

16th February 2014

Dear Dr Ma

Please find attached an amended version of the manuscript

Title: PROGNOSTIC VALUE OF BASELINE FDG UPTAKE ON PET-CT IN ESOPHAGEAL CARCINOMA

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The manuscript has been amended in line with the reviewers' comments. These have been enumerated below. I hope that the amended version is suitable for publication.

1. The manuscript has been rewritten using UICC 7th edition TNM staging
2. The statistical methods have been more fully described. It was Cox regression analysis that was employed for the survival analysis.
3. The variables used in the multi-variate analysis have been more fully described
4. The abbreviation UICC has been expanded the first time it is used in the text
5. There was no significant difference in the standardized uptake values obtained during the earlier years compared to later years. If patients are divided into successive cohorts of 50, the mean SUVmax does not change significantly with time ($p=0.55$). A comment has been added to the discussion to clarify this point.
6. The institutional waiver of consent has been moved to the start of the Methods section.
7. The discrepancy in the patient numbers between text and table has been corrected.
8. Consistent spelling has been used.
9. The median value of 10.9 for SUVmax was indicated in the figure plotting SUVmax against survival. This has been explained.
10. The influence of SUVmax on survival was not significant when patients with adenocarcinoma and squamous carcinoma were considered separately. This has been included in the results section.
11. The reference has been corrected.

Response to Editorial Comments

1. The suggested amendments have been made. Of note, the tables have been uploaded as a separate excel file and the figure as a powerpoint slide.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter

Yours sincerely

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