Reviewer’s report

Title: Elastography for the Diagnosis of High-Suspicion Thyroid Nodules Based on the 2015 American Thyroid Association Guidelines: A Multicenter Study

Version: 0 Date: 05 Dec 2019

Reviewer: Luca Chiovato

Reviewer's report:

In this paper, the Authors analyze the diagnostic performance of US elastography in the setting of high-suspicion thyroid nodules based on the 2015 guidelines in the Chinese population. The study design is multicentric and included 1445 thyroid nodules. For all nodules the elasticity score and the strain ratio were evaluated.

Major concerns:

1. The reference standard should be mentioned in the abstract

2. "Background": when describing the malignant risk of high-suspicious nodules, please include references for both ATA guidelines and Kawk's TI-RADS.

3. It is not clear how in a multicentric study involving 12 centers, the US and real-time elastographic examinations could be conducted and performed only by two operators. Please, comment.

4. The Authors should clearly define the inclusion and exclusion criteria.

5. When describing the diagnostic performance of the USE (from ES1 to ES5) the Authors describe a statistical significant difference between two groups. Please indicate which groups.

6. The number and the clinical features of subjects with nodules greater o lower than 1 cm should be included

Minor concerns:

1. Page 11 line 32: please check

2. Several studies addressed the issue of the accuracy of elastography. The paper by Magri et al (Endocr Pract. 2015;21) should be considered
Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are 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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