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August 15, 2018

WJA

MS# 2017-16470R: "Current challenges in the diagnosis of lumbar radiculopathy"

Authors: Jiann-Her Lin, Chih-Cheng Chen

Dear Editors,

We have uploaded a revised version of above manuscript for consideration as an editorial published in *WJA*.

We would like to thank all reviewers' excellent comments. All changes in the revision text are marked in red color. The following points are the main focuses of the revision.

All details of the point-to-point responses to these comments are attached in the rebuttal letter.

We thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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Point-to-point responses to reviewers' comments

Reviewer Comments:
Reviewer #1:

Comments: This is an editorial focusing on the authors' own previous work. I have no comments on the content of the editorial, but suggest the author to add a section focusing on the diagnosis of lumbar radiculopathy by using prediction model. in all the tools discussed in the editorial, the authors reported tools alone for their diagnostic performance. However, do you think the combination of clinical signs and symptoms and imaging study results can help to improve the diagnostic performance? may be a scoring system or a model-based nomogram can be helpful in this situation. I SUGGEST the authors add a section for this discussion and cite some useful reference (for scoring system: Ann Transl Med. 2017 Nov;5(21):436. doi: 10.21037/atm.2017.08.22. for model-based nomogram: Ann Transl Med. 2017 May;5(10):211. doi: 10.21037/atm.2017.04.01.)

Responses: Thanks for the comments. We have added a section (in pages 3~4) to discuss the prediction model and cited the related references as suggested.

Reviewer #2:

Comments: I think the manuscript is concise and very informative to all physicians. I have only one suggestion for the authors. If the authors could make a table showing sensitivity and specificity of each diagnostic tool, I would be more informative to readers.

Responses: Thanks for the comments! We have added a Table to summarize the sensitivity and specificity between diagnostic tools.

Reviewer #3:

Comments: 1.diagnosis nad radiculopathy should add as a key word

Responses: Thanks for the comments. Key words have been added as suggested.