Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 1 Date: 08 Dec 2019

Reviewer: Takahito Nakajima

Reviewer's report:

The authors revised their discussion and added some sentences in R1. However, discussion points are still not clear, and these do not reflect their purpose. Since this study is a meta-analysis of SWE, it is very important for the discussion section to show the usefulness of this manuscript. This revision of this manuscript gave me the impression that the authors simply performed the data analysis without considering the implications that the results generated. The authors should emphasize the usefulness of this meta-analyses for SWE. There are many points to be considered:

#1 Etiology:

In p12L37-52, they discussed the disease which caused liver fibrosis and the disease could contribute the heterogeneity. The authors explained the heterogeneity by the etiology. However, they concluded "Due to the limited number of ..." in p17L19-25 in the conclusion section. Etiology should be investigated in this study.

There are many uncertain expressions:

- p15L47-51, "The cause of chronic liver disease are also important factor that influence the liver stiffness."

- p17L12-19, "However, since liver fibrosis has various cases..."

#2 Sentences which are not clear

p15L14-22, ARFI was not associated with..., but female sex...

These sentences are not clear. They might need to be separated.
#3 Limitation

p16L47-49, "this was a retrospective study"

Since this is a meta-analysis of SWE, "retrospective" would not be a limitation of this study.

#4 Explanation of SWE

In the introduction, the authors should describe the advantage, usefulness, and benefit of SWE more fully.

#5 Others

1) Figure 1: The flow chart of patient selection

The exclusion criteria should be indicated for the screening.

2) ROC curves: Please mention what each line meant. What is the benefit to show these ROC graphs?

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.

No

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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