

## Reply to: “Strain ultrasound elastography for liver diseases”

### To the Editor:

We thank Dr. Cui for his comment about the use of ultrasound strain elastography to assess liver disease. The aim of our review was not to perform a detailed analysis of all variants of ultrasound and MR imaging methods in assessing liver disease, but to discuss the value of new quantitative imaging methods, including ultrasound and MR elastography [1].

Besides the quantitative dynamic elastography methods that we discussed in our review, the quasi-static strain elastography method has been developed [2]. Strain imaging is essentially qualitative because quantification of strain would require knowledge about stress distribution within the body [3]. Strain elastography may be rendered semi-quantitative by assessing the strain pattern within the region of interest or comparing the strain of the examined region relative to that of a reference region. Various strain elastography imaging and analysis methods have been developed [4,5]. These methods need standardization [6].

The value of strain elastography should also be compared to the other elastography methods. In three studies comparing the accuracy of strain elastography relative to dynamic elastography for assessing liver fibrosis, dynamic elastography performed better than strain elastography [7–9].

Currently, the level of evidence about strain elastography usefulness in the evaluation of diffuse liver diseases is still low, according to the 2013 EFSUMB and 2015 WFUMB recommendations [6,10]. The results of further multicenter strain elastography trials and of elastography comparative studies are awaited.

### Conflict of interest

The author declared that he does not have anything to disclose regarding funding or conflict of interest with respect to this manuscript.

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