

April 09, 2014

Dear Editor,



Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: Magnetic Resonance Imaging of Pancreatitis - An Update (ESPS No.9854 - Edited).docx).

Title: Magnetic Resonance Imaging of Pancreatitis. An Update

Author: Msriluxayini Manikkavasakar, Mamdoh AlObaidy, Kiran K. Busireddy, Miguel Ramalho, Viragi Nilmini, Madhavi Alagiyawanna, Richard C. Semelka.

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 9854

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

1 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer

Reviewer 1:

The manuscript is a well structured and well written review that shows the new pancreatic RM imaging possibilities. The different clinical situations (acute and chronic pancreatitis, pancreatitis complications and differential diagnoses) are well structured. Moreover, the paper provides a variety of images of the pancreas involved in different clinical situations.

Some suggestions:

1. In some situations, especially in acute pancreatitis and its complications, computed tomography can compete with MR. Some information about superiority of one of these techniques must be provided.

We agree with the reviewer. We wanted to emphasize the role of MRI as a valuable alternative modality in these conditions, with at least equal diagnostic performance to CT for the diagnosis and follow-up of acute and chronic pancreatitis. Also, MRI is a non-ionizing cross sectional imaging method with a safer intravenous contrast profile. This is particularly important in patients with acute pancreatitis, who often have a concomitant renal impairment of some degree and often require repeated follow-up imaging. Additionally, MRI offers higher sensitivity for the diagnosis of subtle early changes of acute pancreatitis (i.e., interstitial pancreatitis and peripancreatic edema) and early manifestations of chronic pancreatitis. The factors that make contrast-enhanced CT the most frequently utilized imaging modality in imaging pancreatitis are probably related to its universal availability (especially next to the emergency room), faster scanning times, and the relatively easier interpretability by physicians and general radiologists. We have integrated this response into the manuscript for clarification.

2. To indicate (arrows) the changes described in figure legend.

We have done that as suggested.

3. Reference 5 is not completed.

We have extensively reviewed and updated all the references.

4. Reference 71 is listed above (reference 48).

We have extensively reviewed and updated all the references.

Reviewer 2:

This is a well conceived and well written review paper that addresses new trends in clinical pancreatic MR imaging and its role in imaging all variety of acute and chronic pancreatitis, pancreatitis complications and differential diagnoses. The paper is very well illustrated and with mostly up to date references.

I have only minor comments and suggestions:

1. The title: Magnetic Resonance Imaging of Pancreatitis. The authors may consider expand this title e.g. "Magnetic Resonance Imaging of Pancreatitis - new trends" or 2014 update, or similar

We have modified the title as suggested.

2. Wording: "Imaging patient population unable to hold their breath" should be changed to "imaging patients unable"

We have done this as requested.

3. References

a) Ref 5, volume and pages are missing

We have extensively reviewed and updated all the references.

b) The same reference Hansen TM, Nilsson M, Gram M, Frokjaer JB. Morphological and functional evaluation of chronic pancreatitis with magnetic resonance imaging. World J Gastroenterol 2013 Nov 14;19(42):7241-7246 is listed twice as Ref. #48 and #71.

We have extensively reviewed and updated all the references.

c) The authors may consider updating references and to cite below listed articles:

1)Türkvtan A, Erden A, Türko?lu MA, Se?il M, Yener O. Imaging of acute pancreatitis and its complications. Part 1: Acute pancreatitis. Diagn Interv Imaging. 2014 Feb 7. pii: S2211-5684(13)00425-7. doi: 10.1016/j.diii.2013.12.017. [Epub ahead of print]

2)Bian Y, Wang L, Chen C, Lu JP, Fan JB, Chen SY, Zhao BH.Quantification of pancreatic exocrine function of chronic pancreatitis with secretin-enhanced MRCP. World J Gastroenterol. 2013 Nov 7;19(41):7177-82. doi: 10.3748/wjg.v19.i41.7177.

We included these references as suggested.

4. Illustration The readers will greatly appreciate labeling of MRI images with arrows and letters pointing major changes described in figure legend. This would be useful for gastroenterologists and others who are not radiology experts.....

We have done that as suggested.

We hope that you find our manuscript sufficiently improved to merit publication in your journal.

Sincerely yours,

Richard C. Semelka