

April 19, 2015

Re: Manuscript NO: 00289540

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the revised manuscript in Word format. **Title:** Inter- and Intra-rater Reliability of DTI Parameters in the Normal Pediatric Spinal Cord **Authors:** Nadia Barakat, Pallav Shah, Scott H. Faro, John P. Gaughan, Devon Middleton, MJ Mulcahey, and Feroze B. Mohamed.

We thank the suggestions offered by the reviewers and are submitting a revised manuscript based on their recommendations. Following is a summary of the response to the reviewer's comments.

1. A summary section is now added to the manuscript.
2. Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer:
Reviewer #2:

A: The paper would be more interesting if those suggestions were implemented and a guideline put forward.

This is an ongoing study and the reviewer suggestion will be more appropriate and implemented once the data collection is completed in the patient population.

B: 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.

The study was conducted in healthy volunteers. This was a retrospective analysis of a cohort of controls used to examine the feasibility of DTI.

C: 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.

We agree with the reviewer that future work should include patients with spinal cord pathology and a third rater.

3. References were added and the output style was modified to include brackets (in the text), DOI and PMID in the generated bibliography, when applicable.

All the revisions requested by the reviewer have been highlighted in the manuscript attached. We would like to note that **statements on conflict of interest and data sharing were included as footnotes in the manuscript**. If you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me. We hope that the manuscript will now be suitable for publication in WJR.

Sincerely yours,
Nadia Barakat

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