

REVIEWER 1 EVALUATION

This study retrospectively collected 108 cases of rectal subcutaneous lesions (SELs) and investigated the diagnostic accuracy and clinical significance of endoscopic ultrasound (EUS) for small neuroendocrine tumors (NENs) in the rectum. The prevalence of NENs in rectal SELs was found to be 78.7% (85/108). The sensitivity and specificity of EUS for detecting rectal NENs were 98.9% (84/85) and 52.2% (12/23), respectively. The research results suggest that EUS has good sensitivity but poor specificity in detecting small rectal NEN. In addition, EUS can also help doctors evaluate the depth of invasion of small rectal NEN before endoscopic resection. This study has certain clinical significance and can guide endoscopists to evaluate lesions before surgery, which has certain value in guiding surgery.

However, the innovation of this study is average, and it is recommended to increase research comparing it with MRI.

Author response: Thank you for reviewing this manuscript and your suggestion is greatly appreciated. Since MRI and EUS are widely used in the diagnosis and evaluation of rectal NENs, it is meaningful to compare the diagnostic results between MRI and EUS. However, it is with regret that rectal NENs included in our study were all less than 2cm and the vast majority of them were not examined by MRI. It is a limitation of our study indeed, and we have added the corresponding description in the manuscript, which now reads:

“This study has limitations that should be taken into consideration. Since magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and EUS are widely used in the diagnosis and evaluation of rectal NENs, it is meaningful to compare the diagnostic results between MRI and EUS. However, it is with regret that rectal NENs included in our study were all less than 2 cm and the vast majority of them were not examined by MRI.”

It is suggested that future research can introduce artificial intelligence.

Author response: Thank you for reviewing this manuscript and your suggestion is greatly appreciated. Artificial intelligence-assisted endoscopic diagnosis has been research hotspot, and your valuable suggestion help broaden our research field. We have added the corresponding description in the manuscript, which now reads:

“Besides, artificial intelligence-assisted endoscopic diagnosis has been research hotspot. Therefore, it is suggested that future research can introduce artificial intelligence to further improve the diagnostic value of EUS on rectal NENs.”