Format for ANSWERING REVIEWERS

June 14, 2015

Dear Dr. Tian,

Thank you very much for the review of our manuscript WJR - 17024. We highly appreciate all constructive comments from you and the reviewers and we have revised our manuscript accordingly.

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 17024-review.doc).

Title: Evaluation of the Functionality of Cavernosal Nerves after Magnetic Resonance Imaging Guided Transurethral Ultrasound Ablation of Prostate Tissue in-vivo in an Animal Model

Authors:
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Name of Journal: World Journal of Radiology

ESPS Manuscript NO: 17024

We have submitted a revised and annotated version of our manuscript online, which we believe improved significantly thanks to the great comments, and suggestions of the reviewers. In addition to the revised manuscript we addressed each point raised by the reviewers in this response letter.

We hope that our improved manuscript will fulfill the requirements for publication in JMRI.

Thank you very much considering our manuscript for publication.

Best regards,
Steffen Sammet

Point - by - point response to the specific comments of the reviewers:

Reviewer 00505679:

1. Reviewer's Comment: It's necessary to know the determination of sample size to assess the results of the study (statistical power).

   Response: We thank the reviewer for this important comment. Our study is a feasibility study with only a small number of animals (n=6) with the goal to evaluate the functionality of cavernosal nerves after MRI guided transurethral ultrasound ablation of prostate-tissue in-vivo. We have added a sentence in the manuscript that "Further studies are necessary to confirm the feasibility, safety, and functional outcomes of this new focal therapy approach.

2. The selected animals age seems not very suitable, 6 months dogs have virtually prostate development are prepubertal.

   Response: We thank the reviewer for this comment and agree that the prostate volumes of our canines were small due to their age. When we started our pre-clinical study, there were only young dogs available. We have added a sentence to the discussion to recommend post-pubertal canines for further pre-clinical ultrasound therapy studies of the prostate (page 17 of the revised manuscript).

3. It's necessary to explain the claim "that the volumes of canine prostate is comparable to that of human adult".

   Response: We thank the reviewer for this important comment and we have removed the statement "that the canines had prostate volumes compared to humans" (page 8 of the revised manuscript). Only large post-pubertal canines have prostate sizes similar to that of human adults. We have also added a sentence to the discussion to recommend post-pubertal canines for future pre-clinical prostate ultrasound therapy studies (page 17 of the revised manuscript).

4. Are histological evaluation of the rectum, urinary bladder and the prostatic urethra performed?

   Response: We have performed a histological evaluation of the prostatic urethra. Other peri-prostatic anatomical structures such as the rectum and the urinary bladder were very thoroughly visually inspected by the veterinarian surgeons during prostatectomy. The histological analysis of the prostates by our genito-urinary pathologist showed that all ablation zones were contained within the canine prostates.

5. It is necessary a table summarizing the results and another with the histologic findings.

   Response: We thank the reviewer for this constructive suggestion and we have added a table to summarize the results of the tumescence response, the intra-surgical evaluation of the peri-prostatic tissue, and the correlation between the histologic ablation zones and MRI based ablation zones (page 23 of the revised manuscript).

6. It should be added in the title reference to "animal model".

   Response: We thank the reviewer for this suggestion and we have added the words "animal model" to the title. The updated title of the manuscript is now:

   Evaluation of the Functionality of Cavernosal Nerves after Magnetic Resonance Imaging Guided Transurethral Ultrasound Ablation of Prostate Tissue in-vivo in an Animal Model

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

Yours sincerely,

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