



Reply to the letter

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Dear Sir,

We thank Koopman et al. for their comments and interest in our recent article [1, 2]. It is well known that various technical and physics issues, such as detector performance, voxel size and reconstruction parameters, influence SUV measurements [3, 4].

The aim of our study was not to evaluate the influence of such factors on SUV measurements, but to compare under true clinical conditions the values produced by a digital scanner with those produced by an analogue scanner. The patients were scanned on the same day following a single injection of radiotracer in one imaging session with a digital scanner and with an analogue scanner installed next to each other in our department. The acquisition and reconstruction parameters selected for the digital and analogue PET/CT scans were those known to produce the best image quality under clinical conditions [2] and to provide the best lesion detectability [5]. Furthermore, with the analogue scanner, the voxel size could not be modified.

In coming years, digital PET/CT systems will be deployed worldwide and will coexist with traditional analogue scanners. Differences in clinical performance will guide the selection of the appropriate system for a given indication. We believe that the information derived from our study, with regard to differences in SUVs in the same patients and lesions between those produced by a digital and by an analogue system, is relevant for

the selection of the appropriate scanner in patients who need to undergo follow-up studies to assess the effect of treatments over time.

Compliance with ethical standards

Conflicts of interest None.

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

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