Author's response to reviews

Title: Lack of association between the mutations of the gene encoding mitochondrial D310 (displacement loop) mononucleotide repeat and oxidative stress in chronic dialysis patients in Taiwan

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We revised last sentence in Background paragraph as” Because the D-loop region is a susceptible region for oxidative stress, we hypothesized that the D-loop mutation exists in dialysis patients with an increased oxidative stress status. In this study, we investigated that hypothesis via measurement of the D310 repeat in dialysis patients.”

We revised “Statistical analysis method” as follows:
Statistical analysis was performed using the SPSS® version 12.0 software (SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL, USA). Before analysis, all pre-exam data were fitted into a normal distribution. A two-tailed one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) was used to compare continuous variables between dialysis patients and healthy subjects. The Mann-Whitney test was applied to analyze categorical data and to compare the difference in alterations of the D310 mononucleotide repeat between dialysis and healthy control subjects. On the basis of the least significant difference (LSD) method, ANOVA with a post hoc test was used to examine differences in TBARS and free thiol contents and human leukocyte mtDNA copy number among the 4 D310 repeat groups (7-C, 8-C, 9-10C, and T-to-C transition) in dialysis patients or control subjects. The level of significance was set to $P < 0.05$. Values were expressed as means ± standard deviation (SD).

We revised the paragraph in results “Association of D310 mononucleotide repeat with oxidative stress biomarkers and mitochondrial DNA copy number” as follows:
The study subjects were categorized into 4 subgroups depending on D310 alterations, and significant differences were observed in the levels of oxidative stress biomarkers and mtDNA copy number between dialysis patients and control subjects in the 4 subgroups (Table 2). Analysis of variables by ANOVA, with the post hoc test based on the LSD method, revealed that a difference in D310 alterations (7-C to 10-C) did not result in a significant difference in levels of oxidative stress biomarkers and the mtDNA copy number in dialysis patients.