

*Biostatistics statement*

SPSS 21.0 (SPSS, Chicago, IL, USA) was used to perform statistical analysis. The differences in relative changes in the ADC and IVIM parameters, and tumor volumes between the control and treatment groups were determined by the Mann-Whitney test. Spearman's correlation coefficient was used to determine the correlations between histological features, including NF, MVD and TUNEL and the corresponding ADC and IVIM parameters. A two-tailed  $P$  value  $< 0.05$  was considered significant. The statistical methods of this study were reviewed by Professor Moon Jai Dong from Chonnam National University Medical School. Professor Moon is an epidemiologist.

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