

Dear editor and reviewers:

We highly appreciate the comments and suggestions from the two reviewers and the editor concerning our manuscript entitled "Dual energy CT detects metastatic lymph nodes in patients with hepatocellular carcinoma" (Manuscript NO: 46198). Those comments help improve our manuscripts in many aspects. We have made revisions according to the comments with revised portions highlighted in blue color font in our submitted manuscript. Our responses (in blue color font) to the reviewer's comments are as follows.

Reviewer #1:

The authors have produced a very detailed and well executed study using dual energy CT scan to identify metastatic lymph nodes in patients with HCC. This has the potential to be a very useful addition in the prognostication of HCC and should aid clinicians with allocating the correct treatment strategies in patients with HCC. The study is well written and the authors have correctly pointed out their own short comings. I think the manuscript is worthy of publication.

Reviewer #2:

This paper studied "Dual energy CT detects metastatic lymph nodes in patients with hepatocellular carcinoma". The manuscript is well presented and of interest. The hypothesis of the study is novel and the design of this study is appropriate. The study was done well and their results can contribute to knowledge of this topic.

Reviewer #3:

The authors evaluated the diagnostic value of dual energy computed tomography in regional lymph node assessment for HCC in 43 patients. They found that a combined analysis of MSAD with dual-energy CT quantifiable

parameters such as IC, NIC and  $\lambda$ HU in portal-phase is highly valuable in differentiating benign LN from malignant ones. I think that the manuscript is scientific, well written and deserves to be published in the WJG in its current form.

1. The **Running title, Authorship, Institution, ORCID number, Author contributions, Institutional review board statement, Conflict-of-interest statement and Corresponding author** had been supplemented in the manuscript. The **Informed consent statement** had been waived by the ethics committee, and the document is in the supplementary material.

2. The audio core tip was prepared.

3. The reference numbers will be superscripted in square brackets at the end of the sentence with the citation content or after the cited author's name, with no spaces.

[Reply: Thanks for the comment and suggestion. We've checked the whole text carefully for the omission.](#)

4. Please provide the decomposable figure of figures, whose parts are all movable and editable, organize them into a PowerPoint file, and submit as "Manuscript No. -Figures.ppt" on the system, we need to edit the words in the figures. All submitted figures, including the text contained within the figures, must be editable. Please provide the text in your figure(s) in text boxes. Please explain all the abbreviations of each figure/table under each piece of figure/table legends.

[Reply: Thanks for the comment and suggestion. We've added figures as requested in the supplementary. Please see the supplementary. The abbreviations of each figure/table has been explained.](#)

5. Please don't include abbreviations in the title of the figure/table.

Reply: Thanks for the comment and suggestion. We've corrected the title of the figures and tables.

6. ARTICLE HIGHLIGHTS

Reply: We have supplemented the article highlights in the manuscript file. Please see the supplementary.

7. REFERENCES

Reply: We've checked the references carefully as requested. There is one literature whose DOI was not found(in blue color font), and we've added the full text in the supplementary. Please see the supplementary.