

## Answering Reviewers

### Peer-review report(s):

#### Reviewer #1:

Scientific Quality: Grade B (Very good)

Language Quality: Grade B (Minor language polishing)

Conclusion: Major revision

Specific Comments to Authors:

- ①-Add the unique of this study compared to other studies discuss the same issue.
- ②-Add more on the basic of this disease in the introduction.
- ③-Discus radiation dose of CT using this ref -Elmokadem AH, Ibrahim EA, Gouda WA, Razek AA. Whole-Body Computed Tomography Using Low-Dose Biphasic Injection Protocol With Adaptive Statistical Iterative Reconstruction V: Assessment of Dose Reduction and Image Quality in Trauma Patients. J Comput Assist Tomogr 2019;43:870-876.
- ④-Discus role of MR imaging of the GIT and using these ref -Abdel Razek AAK, El-Serougy LG, Saleh GA, et al. Liver Imaging Reporting and Data System Version 2018: What Radiologists Need to Know. J Comput Assist Tomogr 2020;44:168-177. -Abd-El Khalek Abd-ALRazek A, Fahmy DM. Diagnostic Value of Diffusion-Weighted Imaging and Apparent Diffusion Coefficient in Assessment of the Activity of Crohn Disease: 1.5 or 3 T. J Comput Assist Tomogr 2018;42:688-696. -Abdel Razek AAK, El-Serougy LG, Saleh GA, et al. Interobserver Agreement of Magnetic Resonance Imaging of Liver Imaging Reporting and Data System Version 2018. J Comput Assist Tomogr 2020;44:118-123.
- ⑤-English language correction through the manuscript.
- ⑥-Discus merits and limitations of technique applied.
- ⑦-Update of references as most of references are old.

#### Answers:

- ①-We compared other clinical esophageal NEC analyses in the “Introduction” part. We found only a few cases focusing on the clinicopathological characteristics and treatment. Previous studies reported that TNM staging and adjuvant therapy of esophageal NEC were closely related to the risk of death in patients with esophageal NEC. However, there are still no esophageal NEC survival analysis reports concerning imaging features supported by a large amount of data. That's what our research is focused on.
- ②-We added the basic knowledge of esophageal NEC in the “Introduction” part. We introduced the incidence, current clinical diagnosis, treatment situation, and clinical problems to be solved.
- ③-We cited this reference in the “Discussion” part (Reference 18) to discuss the utility of high-resolution and low-radiation CT.
- ④-We cited these references in the “Discussion” part (Reference 14-17) to discuss the utility of CT and MRI in assessing esophageal lesions.
- ⑤-The manuscript had been revised by Editage for language editing to make it easier

to understand.

⑥-We added the merits of enhanced CT in the second paragraph of “Discussion” part. The most advantages are cost-effective features and low radiation exposure. The limitations are summarized in the last paragraph of “Discussion” part. There are limitations in accurate TN staging, subjective enhanced level measurement and no functional imaging parameters involved.

⑦-We updated most of the references of the last five years.

## **Reviewer #2:**

Scientific Quality: Grade C (Good)

Language Quality: Grade B (Minor language polishing)

Conclusion: Major revision

①-Specific Comments to Authors: About histopathology, today it seems interesting to note the presence of tumor infiltrating lymphocytes (Immunoscore the lymphocytic infiltration in carcinoid tumours. Roncati L, Manenti A, Pisciolli F, Pusioli T, Barbolini G. Histopathology. 2017 Jun;70(7):1175-1177. doi: 10.1111/his.13168).

②-The radiological technique is reported in a very, but unnecessary way. You can detail the place of a neo-adjuvant radio-chemotherapy, and the diagnostic place of the carcinoid syndrome.

## **Answers:**

①- We cited this reference in the “Discussion” part (Reference 25) to demonstrated the significance of the presence of tumor infiltrating lymphocytes.

②-We added some details of neo-adjuvant radio-chemotherapy in clinical prognostic significance. We found combination with systemic neoadjuvant chemoradiotherapy in most of our cases in our study yields better survival than surgery alone. Adjuvant chemotherapy has an important role in controlling metastasis and residual lesions. Immunoscore the lymphocytic infiltration is a perfect complement to the tumor prognosis judgment system nowadays, we hope to combined analysis in the future to improve the tumor prognosis evaluation.