



PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

Manuscript NO: 114727

Title: Future directions of image-guided thermal ablation in colorectal cancer lung oligometastases

Provenance and peer review: Invited manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer’s code: 03268637

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree and professional title: Professor

Reviewer’s Country/Territory: China

Author’s Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2025-09-27

Reviewer chosen by: Jia-Lin Zhang

Reviewer accepted review: 2025-09-30 08:13

Reviewer performed review: 2025-10-04 01:34

Review time: 3 Days and 17 Hours

Content to be reviewed	<p>Does the manuscript’s content fall within the scope of the journal? Yes</p> <p>Is there any Key Word that is not included in the manuscript title? No</p> <p>Do authors’ affiliations correspond to the content of the manuscript? Yes</p> <p>Does the Abstract contain the contents of each part of the manuscript (IMRaD)? Yes</p> <p>Are the Key Words complete? Yes</p>
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Is the content of the Introduction adequate? **Yes**

Is the content of the Materials and Methods complete?
Not Applicable

Is the description of the experiments clear and complete? **Not Applicable**

Are the experimental data presented in the manuscript's biostatistics content reliable? **Not Applicable**

Are the experimental data of the Results true and reliable? **Not Applicable**

Are the quality and resolution of the images up to standard? **Not Applicable**

Do the selection and design of the figures and tables follow the principles of necessity and clarity? **Not Applicable**

Is there any duplication between various parts of the manuscript and between the main text and the content presented in the figures and tables? **Yes**

Are the figures and tables numbered consecutively in the order in which they appear in the manuscript? **Not Applicable**

Is the content of the Discussion reasonable? **Yes**

Is the Conclusion reasonable? **Yes**

Are all references necessary and reasonable? **Yes**

Do authors omit important references? **Yes**

Are all references related to the topic of the manuscript? **Yes**

Do authors only cite their own earlier publications? **No**

Is the manuscript's text correct, concise, and clear? **No**

Will the manuscript's content be of interest to readers?



	Yes Are additional experiments needed for the study? No Does the research scope comply with ethics? Not Applicable
Scientific quality	Grade B (Very good)
Novelty of this manuscript	Grade B (Very Good)
Creativity or innovation of this manuscript	Grade B (Very Good)
Scientific significance of the conclusion in this manuscript	Grade B (Very Good)
Language quality	Grade B (Very good)
Does this manuscript describe a study of the existing knowledge system?	Yes
Does this manuscript report a revolutionary innovation?	No
Does this manuscript report an unconventional innovation?	No
Conclusion	Minor revision
Re-review	Yes
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: Anonymous
	Conflicts-of-Interest: No
Are your review comments generated by AI tools?	No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Comments to the authors

This Letter to the Editor addresses an important and timely topic: the role of image-guided thermal ablation (IGTA) in the management of colorectal cancer (CRC)



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patients with lung oligometastases, particularly in the setting of extrapulmonary disease. The authors thoughtfully critique the recent multicenter study by Hu et al. and highlight key limitations in diagnostic confirmation, imaging follow-up, lack of comparative cohorts, omission of detailed imaging biomarkers, and small subgroup sizes. They also propose forward-looking recommendations involving pathological validation, functional imaging, inclusion of surgical or SBRT control groups, and larger collaborative studies.

The letter is clearly written, well-structured, and offers constructive insights that complement the original article. It appropriately frames the discussion within the broader literature and provides practical directions for future research. Overall, this submission is a strong contribution that enhances the scholarly dialogue around IGTA in metastatic CRC.

I recommend acceptance after minor revisions to tighten the abstract, add a few more targeted references, and balance the critique with acknowledgment of IGTA's strengths. Regarding this Letter to the Editor, some Weaknesses or Areas for Improvement are listed below:

1. Overlap between abstract and body: Much of the abstract repeats content verbatim from the main letter. Since Letters to the Editor are often brief, consider streamlining the abstract to emphasize novelty and focus.
2. Depth of literature engagement: While several references are cited, the letter could benefit from integrating more recent evidence on comparative outcomes of IGTA vs SBRT or surgery, to strengthen the case for future randomized or matched studies.
3. Micro-level critique: Some limitations (e.g., imaging feature analysis of necrosis/margins) could be further contextualized with supporting studies to demonstrate their prognostic value in CRC metastases specifically, rather than extrapolated from broader oncology contexts.



