Author's response to reviews

Title: Percutaneous Transhepatic Biliary Drainage Assisted by Real-Time Virtual Sonography

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

Thank you so much for your suggestion for our manuscript. We have revised the manuscript and “point by point responses” are noted as below.

Point by point response to the referee

Major point

The title should be clearly stated that this is a retrospective study.

Thank you so much for your suggestion.
We have changed the title as below:
“Percutaneous Transhepatic Biliary Drainage Assisted by Real-Time Virtual Sonography: A Retrospective Study”

Minor point

It would be favourable to compare these data with a control group (conventional procedure). Do you have these data?

Thank you so much for your suggestion.
Unfortunately, we do not have any satisfactory data of the conventional procedure because the PTCD/PTBD procedure was introduced to our department when the corresponding author had moved to our hospital (PTCD had been performed by surgeons until that time).

Therefore, we have changed the last sentence in “Discussion” section as below:
“This study had several limitations. First, the number of cases was small, and the study design was retrospective. Second, the targeted bile ducts of this study were relatively dilated, and the success rate of PTBD for a dilated bile duct had already been quite high in previous studies [5, 6, 16]. Third, this study was not organized as the comparative study between PTBD using RVS and the conventional technique. Therefore, we cannot conclude that the success rate of PTBD using RVS is better than the conventional procedure. Further prospective comparative studies between this technique and the conventional technique in a large number of patients with nondilated bile ducts are needed.”
Sincerely yours,

Masaya Miyazaki
Gunma University Hospital