

# Open Peer Review

Current Peer Review Status:  

## Version 2

Reviewer Report 02 June 2023

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**Michael Staelens** 

Instituto de Física Corpuscular (IFIC), Paterna, Valencia, Spain

The revised version of the manuscript, “Kidney and liver histology in tumour-induced rats exposed to non-contact electric fields”, by Alamsyah *et al.*, is an improvement over the first version, with many of the reviewers’ suggestions implemented. However, Major Concern #1 from my first review of the manuscript does not appear to have been taken into account; despite the authors’ claim that a new statistical analysis was performed, the Data Analysis section still states that “*scoring results were then analysed statistically to determine significant differences among groups ( $p < 0.05$ ) using the Kruskal-Wallis test followed by the Mann-Whitney test*”. As highlighted in my first review of the manuscript, this is an incorrect choice of statistical analysis methodology. This is problematic regarding both the interpretation of the data and the subsequent conclusions drawn from the study. Two alternative non-parametric methods (i.e., do not require normally distributed data) that can be used when a measure is affected by two (or more factors) and are thus applicable to the results reported by the authors in the manuscript were suggested; however, neither one appears to have been implemented in the revisions.

The alternating “*non-contact electric fields*” therapy studied by the authors is nearly identical to the relatively recently FDA-approved alternating electric field therapy—often referred to in the literature as tumor-treating fields—which (instead) typically uses electrodes placed on the skin and has shown remarkable efficacy as a non-invasive anticancer treatment modality. Consequently, the most important aspects of the study reported by the authors (as far as I can tell) are how the experimental group that received both tumor induction and EF therapy compares to the other experimental/treatment groups and the control group, as well as how the EF-only group and the control group compare (which is interesting for establishing effects of the treatment on healthy/non-tumoral cells). There are four groups reported in the manuscript, control (NINT), EF only (NIT), tumor induction only (INT), and the combined tumor induction and EF therapy group (IT). The groups thus **differ** very clearly **by two independent variables** (comprising two levels each): EF treatment (yes/no) and tumor induction (yes/no). The Kruskal–Wallis test **cannot** be used to compare these groups; the same is true of the Mann–Whitney test, which **assumes that the groups differ by only one independent variable**. To phrase it differently, the Kruskal–Wallis test is a **one-way test**; comparing the control to the IT group, for example, involves comparing groups

that differ in **two ways**. A simultaneous comparison between the IT group and the three other groups must be performed in order to correctly establish the influence of the two different independent variables on the dependent variable measured (i.e., the histopathological scoring results) and to determine the main effect of each independent variable as well as to determine if there is any interaction between the two independent variables.

"[The] selection of [an] appropriate statistical method is [a] very important step in [the] analysis of biomedical data. A wrong selection of the statistical method not only creates some serious problem[s] during the interpretation of the findings but also affects the conclusion[(s)] of the study"<sup>1</sup>.

Consequently, the key results and conclusions stated in the manuscript might be erroneous (i.e., false claims of significance/insignificance). Thus, the status of my review of the manuscript remains "not approved". The problem is that without correctly applying an appropriate statistical analysis method that suits the data collected and the results obtained, the actual findings and conclusions of the study are unclear. Therefore, until this major concern is resolved, I do not believe that the manuscript and the reported results should be indexed or cited in order to prevent the propagation of potentially misleading results and conclusions.

### References

1. Mishra P, Pandey CM, Singh U, Keshri A, et al.: Selection of appropriate statistical methods for data analysis. *Ann Card Anaesth*. 2019; **22** (3): 297-301 [PubMed Abstract](#) | [Publisher Full Text](#)

**Competing Interests:** No competing interests were disclosed.

**Reviewer Expertise:** Electromagnetic interactions with biological systems; non-invasive therapies; microtubules; biophysics; high energy physics; particle physics.

