Author’s response to reviews

Title: Respiratory-gated (4D) contrast-enhanced FDG PET-CT for radiotherapy planning of lower oesophageal carcinoma: feasibility and impact on planning target volume

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Reviewer 1: After major revision, the quality of the manuscript has been improved. I think that the manuscript can be accepted for publication in the Journal.

Thank you.

Reviewer 2: Although the authors have amended the "Statistical Methods", the "mean ± SD " have been widely used in the Results and Table 2-5. It is inappropriate. The "median ± range" should be used in the Results and Tables.

As requested descriptive statistics have been amended in the Results section of the abstract (Lines 41 -46) and main Results section within the manuscript (Lines 261-262; 269-279) along with Tables 3-5 providing median (range) values rather than mean (standard deviation). The Statistical Analysis section of the Methods has been amended to reflect this change (Line 235) and relevant sections of the Discussion have been updated amending mean to median values when mentioned (Lines 319-328; 334-335).

Line 33, 255: 15 should be changed to "Fifteen".
These minor amendments have been made as requested at lines 33 and 246, we could not see use of “15” on line 255 and assume this was a typographical error.