

November 22, 2020

Dear Editors and Reviewers:

Thank you for your letter and the reviewers' comments concerning our manuscript entitled "Model for liver hardness using two-dimensional shear wave elastography, durometry, and preoperative biomarkers" (ID: 58782). Those comments are all valuable and very helpful for revising and improving our paper, as well as the important guiding significance to our researches. I have studied comments carefully and have made correction which I hope meet with approval. Revised portion are marked in blue in the paper. The main corrections in the paper and the responds to the reviewer's comments are listed as follows:

Responds to the reviewer's comments:

Comment 1: Please define the 95% CI for all correlation coefficients.

Answers: The 95% CI for all correlation coefficients have been added in the article.

Comment 2: Please do not duplicate the data of tables in the text.

Answers: According to the reviewer's comments, we have deleted some duplicate descriptions to make the article more concise

Comment 3: Please define the criteria for validation cohort.

Answers: The criteria of validation cohort is similar to that of derivation cohort, the difference lies in the operation time and operation method. The validation cohort came from patients who underwent surgery from July to December 2019, and their surgical methods included endoscopic and open surgery. The derivation cohort only included patients who underwent open surgery. We have supplemented the time line in the article. The difference in surgical methods is listed in table 1.

Comment 4: Liver congestion could cause liver stiffness. Were patients with right side heart failure excluded from the study?

Answers: Congestive right heart failure is very rare among surgical patients in our center. At the reminder of the reviewer, we reviewed the patient data in this study again and confirmed that no patients with right heart failure were included in this study.

Special thanks to you for your good comments.

I have tried my best to improve the manuscript and made some changes in the manuscript. These changes will not influence the content and framework of the paper. And here we did not list the changes but marked in red in revised paper.

Thank you very much for your comments and suggestions again.

Sincerely,

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