

August 20, 2023

Dear Editor-in-Chief and reviewers,

Thank you very much for your decision letter and advice on our manuscript entitled “The value of ultrasound guided biopsy combined with Xpert MTB/RIF in the diagnosis of chest wall tuberculosis” (manuscript #86382). We also thank the reviewers for the constructive comments and suggestions. We have revised the manuscript accordingly. All amendments are highlighted with yellow color in the revised manuscript. In addition, our point-by-point responses to the comments are listed following this letter.

We hope that our revised manuscript is now acceptable for publication in your journal and look forward to hearing from you soon.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Kong Haili

Department of medicine

Shandong Public Health Clinical Center

Jinan, Shandong, China 250013

Cui Jia

Department of Ultrasound

Shandong Public Health Clinical Center

Jinan, Shandong, China 250013

1. More details should be given in the introduction to the causes and diagnosis of chest wall tuberculosis.

Response: Thank you very much for your advice. We have added the cause and diagnosis of chest wall tuberculosis, with relevant references. They are highlighted with yellow color in the first paragraph of the Introduction section in the revised manuscript.

2. In the introduction, more detailed information about Xpert MTB/RIF assay should be presented, its usage area and diagnostic power should be explained with literature data.

Response: Thank you very much for your advice. We have added more detailed information on Xpert MTB/RIF assay, with relevant references, and highlighted them with yellow color in the second paragraph of the Introduction section in the revised manuscript.

3. In Figure 1, the lesion should be better defined on gray scale USG images.

Response: We have added pictures A and B in Figure 1, which are grayscale USG images to better define the chest wall tuberculosis.

4. Study limitations should be detailed in the discussion.

Response: We have added a paragraph to discuss the study limitations in the last paragraph of the Discussion section in the revised manuscript.

5. The study was mainly carried out on the tuberculosis diagnosis method, tru-cut biopsy efficiency is a secondary result. For this reason, this part should be omitted from the conclusion.

Response: Thank you for the your advice. We have removed the section on tru-cut biopsy efficiency from the conclusion.

6. A suitable core type should be added to the text.

Response: Our understanding is that the reviewer would like to ask us to add the type of study in the manuscript. We have added “Retrospective Study” in the title page of the revised manuscript.

ABBREVIATIONS

Response: We have carefully read the requirements for abbreviations and made necessary changes in the revised manuscript.