Author’s response to reviews

Title: A Comparative Analysis of Diffusion-weighted Imaging and Ultrasound in Thyroid Nodules

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Version: 1 Date: 17 Sep 2019

Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Editor,

Thank you very much for the editorial staff and reviewers’ hard-work in processing our manuscript (No: BMIM-D-19-00232). We have carefully read the comments made by the reviewers. Also, we have revised our manuscript based on the reviewers’ suggestions, and tracked changes in the text for the reviewers’ convenience. The comments are addressed below in a point-by-point manner.

The revised manuscript of BMIM-D-19-00232 by all co-authors entitled “A Comparative Analysis of Diffusion-weighted Imaging and Ultrasound in Thyroid Nodules” have been resubmitted to be considered for publication as a “Full length articles” in your journal. We hope the changes are satisfactory. And we also hope that we have a chance to publish the manuscript in BMC Medical Imaging. Thanks very much for your attention to our paper. Looking forward to hearing from you soon.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely

Dr. Xiaofeng Tao

We thank the reviewers for the constructive comments and suggestions.

The following responses were prepared to answer each of the comments point by point. All changes in the revised manuscript were highlighted.

Replies to Reviewer 1:

Comment 1: In Abstract , under background section, the sentence ‘To evaluate the value of diffusion weighted imaging and ultrasound in differentiating benign and malignant thyroid nodules’ appears to be incomplete.

Response: We would like to apologize for missing such an important content. We have added the background section in the Abstract in this revised manuscript.
Comment 2: In Abstract, Under background section, the full form of ADC & DWI needs to be written. Response: In Abstract, Under background section, the full form of ADC & DWI has been written.

Comment 3: Grammatical errors in Methods section. For e.g., the sentence - 'Patients take supine position, neck back, shoulders as far as possible droop, told the patient to breathe calmly...' needs to be paraphrased. Response: The manuscript has been polished by the native English speaker, grammatical errors in Methods section. For e.g., the sentence - 'Patients take supine position, neck back, shoulders as far as possible droop, told the patient to breathe calmly...' has been revised by them.

Comment 4: In Methods, under image analysis section, please write the full form of 'ROI'. Response: In Methods, under image analysis section, the full form of 'ROI' has been written.

Comment 5: In methods, under Image Analysis section, please correct the sentence grammatically and also please maintain spacing - 'Ultrasound examinations was performed by a radiologist with 7 years of experience...'. Response: In methods, under Image Analysis section, the sentence - 'Ultrasound examinations was performed by a radiologist with 7 years of experience...' - is to become - 'Ultrasound examination was performed by a radiologist with 7 years of experience in head and neck imaging, who was blinded to clinical information and diagnosis.'

Comment 6: In methods, under Image Analysis section - what is the full form of 'RADS'? Response: In methods, under Image Analysis section, the full form of 'TRADS' is Thyroid Imaging Reporting And Date System.

Comment 7: In Discussion section, in the sentence - 'Previous studies [5] have shown that there is a statistical difference between...' - the studies either have to be quoted or named. Response: In Discussion section, in the sentence - 'Previous studies [5] have shown that there is a statistical difference between...' - the studies has been requoted.

Comment 8: In Discussion section, in the sentence - 'Studies [7] showed that the blood flow characteristics of nodules could be used as an important reference..' - The studies have to be named in the Discussion. Response: In Discussion section, in the sentence - 'Studies [7] showed that the blood flow characteristics of nodules could be used as an important reference..' - The study the has been requoted.

Comment 9: Spelling mistakes, punctuations and starting the words with Capital letters in the beginning of the sentences needs to be done in the article.
Response: the manuscript has been polished by the native English speaker, spelling mistakes, punctuations and starting the words with Capital letters in the beginning of the sentences has been revised.

Comment 10: Grammatical errors are present throughout the article.
Response: the manuscript has been polished by the native English speaker, grammatical errors has been revised by them.

Comment 11: It would be desirable if the authors could name the scholars or quote the matter in their respective studies rather than mentioning it as 'some scholars' or 'studies'. It appears very vague.
Response: some studies’ scholars has been renamed.

Replies to Reviewer 2:
Comment 1: Please provide the representative imaging of ultrasound to compare current DWI imaging.
Response: the representative imaging of ultrasound (figure 3d and 4d) has been provided to compare current DWI imaging.

Comment 2: Figure 3b is T2WI? No figure 4B in this version, please resubmit it.
Response: We would like to apologize for missing such an important content. We have added figure 4b, ADC map and the ADC value in this revised manuscript. 3b is T2WI fat suppression.

Comment 3: Please draw the ROI on the DWI imaging to display the key process for the measurement of the ADC value.
Response: the ROI on the ADC map has been drawn to display the key process for the measurement of the ADC value (figure 3c and 4c).

Comment 4: In addition to scientific comments, many English wording problems need to correct.
Response: the manuscript has been polished by the native English speaker, many English wording problems has been revised.