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4. Balance of discussion: The critique is heavily weighted toward limitations; adding a brief acknowledgment of IGTA's strengths (such as minimal invasiveness and repeatability) within the main body (not only in the introduction) would provide better balance.

Some of my specific comments are listed below:

1. Abstract: Recommend shortening to ~150 words, focusing on two or three key limitations and one or two main future directions. Currently, it is almost as long as a mini-review.
2. Paragraph 2 (Background): The section on CRC epidemiology and general treatment could be abbreviated, as this is well-known to the readership.
3. Paragraph 4 (Limitations): The suggestion to incorporate radiomics could be more specific—e.g., highlighting texture analysis or metabolic tumor volume as predictive features.
4. Conclusion: Strong and well-formulated. Could benefit from emphasizing the translational potential of integrating pathology + functional imaging to refine patient selection, which is a central clinical challenge.



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Reviewer's code: 05828761

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree and professional title: MD, Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Malaysia

Author's Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2025-09-27

Reviewer chosen by: Jia-Lin Zhang

Reviewer accepted review: 2025-09-29 23:44

Reviewer performed review: 2025-10-12 14:01

Review time: 12 Days and 14 Hours

Content to be reviewed	Does the manuscript's content fall within the scope of the journal? Yes Is there any Key Word that is not included in the manuscript title? No Do authors' affiliations correspond to the content of the manuscript? Yes Does the Abstract contain the contents of each part of the manuscript (IMRaD)? Yes Are the Key Words complete? Yes
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	Yes Are additional experiments needed for the study? No Does the research scope comply with ethics? Yes
Scientific quality	Grade A (Excellent)
Novelty of this manuscript	Grade A (Excellent)
Creativity or innovation of this manuscript	Grade A (Excellent)
Scientific significance of the conclusion in this manuscript	Grade A (Excellent)
Language quality	Grade A (Excellent)
Does this manuscript describe a study of the existing knowledge system?	Yes
Does this manuscript report a revolutionary innovation?	Yes
Does this manuscript report an unconventional innovation?	No
Conclusion	Accept
Re-review	Yes
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: Onymous
	Conflicts-of-Interest: No
Are your review comments generated by AI tools?	No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Dear Author, Overall this manuscript 114727 title "Limitations and Future Directions of Image-Guided Thermal Ablation in Colorectal Cancer Lung Oligometastases" was well-written and good formatting and no obvious grammatical errors detected. Authors want to highlight the correlation of Limitations and Future Directions of Image-Guided



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Thermal Ablation in Colorectal Cancer Lung Oligometastases as letter to editor that given related with current and recent literature reviews. However, similarity and plagiarism rate need to be checked. English format is good standard. 1 Title: Good title 2 Authors & Authors Institution: not available 4 Abstract: Yes, does the content highlight the importance of the manuscript's topic to the field, the purpose of the research, the uniqueness of the method, and the novelty, significance, and impact of the results. 5 Key Words: Yes, keywords express the characteristic elements and fully reflect the central content of the manuscript plus core tips quite concise and brief to describe the intention of this letter to editor 6 Introduction: Yes, the Introduction describe the consensus and theory on the topic, explain any current unknown issues or questions about the topic, propose critical issues that need to be addressed, and state the purpose of the study 7 Materials and Methods/Experimental Procedure: Not available 8 Results: Not applicable 9 Discussion: Yes, the Discussion adequately explain the results by compared with other studies, what problems should have been solved in the study. The limitations of the study was acknowledged and discussed 10 Conclusion: Yes, the comprehensive manuscript writing, from the Title to the Conclusion, logical and coherent. 11 Acknowledgments: Not applicable 12 References: Yes, the references of the manuscript consistent with the subject of the manuscript and does the manuscript include references to important relevant articles published within the last 3-10 years. 13 Abbreviations: Not applicable. 14 Language: Good English language and formatting 15 Manuscript type: Letter to editor 16 Scientific research ethics: Not applicable Others comments and reviews in attached file.