

Dear Jian-Xia Cheng,
Editorial Office, Director
World Journal of Gastroenterology

October 24, 2012

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: Manuscript_WJG(Final_1st revision).doc).

Title: Characterization of focal liver masses using acoustic radiation force impulse (ARFI) elastography

Author: Hana Park, Seung Up Kim, Jun Yong Park, Do Young Kim, Sang Hoon Ahn, Chae Yoon Chon, and Kwang-Hyub Han

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 386

We are pleased to hear that we have been given the chance to revise our manuscript for publication in *World Journal of Gastroenterology*. We are also very thankful for the kind and constructive comments from the reviewers. We have provided point-by-point answers to the specific comments raised by the reviewers and the modifications are in red text. We hope that the revised version of our manuscript with additional data will meet the requirements for publication.

Reviewers' comments:

Reviewer 1

Comment #1) The manuscript can be published in the present form but it needs an English native language revision.

Reply) Before initial submission, our manuscript was checked by English native speaker (www.textcheck.com). However, according to the reviewer's recommendation, we re-checked the English expression of our revised manuscript.

Reviewer 2

Comment #1) Characteristics and ARFI values of focal liver masses:... whereas the size of CCCs and metastases tended to be larger ...

Is the differences in size statistically significant? If yes, just says that the size were larger, if not do not tell anything.

Reply) According to the reviewer's recommendation, we deleted the obscure expressions.

Comment #2) Does it really makes sense to add the ARFI values of the lesion and of the liver? I do not see the reason to do this, you should maybe comment on that.

Reply) We understand and agree with reviewer. Although stiffness between the mass and surrounding parenchyma may not be directly related, HCCs are known to have cirrhotic surrounding parenchyma,

while the majority of other liver masses (CCCs, metastases, benign masses) have no cirrhotic liver background. Thus, we performed a pilot analysis of the ARFI values of the lesion and the surrounding liver to determine whether this could provide additional information and so facilitate differentiation of the masses. We have added details of the method used to measure the ARFI of the surrounding liver parenchyma in the "Patients and Methods; ARFI elastography" section, and comments regarding our intent with regard to adding the ARFI values of the lesion and of the surrounding liver parenchyma to the "Results."

Comment #3) At the end of the discussion, could you add a few sentences about contrast-enhanced US?

Reply) Of course, we accept the clinical value of contrast-enhanced US in differentiation of focal liver masses. However, because we focused on ARFI elastography, a detailed description of contrast-enhanced US in the "Discussion" did not seem appropriate. Thus, we have commented briefly on contrast-enhanced US at the end of the "Discussion".

Comment #4) Figure 2: I have not understand the value that you put with the arrows, could you explain what they are?

Reply) The values on arrows indicate the number of patients who obtained diagnoses differing from those pre-biopsy diagnoses after liver biopsy. We have added an explanation of these values to the "Results" and the Figure legends.

Sincerely yours,



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