

October 25, 2014

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format.

Title: Diagnostic Performance of SPIO-enhanced MRI in Characterization of Focal Hepatic Lesions: A Systemic Review and Meta-analysis

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Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 13949

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 EVALUATION 1 (Reviewer No. 02459013)

In this study, Li et al. evaluated the performance of superparamagnetic iron oxide (SPIO)-enhanced MRI in detection and characterization of focal hepatic lesions via systemic review and meta-analysis. The data showed that SPIO-enhanced MRI was useful for differential diagnosis between HCCs and other focal hepatic lesions. The study was well designed and the methods were accurately applied. I have only minor comments: .

<i>1. The search was limited because there are plenty of other electronic databases that could be searched like the Cochrane Library, Embase, Web of Science and Medline.</i>

The Embase and Cochranlibrary were searched and the data were added in the article. Thank you very much for your suggestion.
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<i>2. The author stated that "two reviewers screened the abstract of the selected articles independently". What about the strength of agreement between reviewers during article selection?</i>

Almost perfect agreement ($\kappa=0.95$) was achieved between the two reviewers in selection of the articles because the reviewers have been training using the same inclusion critoria before selection of the articles.

REVIEWER EVALUATION 2 (Reviewer No. 02460781)

This article evaluated the performance of superparamagnetic iron oxide (SPIO)-enhanced MRI in detection and characterization of focal hepatic lesions via systemic review and meta-analysis. It was well designed and the methods were accurately applied. However,

<i>1. SPIO-enhanced MRI has currently been considered to be the only imaging modality that is</i>

capable of distinguishing HCC from DN, although it is limited when both HCC and DN contain similar number of Kupffer cells. Based on the above, is the study necessary ?

The aim of this study was to evaluate the performance of superparamagnetic iron oxide (SPIO)-enhanced MRI in detection and characterization of focal hepatic lesions. The above examples only demonstrated that there were different views about SPIO-enhanced MRI application in detection and diagnosis of hepatic lesion.

2. *In this study, authors had not give the gold standard of diagnosis for hepatic lesions (HCC or focal hepatic lesions).*

The gold standard of diagnosis for hepatic lesions were abstracted from the related articles. Please see the detailed information in section 2, ***“Study Selection and Data Extraction” of RESULTS.***

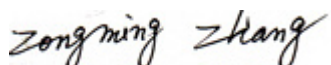
3. *The search database was limited. It should include the other electronic databases such as the Cochrane Library, Embase, Web of Science and Medline.*

The Embase and Cochranelibrary were searched and the data were added in the article. Thank you very much for your suggestion.

3 References and typesetting were corrected

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Sincerely yours,



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