Author’s response to reviews

Title: Effect of the Pringle maneuver on tumor recurrence of hepatocellular carcinoma after curative resection (EPTRH): A randomized, prospective, controlled multicenter trial.

Authors:

feng xiaobin (fengxiaobin200708@yahoo.com.cn)
Zheng Shuguo (fengxiaobin200708@yahoo.com.cn)
zhou Jian (zhoujian@sina.com)
Qiu Yudong (qiuyudong@medmail.com.cn)
Liang Lijian (lianglijian@126.com)
Ma Kuansheng (fengxiaobin200708@yahoo.com.cn)
Li Xiaowu (fengxiaobin200708@yahoo.com.cn)
Xia Feng (fengxiaobin200708@yahoo.com.cn)
Yi Dong (yd_house@hotmail.com)
Wang Shuguang (fengxiaobin200708@yahoo.com.cn)
Bie Ping (fengxiaobin200708@yahoo.com.cn)
Dong Jiahong (xiaobinf@medmail.com.cn)

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Author’s response to reviews: see over
Cover letter

Dear editors,

According to the peer reviewer’s comment, I would like to give a point to point response as follows.

Minor Essential Revisions:
1. It is indicated that the analyses will be using the intention to treat principle but this needs to be made clear in the data analysis section.
   Yes, thank you for reminding, I have added the sentence in data analysis section.
   “The intention-to-treat analysis will be used for the patients whose portal triad clamping was changed due to safety reasons.” (page 9, the last sentence of this section).
2. Three block sizes are reported but it should be said that these three sizes will be randomly chosen (if that indeed is what is happening).
   Yes, it’s the real fact that three size were randomly assigned.
   Previous: the block sizes will be 4, 6, and 8.
   Present: the block sizes will be 4, 6, and 8 and will be randomly assigned. (Page 9)
3. If a pathological diagnosis of non-primary HCC is made the patient will be excluded. Verify that this decision is being made by someone blinded to the treatment and state that in the manuscript.
   Surely, the diagnosis was made by two different professionals who were blinded to the treatment.
   Previous: If a pathological diagnosis of non-primary HCC is made postoperatively, the patient will be excluded.
   Present: If a pathological diagnosis of non-primary HCC is made postoperatively by two different professionals who were blinded to the treatment, the patient will be excluded. (Page 10, clinical evaluation section).

All the above mentioned changes have been made in the revised manuscript.

Sincerely yours
Feng Xiaobin

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