphatic dysplasia (primary lymphedema), anatomic obliteration (secondary
lymphedema, such as after radical dissection, irradiation, repeated lymphangitis) or consequence of functional deficiency.” in the Background section, Line 1.

3. Discus role of merits and limitation of MRA and CTA using these ref


Response:

Thanks for reviewer’s comment. We added “Razek AA, Gaballa G, Megahed AS, Elmogy E. Time resolved imaging of contrast kinetics (TRICKS) MR angiography of arteriovenous malformations of head and neck. Eur J Radiol 2013;82:1885-91.” as reference 11 and “Abdel Razek AA, Denewer AT, Hegazy MA, Hafez MT. Role of computed tomography angiography in the diagnosis of vascular stenosis in head and neck microvascular free flap reconstruction. Int J Oral Maxillofac Surg 2014;43:811-5.” as reference 12 in the manuscript. We revised the Background section, Line 10, as “Contrast-enhanced (CE) magnetic resonance angiography (CE-MRA) and computed tomography angiography (CTA) are used to evaluate the main arteries of the maxillofacial region, particularly the facial arteries [8-12].”

4. English language correction through the manuscript

Response:

Thanks for reviewer’s comment. Because authors all come from non-English speaking country, this paper had been reviewed by Enago (www.enago.tw, Assignment number: SUNCBT-5) before submitted to BMC Medical Imaging. We added “Enago (SUNCBT-5) for language editing” in the end of Acknowledgments section.

Reviewer 2:

1. A good study and a well written article. However the conflict of interest disclosure may lead to a bias in the results.

Response:
Thanks for reviewer’s comment. The 8th author help us to tune the MRI sequence to obtain the good image quality. But this author did not join the assessment of the image quality and diagnostic quality in the study.

2. The article can be better structured especially in the methodology and discussion part.

Response:

Thanks for reviewer’s comment. The Methods section was divided into “Patients”, “MRI Techniques”, “Data Analysis” and “Statistical Analysis” and tried to provided reader more detail information of this study. In “MRI Techniques” had longest paragraph in this section. But “MRI Techniques” paragraph provided enough information for reader to reproduce the similar MR image with good image quality as we did. It is hard to concise this section. Because of the relatively small sample size of study, limited points could be discussed. More or advanced discussions would be difficult in this study.

Reviewer 3: Some typing mistakes.

Response:

Thanks for reviewer’s comment. Because authors all come from non-English speaking country, this paper had been reviewed by Enago (www.enago.tw, Assignment number: SUNCBT-5) before submitted to BMC Medical Imaging. We added “Enago (SUNCBT-5) for language editing” in the end of Acknowledgments section.

Editorial Office:

1. Please state whether participants provided written or verbal consent.

Response:

Thanks for your help. In the Methods section, 1st paragraph, we had mentioned the consent “The study protocol was approved by the Chang Gung Medical Foundation Institutional Review Board (101-3481-B), and all participants provided an informed consent”.