Cosmetic Outcome and Patient Satisfaction in Oncoplastic Breast Conserving Surgery: Reply to Letter to the Editor

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To the Editor:

We thank Dr. Bulam, Dr. Tuncer, and Dr. Ayhan [1] for their interest in our article [2]. We agree that the proposed calculation of percentage of breast volume excision, which is calculated by dividing the specimen's weight by the estimated breast volume, is not perfect. Although there are various ways to estimate breast volume, most are considered cumbersome or inaccurate [3]. We use specimen weight for specimen volume because it is proportional to actual specimen volume [4] and it can be measured accurately and readily intraoperatively. We acknowledge that breast density varies from breast to breast; it can be mainly fatty tissues (0.916 g/cm^3) or mainly fibroglandular tissues (1 g/cm^3). If different breast density is taken into account in our calculation, the maximum error of the calculation of the excised breast volume or percentage of breast volume excision is 9%. As our calculated percentage of breast volume excision ranges from 1 to 42%, this systematic error (i.e., $1 \pm 0.09\%$ to $42 \pm 3.78\%$) is considered to be

small. Although our stated cutoff point of 20% may change to 18–22%, it should not affect the point of discussion of our article.

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