Reviewer’s report

Title: Accuracy of real-time shear wave elastography in staging hepatic fibrosis: A meta-analysis

Version: 0 Date: 23 Oct 2019

Reviewer: Takahito Nakajima

Reviewer's report:

The authors performed a meta-analysis to assess the overall performance of shear wave elastography (SWE) in the diagnosis of liver fibrosis. The manuscript was well written. However, their discussion felt to be a little different in scope from their investigation.

Major issues:

#1 Comparison among TE, RTE and ARFI

As the authors mentioned it in the manuscript, several noninvasive quantitative techniques have become available for measurements of liver stiffness. They introduced real-time tissue elastography (RTE), transient elastography (TE), and real-time shear wave elastography (SWE). Although the comparison among these three methods would be interesting, they did not analyze such comparison. However, they discussed the difference among them. These kinds of discussion should be placed in the limitation section.

#2 Main discussion points: What are the main factors that affect the evaluation performance for the liver stiffness.

The main discussion point is not #1 but factors that affect the sensitivity or staging. The authors should discuss the factors and their effects on classifications or performances. The "diagnosis cutoff threshold" should be discussed as the authors noted.

#3 Definition or difference of the term: "SWE" and "ARFI"

In this manuscript, some confusions are noticed, especially between SWE and ARFI. These terms would be almost the same, but the authors should define the difference and the usage of these technical terms.
Minor issues:

p11L3, ...staging early cirrhosis (F4) &gt; staging early cirrhosis (F1)

Table 1, averaged age: add the range of ages.

Figure 3, What do the dots in SROC graphs indicate?

&gt; The definition or explanation of the ROC curves and the dots should be noted in a figure legend or a manuscript.

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

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable
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