Title: Sexual behavior and awareness of Chinese university students in transition with implied risk of sexually transmitted diseases and HIV infection: A cross-sectional study

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

Manuscript reference number: 1821612470922010
Title: Sexual behavior and awareness of Chinese university students in transition with implied risk of sexually transmitted diseases and HIV infection: A cross-sectional study

I would like to sincerely thank you to accept our manuscript for publication in BMC Public Health, and thank the third reviewer for giving us further critical advice for improving our manuscript.

We have carefully considered all the valuable comments and requests from you and the reviewer and have modified the manuscript in “ethical consideration” accordingly.

This covering letter contains a point-by-point list of the response made, and the revised manuscript is also included for further consideration.

Authors would appreciate your acceptance of this manuscript for publication.

Thank you very much, in advance.

Yours sincerely,

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Reviewer's report
Title: Sexual behavior and awareness of Chinese university students in transition with implied risk of sexually transmitted diseases and HIV infection: A cross-sectional study
Reviewer: Andrew Vickers
Version: 5 Date: 9 August 2006

Reviewer's report:
General
The authors have done a reasonable job of incorporating my previous comments. I only have one remaining query. Two of the items in table 4 still seem contradictory and I remain concerned that the labeling is incorrect. In general, earlier grades are more sexually active and sexually aware. However, they appear less likely that later grades to have had multiple or casual sexual partners.

- The reviewer’s concern is understandable and in order that our readers do not confuse with our results, we modified the multivariate analyses for variables number 2, 3 and 4 in the table 4 in a way that they are adjusted like other variables in that table without being further adjusted for the age of first sex. Meanwhile, explanations about different adjustments for the multivariate analyses have been added in the results (page 10).

- Our results indicate that there have been changes in the sexual behaviors and awareness of university students, with both male and female students in lower grades becoming more aware of sex, having sex earlier, and having more casual/commercial and multiple partnerships.

Editor’s request:

However, before acceptance, we would urge you to further improve the manuscript in response to the comments made by the reviewer. Please can you also document whether verbal or written consent was obtained from the participants in your study.

- Based on the request of the editor, we have added necessary explanations about informed consent under the heading of “ethical consideration” in page 6.