

ANSWERING REVIEWERS



July 07, 2014

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 12008-review.doc).

Title: High Intensity Focused Ultrasound: A Noninvasive Therapy for Locally Advanced Pancreatic Cancer

Author: Feng Wu

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 12008

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

1 Format has been updated, including a core tip.

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

(1) This review provides a brief overview of HIFU, describes current clinical applications, summarizes characteristics of continuous and pulsed HIFU, and discusses future applications and challenges in the treatment of pancreatic cancer. This paper is useful for readers or doctors who manage the patients with an advanced pancreatic cancer.

The author thanks the reviewer for their supportive assessment of the article. No additional changes to the article were made according to the reviewer's comments.

(2) The author may wish to add a comment regarding the following: - How wide is the 'boundary' in which the temperature falls? - Are there tumour size limits - minimum and/or maximum - to the use of HIFU? - How precise is the targeting of HIFU to a tumour? Is tumour location in the vicinity of e.g. common bile duct, duodenum or superior mesenteric vein/artery a contra-indication? - Have there been attempts at testing HIFU in animal models? Have there been any attempts at assessing treatment effect by histomorphological examination? While the manuscript is concisely written, there are numerous linguistic errors which require careful correction. Minor comment: - Page 13: 'pain relief was observed in 13 of 13 patients (100%)'. The study seems to have included 15 patients, though. - Figure 3 is annotated with arrows, not arrow heads, hence the legend should be corrected.

The author totally agrees the reviewer's comments. We have added some contents in the Definition of HIFU Ablation Section to answer the reviewer's comments related to the "boundary", tumor size limits and precise of HIFU therapy. We have added some contents in Discussion and Conclusion Section to answer the reviewer's comments related to the contraindications of HIFU and assessment of treatment effect by histological examination. We also corrected linguistic errors throughout the manuscripts including the number of the patients on page 13 and an error in Figure 3.

3 References and typesetting were corrected in accordance with BPG style.

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

Sincerely yours,

Feng Wu

Feng Wu, MD, PhD

HIFU Unit

The Churchill Hospital

Oxford University Hospitals

Headington

Oxford

OX3 7LJ

UK

Fax: +44-1865-751-222

E-mail: mfengwu@yahoo.com, feng.wu@nds.ox.ac.uk