**I confirm that I have read this submission and believe that I have an appropriate level of expertise to state that I do not consider it to be of an acceptable scientific standard, for reasons outlined above.**

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### Version 1

Reviewer Report 02 March 2023

<https://doi.org/10.5256/f1000research.121655.r162014>

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**Michael Staelens** 

<sup>1</sup> Instituto de Física Corpuscular (IFIC), Paterna, Valencia, Spain

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The manuscript, "Kidney and liver histology in tumour-induced rats exposed to non-contact

electric fields”, by Alamsyah *et al.*, reports new results on the effects of 100 kHz low-intensity non-contact electric fields on the histological profiles of kidney and liver samples taken from Sprague Dawley rats exposed to such fields (with and without tumour induction). Alternating electric fields with these particular parameters (low intensity and intermediate frequency) have become topical in oncology, especially over the last decade, due to the earlier discovery that these fields (also known as TFields) greatly hinder the division of cancer cells. Several successful clinical trials on treating different types of cancer with TFields have led to the subsequent FDA-approval of TFields therapy for various cancers, such as glioblastoma. Consequently, many *in vivo* and *in vitro* studies on the efficacy of alternating electric field therapy have been conducted; however, safety studies are lacking in number and should grow in tandem with the efficacy studies. Thus, the study reported in the manuscript by Alamsyah *et al.* is both interesting and valuable to the scientific community (and a cancer research audience in particular); however, substantial major issues with the manuscript make the conclusions and, ultimately, the value and impact of the study uncertain. While I do believe the study has potential, the authors must revise the manuscript substantially before it should be indexed. Particularly, the literature review with regards to the Introduction and Discussion sections needs to be revisited and refocused; the statistical analysis used to determine the significance of the results does not apply, and a new analysis is required; and the very limited and overly general conclusions that do not appear to follow from the results and discussion presented in the manuscript must be stated more clearly to accurately reflect the results of the study. A complete list of my comments and concerns that must be addressed, both general and specific, are provided below.

### **General Comments:**

1. There are many problems with the writing regarding grammar, punctuation, missing spaces, article usage problems, misspelled words, incorrect verb forms, faulty tense sequences, incomplete sentences, and several other sentences that simply do not make sense. In aggregate, these errors severely hinder the readability and clarity of the manuscript. I strongly recommend that the authors consider sending the manuscript to a professional English editing service, or at the very least, use one of the numerous free grammar and writing tools available online to assist with correcting many of the writing issues.
2. The manuscript mixes both U.S. and U.K. spellings, e.g., “*tumor*” and “*tumour*” are both used, as are “*acclimatization*” and “*randomisation*” (z vs. s). Please maintain one choice consistently in your writing.
3. The manuscript lacks coherence and does not communicate a cohesive story. Here are some examples of inconsistencies that negatively affect the cohesion:
  - In the “Results” part of the Abstract, it reads, “*The damages in the kidney and liver caused by the exposure were not significant.*”, but then in the Discussion section, the following is stated “*Since the significant damages of the glomerulus were observed in the kidneys of the placebo (NIT)...*”, followed by, “*both DMBA administration and exposure to non-contact electric fields affected the thickening of Bowman’s capsule*”, which certainly sounds like there were significant damages observed in the kidney samples taken from the group that only received exposure to the electric fields (NIT).
  - The need for studying the effects of electric fields-based cancer therapies on healthy

tissues was motivated in the Introduction by pointing out that there might be interactions between the kidney/liver and **electrostatic** waves; however, the electric fields-based cancer therapies referenced and discussed in the manuscript (and that are actually used in a clinical setting) do not employ static fields, but rather alternating electric fields.

- Several of the references cited in the Discussion section that are discussed with regards to the interpretation of the results studied **vastly different** parameters for the electric fields than those employed in the experiments reported in the manuscript and that are typically used to treat cancers with alternating electric field therapy (e.g., 575 V/cm in one of the studies cited vs. the low-intensity of only a few V/cm maximum for alternating electric field therapy).

