Letter to the editor regarding “US-guided microwave ablation of hyperplastic parathyroid glands: safety and efficacy in patients with end-stage renal disease—a pilot study”

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Published online: 23 June 2020
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Dear Editor,

We read with great interest the article of Zhuo et al. [1] titled “US-guided microwave ablation of hyperplastic parathyroid glands: safety and efficacy in patients with end-stage renal disease—a pilot study” in a recent issue of the journal. I have some queries on the article.

Zhuo et al. used paired sample *t* tests and paired sample Wilcoxon signed-rank tests were used to compare treatment outcomes before and after MWA. As we all know, paired samples *t* test can be used only when both groups have the same number of samples [2]. However, in Table 2 on page 581, before MWA the number of patients was 51 and at the end of follow-up the number was 45, because two patients died of gastric cancer and pulmonary infection, and four patients were lost to follow-up. So the number of samples was not the same. This obvious error should be modified through independent sample test.

Another query is, in Zhuo’s study 32 patients had one hyperplastic parathyroid gland, 14 had two, 11 had three, and 3 had four glands. Complete ablation was achieved in all 96 glands [1]. We wonder whether a different number of hyperplastic parathyroid glands will cause different influences on the laboratory data after MWA or not.

Yours Sincerely,

Compliance with ethical standards

Conflict of interest The author declares no conflict of interest.

Ethical approval This article does not contain any studies with animals performed by any of the authors.

References

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2. Derrick B, Toher D, Russ B, et al. Test statistics for the comparison of means for two samples that include both paired and independent observations. *J Mod Appl Stat Methods*. 2017;16(1):137–57.

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