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Reviewer 1

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This is a very interesting study to extend the use of ultrasound for evaluation of metastatic vs reactive lymph nodes in patients with papillary thyroid carcinoma. While much of the basic investigations to establish elastography and contrast characteristics of metastatic lymph nodes was previously established, the current study presents an interesting integration of multiple ultrasound characteristics into a multiple logistic regression equation and a receiver operating characteristic curve with a respectable area under the curve of 0.95. The main limitation is that the properties of the elastography assessment are not well-characterized. The colorimetric output seems arbitrary, and the details of the elastography method (strain imaging, ARFI, SWEI, SSI, or some other method) are not described. As point of care ultrasound continues to be established, and the use of ultrasound to guide decision making for surgical interventions increases, this manuscript will likely find increasing relevance.

Answer: Dear reviewer, thanks a lot for your kindly suggestion. The elastography assessment methods is modified according to your comments, and they are represented as red font.

Reviewer 2

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This is an interesting study about the value of contrast-enhanced ultrasound combined with elastography in evaluating cervical lymph node metastases in papillary thyroid carcinoma. In this study, the routine ultrasound findings, contrast-enhanced ultrasound and elastography data of patients were recorded and compared. The ROC curve was used to test the efficacy of contrast-enhanced ultrasound combined with elastography in evaluating papillary thyroid carcinoma cervical lymph node metastasis. The authors found that based on the gray-scale ultrasound, the combination of contrast-enhanced ultrasound and elastography can accurately assess papillary thyroid carcinoma cervical lymph node metastases. Overall, the manuscript is



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well designed and the results are very interesting. And the methods are described in detail. Some minor language polishings should be corrected.

Answer: Dear reviewer, thanks for your kindly suggestion. The language of the article has been polished.

Reviewer 3

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This study is very interesting. Only some minor language polishing should be corrected. No other special comments.

Answer: Dear reviewer, thanks for your suggestion and support.