4. The manuscript often mentions the **significance** of results/effects; however, none of these statements include the supporting quantitative results that suggest the differences obtained are, in fact, significant (or not). Consequently, the level of significance associated with these statements is also not clear to the reader (without reading through the data files provided alongside the manuscript). Please revise **all** these statements to include the quantitative results of the statistical analyses that support the stated significances. For example, the following sentence on page 5, "*The main damage found in the kidney glomerular was the thickening of the Bowman capsule whose scores were **significant** in all treatment groups (1.12±0.56 for NIT, 1.16±0.74 for INT, and 1.24±0.59 for IT groups) compared to the control (NINT) group (0.88±0.56).*", should be revised to include the corresponding *H*-values (or *p*-values, etc.) that supports the statement that these differences between scores were significant ("*in all treatment groups compared to the control group*"). This makes it both clear to the reader that the differences between groups are indeed significant based on the statistical analysis results obtained and provides the reader with the quantitative results, so they also get a sense of **how significant** (or insignificant) each particular result is without having to dig through spreadsheets of data while reading the article.
5. The quality of the plots provided in Figures 2 and 4 is quite low. Additionally, the dots used to represent the data are very small and difficult to distinguish (when reading the article on a tablet at 100% magnification). Please consider reproducing these plots at a higher quality (600 DPI or greater) and with the points used to represent the data enlarged and spread out more clearly, so the individual points are distinguishable without needing to zoom in (which also leads to substantial blurring due to the low quality of the plots).

#### **Specific Comments:**

##### **Major concerns:**

1. The data analysis section states that the scoring results were analyzed statistically using the Kruskal–Wallis test; however, the scoring results were obtained for four different groups that **differed independently in two ways** (i.e., there were **two independent variables** involved—tumour induction (or not) and treatment (or not)). Consequently, the Kruskal–Wallis test, which is only applicable in the one-factor case, cannot be used. Due to this problem, the actual statistical significance of the obtained differences between the various groups studied is not clear, and the soundness of the conclusions drawn is uncertain. If you do require a non-parametric rank-based method, then consider the Scheirer–Ray–Hare extension of the Kruskal–Wallis test, which can be used in the case where a measure may be affected by two or more factors. Alternately, the (two-factor) aligned rank transform analysis of variance (ART-ANOVA) may also be suitable.

2. Moreover, the conclusions do not appear to be clearly supported by the results. This concern is not only due to the previous major comment noted but also due to the following:

- The first conclusion drawn is that "*The non-contact electric fields were not harmful to the renal and liver structure of tumour-induced rats*"; however, one of the outcomes described in the Results and Discussion sections was that the non-contact low-intensity electric fields significantly "*affected the thickening of Bowman's capsule*" (NINT versus NIT), which is apparently indicative of renal damage. Consequently, I am not sure that this general conclusion is completely supported by the results of this study.

- The second conclusion drawn is that non-contact electric fields "*may optimise/increase the renal function in normal rats*". What results obtained in this study demonstrate an optimization and/or increase in renal function in normal rats exposed to low-intensity non-contact electric fields? The only discussion in the manuscript regarding renal function appears to be that provided on page 8; however, the discussion there mentions renal function impairment as a possible result of DMBA-induced inflammation and does not discuss electric fields. At the end of this paragraph, non-contact electric fields are mentioned: "*non-contact electric fields decreased the number of inflammations and haemorrhages in the placebo (NIT) group, as shown in Figure 2*"; however, the statistical significance of this difference is not stated. Is the decrease being mentioned here actually meaningful statistically? And if so, how statistically significant was this decrease, and how exactly does this marginal decrease in observed inflammations and haemorrhages connect to the conclusion that renal function has been **optimized** due to treatment with non-contact electric fields? As far as I can tell, no tests or metrics that could be used to accurately evaluate any changes in kidney and/or liver function and that would support this particular conclusion were included in the experiments and analyses reported in the manuscript.

3. Why were damages also exhibited in the control (NINT) group? Naively, I would not have expected this outcome, and it is not explained or discussed in the manuscript.

Due to these major concerns, I do not believe that the conclusions stated in the manuscript are clearly supported by the results.

