Author's response to reviews

Title: Association between human cartilage glycoprotein 39 (YKL-40) and arterial stiffness in essential hypertension

Authors:

Wei-hong Ma (mwh1973@126.com)
Xiu-ling Wang (wangxiiuling@qq.com)
Yi-meng Du (yimengd@163.com)
Yi-biao Wang (wangyibiao@sdu.edu.cn)
Yan Zhang (zyygxw2008@yeah.net)
De-e Wei (weidee343@126.com)
Lin-lin Guo (gll63245@sina.com)
Pei-li Bu (peilibusd@hotmail.com)

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Cover letter

Dear reviewer:

Thanks to your valuable advice on my manuscript, I have been read carefully and revised seriously.

Reviewer comments:

Question 1 There is missing the multivariable analyses of the association between YKL-40 and pulse wave velocity (positive association) and distensibility (negative association). These information’s are of importance for the interpretation of the results.

Question 2 It would be interesting to investigate/follow YKL-40 levels and vascular function tests after initiation of hypertensive treatment and normalization of blood pressure.

Question 3 The discussion is too long and a little unfocused.

Question 4 Several studies have demonstrated an association between YKL-40 and hypertension. However, this is not a part of the discussion. (Eur Heart J. 2009May;30(9):1066-72)

Question 5 There has been demonstrated an association between YKL-40 and cardiovascular disease. Scand Cardiovasc J 2008;10:1-8. Did the present patients have any history of cardiovascular disease, which potentially could influence the results?
Did the patients received any medication since i.e. statin is associated with decreased levels of YKL-40 (Inflamm Res 2011 Mar;60(3):281-287) and heart failure medication with increased levels (Eur Heart J. 2009 May;30(9):1066-72).

Question6

a native English speaking colleague to help you copyedit the paper. If this is not possible, you may need to use a professional language editing service

Reply1: Only the YKL-40 on femoral arterial stiffness effects do multiple linear stepwise regression analysis, obviously can not accurately evaluate the effect of YKL-40 on arterial function, we have done in YKL-40 and distensibility and PWV between multiple linear stepwise regression analysis, and the increase of Table5 and Table5 to explain.

Reply2: We are going to tracking, follow-up and continue to investigate/follow YKL-40 levels and vascular function tests after initiation of hypertensive treatment and normalization of blood pressure.

Reply3: The discussion according to the purpose of the study was a detailed and careful revision, discussion focused on YKL-40 and arterial function relationship.

Reply4: Deleted

Reply5: In selected patients, in addition to the subjects to do the blood biochemical indexes of, also asked in detail about the history, and the cardiac function determination, so the group of patients were excluded patients with cardiovascular
disease, high blood lipids, patients were not used medication since i.e. statin and heartfailure medication.

Reply6: On the contents of the part has been modified

Thank you and best regards.

Yours sincerely,

Wei-hong Ma