Author’s response to reviews

Title: Superficial and deep sternal wound infection after more than 9000 coronary artery bypass graft (CABG): incidence, risk factors and mortality

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Author’s response to reviews:

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I would like to thank you for your helpful comments. All of the changes that have been made are listed below and also are found in my revised manuscript.

Formatting changes requested:
1. We removed the qualifications from the author list as your suggestion.
2. For affiliations, we used superscript numbers 1 and 2. Then we use * to denote the corresponding author as your suggestion.
3. We included all authors’ email addresses in the title page in a list as your suggestion.
4. References: we considered reference 2 before reference 3 as your suggestion. We use (1) etc instead of square bracket to denote references as your suggestion. We used letters A and B to denote superficial SWI and deep SWI in page 3, also we used letters A,B and C for superficial, deep and organ/space in paragraph 2, page 3. We considered letters A,B and C for(1) wound opened with the excision of the tissue (I&D), (2) positive culture, and (3) treatment with antibiotics, in page 4, paragraph1 as your suggestion.
5. We removed all highlighting and tracking from the text as your suggestion.
6. We corrected list of abbreviations as your suggestion as follow: SWI, Sternal Wound Infection; deep SWI, Deep Sternal Wound Infection; superficial SWI, Superficial Sternal Wound Infection; CABG, Coronary Artery Bypass Grafting;
CCS, Canadian Cardiovascular Society classification; CBP, Cardiopulmonary Bypass; CI, Confidence Interval; BMI, Body Mass Index; PVD, Peripheral Vascular Disease; LVEF, Left Ventricular Ejection Fraction

7. In competing interests we put this sentence: The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

8. We corrected Authors' contributions as your suggestion as follow: AS carried out the surgery and design the study and help to draft manuscript. AK participated in the writing the first draft and performed the statistical analysis. HA and SD and MM gave critical comments on the results and participated and design in the revising the manuscript. NM and KA carried out the surgery. MB and SD participated in the design of the study and revised the manuscript. NM writing the first draft of the manuscript and participated in the performing the statistical analysis. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

9. We placed the title “Tables” above the tables section as your suggestion.

10. Table 1: we deleted the * from the end of the table title and changed the legend as your suggestion as follow: Body mass index, BMI; Peripheral vascular disease, PVD; Canadian Cardiovascular Society classification, CCS; left ventricular ejection fraction, LVEF

* Without sternal wound infection
** With sternal wound infection

Sincerely yours,
Abbas SalehiOmran