#### **Minor concerns:**

1. More details regarding both the electric field used in the experiments and how it was applied should be provided for clarity and reproducibility of the study:

- How were the electric fields generated? What device was used (make, model, etc.)?

- Were the electric fields static or alternating?

- What was the duty cycle?

- Given that the rats were exposed to non-contact electric fields, I assume that the electrodes were not fixed to the skin of the rats and that they received whole-body exposure to the electric fields. Is this true? Additionally, how many electrodes were used? where were they placed/attached? and with what orientation? In other words, how many electric fields were there, were they uniform or non-uniform, and with what

directionality(ies)?

Please provide this information in the manuscript.

2. While the exposures were being performed, were there any other sources of electromagnetic radiation in the room that could be considered a source of interference?
3. On page 3, the last sentence in the Introduction states, "*According to our knowledge, this is the first study investigating the abnormalities in the kidney and liver under exposure to 100 kHz intermediate frequency and low-intensity non-contact electric fields*", which does appear to technically be true; however, a very similar<sup>1</sup> study was recently published that reports the results of analyzing histological profiles of vital organs of Sprague Dawley rats exposed to 150 kHz low-intensity non-contact electromagnetic radiation. It would be valuable and interesting to revise the discussion in the manuscript to compare and contrast your results and conclusions obtained versus those reported in this very similar study in the literature.
4. On page 3, a value of 18 V<sub>pp</sub> is noted after stating that the electric fields used in the study are **low intensity**. The electric field intensity has units of electric potential per distance (V/m in SI units), not simply volts, which is the unit of electric potential. Please revise accordingly (including at the bottom of page 3, where the same issue occurs again).
5. On page 3, it is stated that "*Although non-contact electric fields-based therapy has the potential to treat cancer, the safety of this kind of therapy when treating healthy tissues should be investigated. This is because injuries may occur after exposure to electric fields due to the dielectric property of the kidney and liver, which may interact with electrostatic waves. Therefore, it is important to investigate the abnormalities in the kidney and liver under exposure to electric fields during cancer treatment.*" The second sentence quoted here does not connect to the previous or subsequent sentences; the electric fields used in cancer treatment that this article alludes to, so-called TFields, are **alternating electric fields (time-varying)**, whereas **electrostatic always refers to time-invariant electric fields**. Please revise.
6. Additionally, on page 3, the sentence "*the proliferation of cancer cells was successfully inhibited under exposure to intermediate frequency and low-intensity electric fields*" should be revised to read "low-intensity alternating electric fields". This statement would also benefit from more specificity, i.e., what types of cancer cells was this inhibition demonstrated for in the studies cited here and with what parameters for the electric fields employed (frequency, intensity, duration of exposure)?
7. Should the y-axis label for Figure 2d read "Congestion score" instead? (To maintain consistency with the other subfigures presented in Figure 2 and with Figure 4c.)
8. In Figure 4, the values of mean ± SD noted in each of the subfigures use inconsistent numbers of significant digits. Specifically, the values of the uncertainties are reported with greater precision than the mean values themselves, which indicates that the errors are known more precisely than the values and is very unusual.
9. Figures 2 and 4 include a footnote partially describing the meaning of the labels "a", "b", etc.

as indicating significance; however, the difference between each of these labels is not clear. The exact meaning of "a", "b", etc. should be clarified in the notes provided under Figures 2 and 4. Additionally, while it is clear that, for example, in Figure 2a, the NINT group has the label "a" to denote that it is significant, it is not clear what it is being compared to, i.e., significant compared to which group(s)? Lastly, please change "different words a, b, c" to read "different letters" or "different labels".

