Author's response to reviews

Title: Evaluation of National Trends in the Utilization of Partial Nephrectomy in Relation to the Publication of the American Urological Association Guidelines for the Management of Clinical T1 Renal Masses

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

We present our manuscript entitled **Evaluation of National trends in Utilization of Partial Nephrectomy in Relation to Publication of the American Urological Association Guidelines for the Management of Clinical T1 Renal Masses.** Herein we describe changes over a two-year span prior to the guideline release compared to 2 years after the guideline release. While we cannot determine causality, we seek to evaluate trends and identify opportunities to improve the rate of nephron sparing surgery offered and performed in the United States. The results may provide areas of focus for further investigation regarding factors effecting guideline compliance.

Respectfully yours,

Ithaar H. Derweesh, M.D.
Point by Point to Address Editors comments:

1. Requesting Ethics Statement
   I have added the following statement to the methods section under Nationwide Inpatient Sample: “The data is publically available and de-identified so no patient consent was needed for this study. The NIS is available for purchase at http://www.hcup-us.ahrq.gov/nisoverview.jsp.”

2. Line Numbers
   Line numbers were added.

3. Requesting Consent statement.
   I have added the following statement to the methods section under Nationwide Inpatient Sample: “The data is publically available and de-identified so no patient consent was needed for this study. The NIS is available for purchase at http://www.hcup-us.ahrq.gov/nisoverview.jsp.”

4. Names
   Michael A. Liss is correct

5. Requesting Consent statement.
   This is not a case report, please see number 3.

6. Competing interests
   This was re-labeled and moved to the correct position in the manuscript.

7. Authors contributions
   This section was created and completed.

8. Acknowledgements
   This section was created and completed.

9. Tables
   Tables have been incorporated into the text.