Title: Covered versus uncovered self-expandable metallic stents for palliation of malignant gastric outlet obstruction: a systematic review and meta-analysis

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Author's response to reviews:

We thank the editor for the favorable comments on our manuscript. We have made the necessary changes according to editor’s insightful critiques, and below are the point-by-point responses to the comments.

Replies to editor.

1. Abstract

Please remove the ‘Aims’ subheading in your abstract. This can be included in the background section. Please ensure that you update both the abstract on the submission system and that in the manuscript so that they are identical.

Reply: According to your suggestion, we removed the ‘Aims’ subheading in abstract.

2. Please provide a separate Conclusions section

This should state clearly the main conclusions of the research and give a clear explanation of their importance and relevance. Summary illustrations may be included.

Reply: According to your suggestion, we provided a separate Conclusions section.

3. PRISMA

In accordance with BioMed Central editorial policies, could you please ensure your manuscript reporting adheres to PRISMA guidelines for reporting systematic reviews. This is so your methodology can be fully evaluated and utilised. Can you please include a completed PRISMA checklist as an additional file when submitting your revised manuscript. We would also ask that you include a completed copy of the PRISMA flowchart for your study as a figure in your manuscript.

Reply: We added the PRISMA checklist and copy of PRISMA flowchart.
4. Please format the Authors Contribution section.

For the Authors' contributions we suggest the following kind of format (please use initials to refer to each author's contribution): AB carried out the molecular genetic studies, participated in the sequence alignment and drafted the manuscript. JY carried out the immunoassays. MT participated in the sequence alignment. ES participated in the design of the study and performed the statistical analysis. FG conceived of the study, and participated in its design and coordination. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

Reply: According to your suggestion, we amended the Authors Contribution section.