10. In the second paragraph of the Discussion on page 7, it is mentioned that "*some biological effects of exposure to electric fields (0.6 and 340 kV/m) were revealed in humans and vertebrates, but no histological abnormalities were found in the organs, including the kidneys.*" Comparing with this study does not make much sense for the following reasons:
  - The particular study cited here evaluated the biological effects of **static electric fields**, which are not the same as the **alternating** electric fields exploited in cancer therapy, and that the manuscript purportedly studies the effects of.
  - The parameters stated (0.6 and 340 kV/m) corresponding to this particular study that is being referenced are **NOT** consistent with the **low-intensity** electric fields used in cancer therapy (approx. 1–3 V/cm) and, again, that the manuscript appears to be studying.
11. The abbreviation ECCT is not defined anywhere in the manuscript.
12. The first sentence in the last paragraph of the Discussion section (page 9) does not make sense. Specifically, what does "*Based on the evidence for the efficacy and safety of normal tissues and organs...*" mean? I believe that rather than describing evidence on the "efficacy and safety of a normal tissue", what is trying to be said here is something like, "Based on the evidence for the efficacy and safety of non-contact low-intensity electric fields regarding normal tissues and organs...", or something along these lines. Please rephrase this sentence accordingly.
13. The statement regarding the role of the funders, "*The funders had no role in study design, data collection and analysis, decision to publish, or preparation of the manuscript.*", should also mention the role of the funders regarding the interpretation of the data/results.

## References

1. Sundaram V, Mohammed S, Cockburn BN, Srinivasan MR, et al.: Effects of Intermediate Frequency (150 kHz) Electromagnetic Radiation on the Vital Organs of Female Sprague Dawley Rats. *Biology (Basel)*. 2023; **12** (2). [PubMed Abstract](#) | [Publisher Full Text](#)

## Is the work clearly and accurately presented and does it cite the current literature?

Partly

## Is the study design appropriate and is the work technically sound?

Partly

## Are sufficient details of methods and analysis provided to allow replication by others?

Partly

**If applicable, is the statistical analysis and its interpretation appropriate?**

No

**Are all the source data underlying the results available to ensure full reproducibility?**

Yes

**Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the results?**

No

*Competing Interests:* No competing interests were disclosed.

*Reviewer Expertise:* Electromagnetic interactions with biological systems; microtubules; biophysics; high energy physics; particle physics.

**I confirm that I have read this submission and believe that I have an appropriate level of expertise to state that I do not consider it to be of an acceptable scientific standard, for reasons outlined above.**

Author Response 23 Mar 2023

**Firman Alamsyah**

We thank you for all the comments and suggestions and we will revise our paper. Below are our answers to the comments and suggestions provided in order.

General comments

1. We have used a professional English editing service (PaperTrue) before submitting this article. We will do one more proofreading.
2. We will use UK spelling in our revised article.
3. We will revise the abstract so that it is coherent with the contents of the paper. We will replace some of the references in the Discussion section. Previously, we did not find any references in accordance with the study conducted.
4. In the Data Analysis section and in the Figures, we have mentioned a  $p < 0.05$  value for a significant difference among groups. We will rewrite it for each data in the Results section.
5. We will fix Figures 2 and 4.

Specific comments

Major concerns

1. We will evaluate the statistical tests performed.
2. We will revise the Conclusions section to suit the Results and Discussion sections.



3. Damage to the kidneys and liver of the rats in the control group (NINT) cannot be predicted because we have excluded rats with symptoms of illness as stated in the article. Rats were also randomly selected for each group as stated also in article.

For damage to the kidney in the NINT group, if we look at the interstitial tissue, a score below 2 indicates that there is little inflammation or hemorrhage. Inflammation is part of the activation of the immune system in response to acute or chronic kidney injury which can be caused by pathogens that enter the rat's body (Imig & Ryan, 2013).

For damage to the liver in the NINT group, if we look at the hemorrhagic and congestion scores which are below 1, this indicates that there is little or no damage to the liver. For a cellular damage score below 2, this indicates reversible damage with less than 15% necrosis. Liver hepatocytes have many vital functions, so they can proliferate extensively, which allows efficient regeneration of the liver for reversible damage (Chen et al., 2020). In addition, the liver itself is a very vulnerable organ due to its size and is the organ most frequently injured after abdominal trauma (Bilgic et al., 2014).

