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Available online 23 October 2014

DOI of original article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.mjafi.2014.08.016>

0377-1237/\$ – see front matter
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<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.mjafi.2014.09.007>

Letter to the Editor

Efficacy of contrast grey scale ultrasound in characterization of hepatic focal lesions

Dear Editor,

I read with considerable interest the article “Efficacy of contrast enhanced grey scale ultrasound in characterization of hepatic focal lesions: A pilot study” by Joshi et al in MJAFI 2014; 70: 230–236.¹ Having gone through the article I have the following comments/queries:

- (a) CEUS has the ability to show the continuous change in the intralesional hemodynamics as the contrast is in the blood pool phase while CECT images are acquired in the three timed phases with no images in the intervening period.
- (b) What was the efficacy of CEUS in the detection of small lesions (less than one cm) as compared with CECT, as in some studies CEUS has been compared favorably with CECT?²
- (c) It would be helpful to know from the authors if a second bolus was required in case of multiple lesions in liver as has been indicated in the multicenter study by Trillaud et al and Jang et al.^{3,4}
- (d) Lastly although the authors have concluded CEUS to be inferior to CECT which is in contrast to study by Trillaud et al, I feel CEUS is here to stay because of the advantages of lack of radiation, contrast reactions, its use even in the case of uremic patients and newer refinements like pulse inversion imaging.³

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Available online 17 October 2014

0377-1237/\$ – see front matter
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<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.mjafi.2014.08.017>

Reply

Dear Editor,

On behalf of the authors, I thank the reader for the interest shown in our article.¹ We are grateful for the comments.

The aim of the study was to determine the role of contrast enhanced ultrasound (CEUS) in characterisation of hepatic focal lesions. The study design was such that patients selected were those in whom focal liver lesions had already been detected by grey scale ultrasound. Therefore we could not

offer any opinion regarding the efficacy of CEUS in the detection of hepatic focal lesions, regardless of the size.

Trillaud et al. used a second bolus primarily for detection of additional lesions.² As our study was limited to characterisation of focal lesions already detected by grey scale ultrasound, we did not employ the second bolus.

We agree with the readers that CEUS is likely to play an increased role in diagnostic imaging and have indicated as

such in our article. The purpose of our pilot study was to ascertain the role of this modality in imaging decision making for established hepatic focal lesions.

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Available online 18 October 2014

DOI of original article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.mjafi.2014.08.017>

0377-1237/\$ – see front matter
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<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.mjafi.2014.09.008>

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I read with great interest the article on 'Patient satisfaction with services of the outpatient department' by Mohd Athar et al published in *Med J Armed Forces India* 2014; 70: 237–242.¹ Patient satisfaction as a marker of care outcome has been recognized and accepted and several services hospitals are recording and monitoring satisfaction data as routine procedure.

Various survey instruments are available in published literature and one study instrument has been developed and utilized by the authors in the present study. However, a question remains as to the applicability of this instrument in the entire AFMS and psychometric properties of the instrument utilized.

Case –mix adjustment is vital for valid comparisons to be made across hospital networks or with predetermined performance measures and the same would have added more value to the study.

There are doubts about point-of-service data collection adopted in the study, as objectivity of patient responses may be compromised by apprehensions among patient population in service hospitals due to absence of alternative service options. Follow-up survey via mail or telephone could have been

a better option for the study and may have yielded results with higher validity.

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Available online 11 October 2014

DOI of original article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.mjafi.2013.06.010>

0377-1237/\$ – see front matter
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<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.mjafi.2014.09.003>

Reply

Dear Editor,

We would like to thank the reader for the valuable comments on article titled "Patient satisfaction with services of the outpatient department".¹

The study instrument was developed based on the guidance taken from various validated instruments available in published literature and has a high Cronbach's alpha coefficient value of 0.96, thus indicating high internal consistency of the instrument. However, Principal Component analysis with