

Format for ANSWERING REVIEWERS



August 25, 2012

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 2673-review.doc).

Title: FDG-PET in the diagnosis, staging and prognosis of pancreatic carcinoma: a meta-analysis

Author: Zhen Wang; Jun-qiang Chen; Jin-lu Liu; Xin-gan Qin; Yuan Huang.

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 2673

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

1 Format has been updated

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

(1) The authors need to provide more information on what they considered a PET + lymph node (especially N stage). Was this based on max SUV, tumor to lymph node ratio or simply an SUV of > 2.5? For example, a recent study state that lymph nodes with a FDG uptake greater than the normal background activity of the blood pool (approximately $SUV_{max} > 2-2.5$) was considered suspicious for malignancy and recorded on the basis of each stations, on PET/CT images.

Reply: The calculation was based on max SUV. And we marked this in red letters in our revised manuscript.

(2) PET or PET/CT? Because PET and PET/CT is very different procedures. For example your references' 7,19,23,24,42,.. are PET/CT.

Reply: In order to investigate the role of PET in PC comprehensively, we included both PET and PET/CT studies. Additionally, we performed subgroup analysis according to this (Table 5).

(3) Negative predictive value (NPV) is very important entity for staging procedures, CT, PET and PET/CT. For lymph node metastasis, four studies (101 patients) had been eligible for your meta-analysis. And sensitivity and specificity of PET in the diagnosis of N staging were calculated. But I did not see NPV. $NPV = \text{True negative} / (\text{True negative} + \text{False Negative})$, Table 2; TP=34, FP=5, FN=19, TN=43 $NPV = 43 / (43+19) = 69.3\%$ The NPV obtained in this study (69.3%) has been not considered adequate for ruling out the disease, as the importance of N staging is double: diagnosis and ruling out nodal disease. Negative predictive values must be calculated for your study and table (especially N stage) if it is possible.

Reply: According to the suggestion, the negative predictive value of N staging was calculated, and the result was listed in Table 5.

3 References and typesetting were corrected

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Sincerely yours,

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