

RESPONSE TO LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Letter to the Editor

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Dear Professor Barrio,
We refer to the correspondence from Dr. Gerbaudo and colleagues regarding our recent article in Molecular Imaging Biology [1]. We acknowledge Dr. Gerbaudo's comments and hereby respond to them.

Our paper was primarily intended to demonstrate the prognostic implication of integrated PET/CT camera system in patients with malignant mesothelioma, using a semiquantitative measure of FDG uptake in the form of the SUVmax. In our paper, we have made reference to recent articles which had used similar imaging parameters. Both of Dr. Gerbaudo's papers [2, 3], published in 2002 and 2003, were performed on coincidence PET camera systems, without attenuation correction, using a different reconstruction algorithm, with image analysis performed using qualitative tumor to background uptake scores. Therefore, given the differences in measured parameters, we had not seen the need to make direct reference to these papers.

In particular, our finding "that the group of patients with metastatic disease also had significantly higher SUVmax in the primary pleural lesions compared to the group of patients without metastatic disease, which to our knowledge has not been previously reported"—which was made without reference to Dr. Gerbaudo's paper—is not an inaccurate statement, as we were specifically referring to SUVmax and not FDG uptake scores.

Finally, as our paper is a study report and not a comprehensive review of the topic, we only made reference to the paper by Truong et al. [4] instead of Dr. Gerbaudo's paper in our discussion. In summary, we do not think that our report has been "flawed by omissions and miscitations" as indicated in Dr. Gerbaudo's correspondence. The omission of any reference to Dr. Gerbaudo's papers [2, 3] was certainly not intentional; rather, our paper referenced more relevant recent articles.

Yours sincerely,
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References

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3. Gerbaudo VH, Britz-Cunningham S, Sugarbaker DJ et al (2003) Metabolic significance of the pattern, intensity and kinetics of 18F-FDG uptake in malignant pleural mesothelioma. Thorax 58:1077–1082
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