#### Minor concerns

1. We will provide more detailed information about the electric fields used in the experiment in our revised article.
2. The experiment was carried out in a special room which only contained experimental animal cages.
3. We will revise the Discussion section using the appropriate references.
4. We will include electric fields intensity data in our revised article.
5. We will revise this section (page 3).
6. We will revise this section (page 3).
7. We will revise Figure 2d.
8. We will revise Figure 4.
9. We will revise Figures 2 and 4.
10. We will revise the Discussion section using the appropriate references.
11. We will write what ECCT stands for in our revised article.
12. We will rephrase this sentence. There may be phrases lost in the editing process.
13. We will add the statement regarding the role of the funders in the interpretation of the data/results.

#### References

Bilgiç I, Gelecek S, Akgün AE, *et al.*: Evaluation of liver injury in a tertiary hospital: a retrospective study. *Ulus Travma Acil Cerrahi Derg.* 2014; 20(5): 359-365.

Chen F, Jimenez RJ, Sharma K, *et al.*: Broad Distribution of Hepatocyte Proliferation in Liver Homeostasis and Regeneration. *Cell Stem Cell.* 2020; 26(1):27-33

Imig JD, Ryan MJ: Immune and Inflammatory Role in Renal Disease. *Compr. Physiol.* 2013; 3(2): 957-976.

**Competing Interests:** No competing interests were disclosed.

Reviewer Report 27 February 2023

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#### Chandran Nadarajan

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#### Editorial Note from F1000Research – 06/03/2023:

*This report has been updated after the reviewer informed the editorial team that they had further comments after their initial review was published. The changes are due to some factors which were not assessed in the initial review and were picked up when the reviewer read the article again. This update has not changed the 'Approved' status that the reviewer originally assigned.*

This study touches on the effect of a new technology being introduced in oncology and answers some of the questions regarding the safety issue of the device. This information is critical to further utilize this device in the general public.

Some additional information from the authors could elevate the write-up:

1. Why do the authors choose the voltage 100kHz and 18v, specifically? Were the preliminary results referred to published? Are there any other articles supporting the usage of this voltage and frequency?

2. Is there any statistical analysis done? This will help strengthen the conclusion.

3. Why was there damage in the kidney interstitial tissue and liver damage in the NINT group?

In addition, some of the articles referred to use different voltage and frequency levels; therefore, it

couldn't be a direct comparison of this study. Such correlation needed to be taken with caution.

Overall, this study tries to answer the safety aspect of this non-contact electrical field therapy and highlights some promising changes.

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First of all, I maintain that the paper is quite impressive and constructive with a novel idea. However, I would suggest a few additional points:

1. Figures 1 and 3 are very small, with many icons. Please enhance them.
2. Figures 2, and 4 suggest changing to the Whisker box plot and being made bigger. It will be better.
3. Utilization of rank order, like Mann Whitney, might help to bring forward the idea better.
4. Conclusion is a little too short and needs to be improved. Adding limitations and further direction might help. This can be done in the discussion.
5. IRB date, number, and place should be shown.
6. In several places, language is unclear, ambiguous, or confusing. It is necessary to use a professional editing service to improve it before indexing.
7. I think the title "Effects of non-contact electric fields on kidney and liver histology in tumour-induced rats." Might be more appropriate.

**Is the work clearly and accurately presented and does it cite the current literature?**

Yes

**Is the study design appropriate and is the work technically sound?**

Yes

**Are sufficient details of methods and analysis provided to allow replication by others?**

Yes

**If applicable, is the statistical analysis and its interpretation appropriate?**

Partly

**Are all the source data underlying the results available to ensure full reproducibility?**

Yes

**Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the results?**

Partly

**Competing Interests:** No competing interests were disclosed.

**Reviewer Expertise:** Interventional oncology, interventional and diagnostic radiology

**I confirm that I have read this submission and believe that I have an appropriate level of expertise to confirm that it is of an acceptable scientific standard.**

Author Response 01 Mar 2023

**Firman Alamsyah**

I will answer the reviewer's comments sequentially in the order of the comments.

