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## ESPS PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Radiology

**ESPS manuscript NO:** 17083

**Title:** Inter- and intra-rater reliability of diffusion tensor imaging parameters in the normal pediatric spinal cord

**Reviewer's code:** 00685143

**Reviewer's country:** United States

**Science editor:** Xue-Mei Gong

**Date sent for review:** 2015-02-11 20:36

**Date reviewed:** 2015-02-13 05:59

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
		BPG Search:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

### COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Very focused paper on pediatric spinal cord DTI rater reliability. Would be more interesting with a slightly broader focus. The conclusions suggest some sources of variability and ways it could be reduced/improved. The paper would be more interesting if those suggestions were implemented and a guideline put forward. Also mentioned was the lack of pathology--why did these patients undergo MRI? Either comment on if this are truly normal controls compensated for MRI, or why they received MRI. Also included abnormals in the study may lead to more powerful guidelines/results. Lastly, a third neuroradiologist rater would also make the findings more convincing.



### ESPS PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Radiology

**ESPS manuscript NO:** 17083

**Title:** Inter- and intra-rater reliability of diffusion tensor imaging parameters in the normal pediatric spinal cord

**Reviewer's code:** 02346872

**Reviewer's country:** China

**Science editor:** Xue-Mei Gong

**Date sent for review:** 2015-02-11 20:36

**Date reviewed:** 2015-02-14 11:09

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		BPG Search:	
		<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

### COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Summary: This study evaluated within and between rater agreements in DTI parameter values of the normal pediatric cervical spinal cord. Inter-rater reliability refers to the variability between raters and intra-rater reliability measures the agreement within raters across multiple trials. The data showed that high reproducibility in spinal cord DTI can be achieved, and demonstrated the importance of setting detailed methodology for post-processing DTI data, specifically the placement of ROIs. Title: It accurately reflects the major topic and contents of the study. Abstract: It gives a clear delineation of objectives, materials and methods, results and conclusions. Materials and methods: The methods are innovative and particular. The statistical methods are appropriate. Results: The result is reasonable. Discussion: The systematic theoretical analyses and valuable conclusions are provided. References: The references are appropriate, relevant, and update. Tables and figures: The figure 1 is seemly not clear enough. It probably duo to the images display system in my computer is not the same. Overall: This is an innovative and valuable study. This information may be useful in the diagnosis of whether the pediatric spinal cord is normal or not.