Author's response to reviews

Title: Thrombosis as a complication of central venous access in pediatric patients with malignancies: A 5-year single-center experience

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Thrombosis as a complication of central venous access in pediatric patients with malignancies: A 5-year single center experience.

Dear Dr. O’Donovan,

Thank you again for the opportunity to further revise our manuscript. The reviewer and the editorial team send us valuable comments, which we tried to include to the manuscript as follow:

Comments on the revised manuscript:

Reviewer 1

1.) I re-evaluated your manuscript with great interest and I found it much improved. There are only some minor comments below to be addressed.

Minor essential review:
- lost to follow-up: you state that you have data of all patients you identified, am I correct? no patients were excluded for incomplete or missing data, is this right? If so, please specify since this piece of information is fundamental to evaluate the quality of the study

Yes, this is correct. We specified this fact as highlighted in the revised manuscript.

2.) - charge-review: I guess you mean chart-review, please double-check

Yes, of course. We apologize for this mistake.

3.) - lines 206-209: some errors, "to REACH statistical significance", "this may HAVE implications..." "has to BE re-evaluatED" English: Needs some language corrections before being published
Thank you for these corrections. We have included them and doubled checked for further mistakes.

4.) - Coagulation parameters: thanks for clarifying. However, you still mention only single values, stating you measured them twice: just for clarification: what do the values cited in the manuscript at lines 265-267 refer to? before CVC insertion or at the time of thrombosis?

Thank you for this comment. You are right, we measured twice, but values cited in the manuscript refer to the time of thrombosis. The values before CVC insertion and the coagulation parameters at the time of thrombosis did not differ significantly to the group of patients with CVC and without thrombosis.

Editorial Comment:
"Please comment on limitations: Limitations should be stated at the end of the discussion section. Some of them should be:
- The study is retrospective and data were obtained by chart reviews.
- Only symptomatic thrombosis were diagnosed.
- Lack of protocols specifying when to use or not antithrombotic prophylaxis.
- The simple size, and the number of thrombosis of each type of malignancy, which makes statistical analysis highly problematic.
Please check the references, there are several mistakes."

Thank you for your critical reading. We apologize that we did not highlighted limitations of the study properly and tried to improve the discussion section as suggested. We furthermore checked the references and hope, that we could remove all mistakes.

We want to thank the reviewer and the editorial team explicitly for the kind revision of the manuscript. We believe the revised version of the manuscript presents our data on CVC-associated thrombosis more clearly and more completely.

We hope you may consider our data in the revised format valid for publishing in your journal. Do not hesitate to contact us, if there are further questions.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Verena Wiegering