Author's response to reviews

Title: Long-Term Survival and Predictors for Mortality among Dialysis Patients in an Endemic Area for Chronic Liver Disease: A National Cohort Study in Taiwan

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Dr. Christopher Morrey,

We are grateful for the opportunity to revise our manuscript “Long-Term Survival and Predictors for Mortality among Dialysis Patients in an Endemic Area for Chronic Liver Disease: A National Cohort Study in Taiwan”. We thank the editors and reviewers for their time, effort, and valuable comments and suggestions.

We have revised manuscript according to those comments and suggestions, and have attached our point-by-point responses and details of the changes made.

We believe that this paper will be of interest to the readers of BioMed Central Nephrology.

We look forward to your reply.

Sincerely yours,

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Editors

Comment 1. As you will see one of the reviewers indicates that there are grammatical and syntax errors that need to be fixed.

We recommend that you ask 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. For authors who wish to have the language in their manuscript edited by a native-English speaker with scientific expertise, BioMed Central recommends Edanz (www.edanzediting.com/bmc1).

Reply:
Thanks for your suggestion. The manuscript had been revised by a native-English speaker. All the sentences with corrections had been marked as a revised version, which was attached after the final manuscript.

Comment 2. Name of Ethics Committee

Thank you for adding the statement 'As the dataset was released with deidentified secondary data for public research purposes, the study was exempt from full review by the Institutional Review Board (NHRI-NHIRD-99182).'

- Please provide the FULL name of ethics committee in the methods section.

Reply:
As requested by the editor, we have added the FULL name of ethics committee in the methods section by adding “the study was exempt from full review by the Institutional Review Board of Chi-Mei medical center and the Bureau of National Health Insurance (NHRI-NHIRD-99182).” (Materials and Methods section; paragraph 2, page 5, line 22)
Reviewer 1 (Dr. Bernard G. Jaar)

No further comments
Reviewer 2 (Dr. Kunal Chaudhary)

Comment 1: The authors have addressed most issues raised by the reviewers. There are still some grammatical and syntax errors that need to be fixed.

Reply:
Thanks for your suggestion. The manuscript had been revised by a native-English speaker. All the sentences with corrections had been marked as a revised version, which was attached after the final manuscript.

Comment 2: Under Discussion "The initial benefit in PD patients may be related to fewer comorbidities, the removal of unidentified solutes by PD, or better preservation of residual Dialysis renal function during this time period [29, 30]." The authors should add that having HD catheter may also be a reason for better initial survival of PD patients. Perl et al. J Am Soc Nephrol. 2011, 22(6):1113-21

Reply:
As requested by the reviewer, we revised our Discussion section by adding, “The initial benefit in PD patients may be related to fewer comorbidities, the removal of unidentified solutes by PD, or better preservation of residual Dialysis renal function during this time period [29,30]. Having HD catheter may also be a reason for better initial survival of PD patients [31].” (Discussion section, paragraph 2, page 11, line 1)