

Dear Editors,

We would like to thank the reviewer for the valuable comments. Point to point answers for each comment are presented below with appropriate changes in the main text.

Answering 1<sup>st</sup> reviewer

1. “In the introduction part, the authors have emphasized the superiority of SE to TE methods, especially in patients with ascites or obesity. Please explain why ascites is added into the exclusion criteria in the present study.”

**Thank you for this important point. This was a pilot study where we aimed to evaluate the feasibility of RF parameters to assess the degree of portal hypertension. In this stage of the study we aimed to have a homogenous patient group, so our preliminary results would not be influenced by any factors. As our proposed method falls into the category of strain elastography, we included this statement about the superiority of SE in patients with ascites in the introduction part based on the previous studies by other authors on strain elastography (Hirooka et al, 2011) and WFUMB guidelines (Ferraioli et al, 2015). This feature is based on the technical aspects of both techniques: TE impulse is attenuated by the free fluid between the liver and the rib cage, whereas in strain elastography (and our method) endogenous motion and strain of the liver tissue is caused by cardiac pulsatility.**

2. “The result might have been more informative if the authors should supply the liver function evaluation such as the Child-Pugh score of recruited patients.”

**Child-Pugh score was calculated and the results were included in Table 2.**

3. “Please describe a little more of the selection of ROI in details.”

**The ROI selection criteria were based on visual evaluation of B scans and the obtained endogenous strain maps. At first, the sequences of B mode images were carefully revised with aim to identify appropriate regions. The regions that contained only liver parenchyma and without clearly visible blood vessels in B scans were outlined by the observer in the spatially corresponding images of endogenous strain.**

**Wider explanation was included into the manuscript.**

4. “The HVPG and column value did not correspond with each other in table 2. Please check again.”

**Changes were made to the Table 2 HVPG column.**

5. “In the discussion, the author’s claimed that the method “has an important advantage as it is not influenced by ascites, narrow intercostal spaces, obesity, active hepatic inflammation

and cholestasis”. Please find concrete evidence in the present or previous study that support this opinion, especially in ascites and obesity patients.”

**Thank you for this very important point. We based our decision to include this statement on guidelines of WSUMB. However after thoroughly revising the manuscript we agree that this statement is not accurate in case of this study, as we did not evaluate separate groups of patients with obesity and ascites as well as other elastography techniques. We are continuing our research in this field and are planning on including different groups of patients for subgroup analyses, however we cannot provide definitive data at this point. Therefore we decided to remove this statement from the Discussion part of the manuscript.**

We would like to thank the scientific editor for the valuable comments. Point to point answers for each comment are presented below with appropriate changes in the main text.

1. I found the authors did not provide the approved grant application form(s). Please upload the approved grant application form(s) or funding agency copy of any approval document(s)

**Uploaded.**

2. I found the authors did not provide the original figures. Please provide the original figure documents. Please prepare and arrange the figures using PowerPoint to ensure that all graphs or arrows or text portions can be reprocessed by the editor

**Figures were organized as requested and uploaded in the system.**

3. I found the authors did not write the “article highlight” section. Please write the “article highlights” section at the end of the main text.

**Article highlight section was added to the end of the main text.**

4. The authors need to fill out the STROBE checklist with page numbers.

**STROBE statement checklist was fill out with page numbers.**