

ANSWERING REVIEWERS



May 18th, 2014

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (8798-review.doc).

Title: Computer planned, image-guided combined resection and ablation for bilobar colorectal liver metastases

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Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 8798

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

1 Format has been updated

2 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer

Reviewer No. 1 (02665304)

1- **Reviewer:** It is necessary to revise the formatting (there are some empty pages)

Reply: We thank the reviewer for this comment. The entire manuscript has been shortened and formatted, removing any empty pages.

2- **Reviewer:** The method is well described, but there are similar studies about image-guided liver surgery (Augmented environments for the targeting of hepatic lesions during image-guided robotic liver surgery. Buchs NC et al. 2013)

Reply: We agree with the reviewer, that there are a few other studies looking at image-guided surgery. The one quoted by the reviewer describes robotic image-guided liver resection, which differs from our patient in whom open resection / ablation was carried out. However, we definitely agree, that the study quoted by the reviewer is of importance as it shows the rapid development in this new field. We have made the readers aware of the study mentioned (page 6) and have added it as a new reference to our manuscript (new ref. no 18).

3- **Reviewer:** The case analysis is poor. It is described only one patient. A major scientific importance was made ?? by a major series.

Reply: We are aware that we are only describing the system based on one patient, however, the aim of the paper is meant as a case report and not as a review of a multitude of patients. Unfortunately, we are not sure what the reviewer means with the last comment: "A major scientific importance was made ?? by a major series", and were therefore unable to reply to this statement.

Reviewer No. 2 (02544167)

1- **Reviewer:** The paper appears to me very long considering that a single patient is described.

Reply: We absolutely agree with the reviewer's comment and have substantially shortened our entire

manuscript.

2- Reviewer: Moreover it may be questionable to use CT only to exclude possible extra-hepatic metastatic spread. In this regard a whole-body FDG-PET/CT could be a sensitive imaging modality. Comment should be added on this issue.

Reply: We had not mentioned this in the text, but as correctly observed and questioned by the reviewer, an FGD-PET/CT was indeed carried out to exclude extra-hepatic metastatic disease. We have made note of this in the text, page 4/5, Materials and Methods section "Operative procedure".

3- Reviewer: Anyhow the use of this navigated intervention system maybe of interest for the readers of the journal but I suggest the authors to modify the text in a short case-report. English editing is needed.

Reply: As suggested, we shortened the text and have carried out English editing. A copy of the English Certificate has been added.

3 References and typesetting were corrected

Should you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Sincerely yours,

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