Author's response to reviews

Title: Analysis of calcification on the mechanical stability of plaque based on a three-dimensional carotid bifurcation model

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor,

We have accepted the reviews, and modified the manuscript based on all of the comments raised by Reviewer #1 and #2. Below are my responses to the reviewers’ comments that are highlighted in blue color. I would like to thank the reviewers for their effort in examining and suggesting improvements for this manuscript.

Regards,

Jiyuan Tu

(Corresponding Author)

Reviewer #1:

We thank the reviewer #1 even though he has no further input for this paper.

Reviewer #2:

MAJOR COMPULSORY REVISIONS

In the Background you state ‘Computed tomography, magnetic resonance imaging, intravascular ultrasound allow for noninvasive detection of plaque morphology and composition’. I would like to point out again that intravascular ultrasound is not a noninvasive imaging modality.

Author’s response: We have corrected the technical error.

Author’s action: The sentence is modified as follows:

“Non-invasive imaging modalities such as computed tomography [6] and magnetic resonance imaging [7,8,9], as well as the invasive intravascular ultrasound modality [10,11,12], allow for detection of plaque morphology and composition (calcified versus non-calcified atherosclerotic plaques) and assessment of the extent of remodelling [13].”

FURTHER RESPONSES
Author’s action:

We changed the title to: Analysis of calcification on the mechanical stability of plaque based on a three-dimensional carotid bifurcation model”.

We checked thoroughly for grammatical and linguistic errors:

a) Hyphens added to “two dimensional” and “three dimensional” such that they all changed to “two-dimensional” and “three-dimensional”. Also, all “2D” and “3D” changed to “two-dimensional” and “three-dimensional”.

b) “The” added to some of the nouns. i.e. “the calcification gap”, “The 3D plaque models”, etc.

c) “The finite element meshes uses tetrahedral elements with minimal skewness.” - > “The finite element meshes are based on tetrahedral elements with minimal skewness.”

d) Changed all to American spelling “characterises” becomes “characterizes”, “analyse” becomes “analyze”, etc.