1. We have conducted an *in vitro* study using various frequencies and intensities, but this study has not been published. We used 100 kHz and 18 Vpp for *in vivo* study because this frequency and intensity gave the best results in *in vitro* study, where 28-39% of breast cancer cells died (Alamsyah et al., 2015). In the preliminary *in vivo* study using 9 mice, the frequency of 100 kHz and intensity of 18 Vpp also gave good results, where the tumor size was reduced by more than 67% and the results of histopathological analysis on normal skin and breast tissue, showed no damage (Alamsyah et al., 2015).

2. Yes, we did the statistical analysis and it has been written in the article in the Data Analysis section. Kidney and liver scoring data, as well as statistical analysis can be seen in the links provided in the Data Availability section of the article.

3. Damage to the kidneys and liver of the rats in the control group (NINT) cannot be predicted, because we have excluded rats with symptoms of illness as stated in the article. Rats were also randomly selected for each group as stated also in article.

For damage in the renal interstitial tissue of the NINT group, a score below 2 indicated that there was little inflammation or hemorrhage. Inflammation is part of the activation of the immune system in response to acute or chronic kidney injury which can be caused by pathogens that enter the rat's body (Imig & Ryan, 2013).

For damage in the liver of the NINT group, if we look at the hemorrhagic and congestion scores which are below 1, this indicated that there was little or no damage to the liver. For a cellular damage score below 2, this indicated reversible damage with less than 15% necrosis. Liver hepatocytes have many vital functions, so they can proliferate extensively, which allows efficient regeneration of the liver for reversible damage (Chen et al., 2020). In addition, the liver itself is a very vulnerable organ due to its size and is the organ most frequently injured after abdominal trauma (Bilgic et al., 2014). Rats are active animals and may chase or fight each other in communal cages which can cause trauma to their body (Steimer, 2011).

4. We found no reference to kidney or liver damage at intermediate frequency and low intensity electric fields, especially 100 kHz and 18 Vpp. We have also stated this in the article. In the Introduction section, we have also stated that this is the first study to investigate abnormalities in the kidney and liver under exposure to a intermediate frequency of 100 kHz and a low intensity non-contact electric field.

We will add necessary information to our article from the answers to the reviewer's questions.

Thank you.

#### References

Alamsyah F, Ajrina IN, Dewi FN, et al.: Antiproliferative Effect of Electric Fields on Breast Tumor Cells In Vitro and In Vivo. *Indones. J. Cancer Chemoprev.* 2015; 6(3): 71–77.

Bilgiç I, Gelecek S, Akgün AE, et al.: Evaluation of liver injury in a tertiary hospital: a retrospective study. *Ulus Travma Acil Cerrahi Derg.* 2014; 20(5): 359-365.

Chen F, Jimenez RJ, Sharma K, et al.: Broad Distribution of Hepatocyte Proliferation in Liver Homeostasis and Regeneration. *Cell Stem Cell.* 2020; 26(1):27-33

Imig JD, Ryan MJ: Immune and Inflammatory Role in Renal Disease. *Compr. Physiol.* 2013; 3(2): 957-976.

Steimer T: Animal models of anxiety disorders in rats and mice: some conceptual issues. *Trans Res.* 2011; 495-506.

**Competing Interests:** No competing interests were disclosed.

Author Response 20 Mar 2023

#### **Firman Alamsyah**

We thank you for the additional suggestions and we will revise our paper. Below are our answers to the suggestions provided in order.

1. We will enhance Figure 1 and Figure 3 in our revision.
2. We will consider to use the Whisker box plot in Figure 2 and Figure 4.
3. We have conducted Mann-Whitney test ( $\alpha=0.05$ ) in our statistical analysis.
4. We will improve the conclusions of our study and we will discuss the limitations of this study. We have written further directions of this study at the end of the discussion section.
5. IRB date, number, and place have been written in the ethical approval section.
6. We have used a professional editing service (PaperTrue) before submitting this article. We will do one more proofreading.
7. We will improve the title of this article.

**Competing Interests:** No competing interests were disclosed.

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