Author’s response to reviews

Title: Minimally Invasive Spinal Anesthesia for Cesarean Section in Maternal Anticoagulation Therapy: A Randomized Controlled Trial

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Editor-in-chief,

Thank you very much for having our manuscript entitled "Minimally Invasive Spinal Anesthesia for Cesarean Section in Maternal Anticoagulation Therapy: A Randomized Controlled Trail" reviewed in a timely and professional manner and for giving us an opportunity to revise the manuscript. We also deeply appreciate the reviewers for their critical review of the manuscript with thoughtful and constructive comments. While the changes made in the revised manuscript are highlighted by colored text, our point-to-point responses to the reviewers’ comments are detailed below. And we hope to have an opportunity to publish this paper in BMC Anesthesiology.

Reviewer 1:

1. The section of background is too long.
Response: We have simplified this section according to your suggestion.

2. The title is"……Cesarean Section in Maternal Anticoagulation Therapy……", but the content of the article seems to have nothing to do with Anticoagulation. We advise to modify the title.
Response: Parturients in our study are undergoing anticoagulation therapy with normal platelet count and coagulation time. We may keep the original title.

3. To optimize the language
Response: We have optimized the language and certificate of English editing has been attached.

Reviewer 2:
General comments:
Use past tense in Methods.
Response: We have modified the tense according to your suggestion.

China also belongs to Asia.
Response: It is a wrong expression and we have modified the presentation according to your suggestion.

Use full form of PCA.
Response: We have added the full form of PCA according to your suggestion.

Keep the p value when you mention the term 'significant difference' or 'no significant difference'.
Response: We have added p value according to your suggestion.

The term 'VTE' seems better for venous thromboembolism rather than 'VET'.
Response: We have changed the abbreviation according to your suggestion.

Specific comments
Abstract:
Methods: Number of control group should be at least equal to the experimental group or should be in the ratio of 2:1 or 3:1 or 4:1.

Response: We recruited almost equal number of patients in both groups. However, 18 patients were excluded and 9 patients lost to follow-up. Thus, the numbers of two groups were not equal.

Background:

Elaborate what was the suggestion of the WHO in the sentence "… CSR was far higher than suggested by WHO."

Response: We have added the optimal cesarean section rate suggested by WHO with related reference.

Only one reference has been cited in the sentence "Several research studies revealed that at least half of the pregnant women is affected by LBP[7]."

Response: We have added related references according to your suggestion.

Rewrite the sentence "Also investigate the use of 27gauge Quincke needles and 22gauge Quincke needles for spinal anesthesia on PDPH and LBP in parturients with anticoagulation therapy undergoing cesarean section" clearly.

Response: We have rewritten the sentence and corrected the grammar mistakes.

Methods:

Elaborate the formula employed for sample size calculation.

Response: We calculated the sample size using PASS software, version 15.0(NSCC, USA). By assuming a fall by half of the incidences, we calculated that a sample size of 82 parturients per group would be required to achieve a power of 90% with a two-sized α risk of 0.05.

Confirm whether it was Wilcoxon rank sum test or Mann-Whitney U test.

Response: We have confirmed that non-normally distributed continuous variables were presented as median ± interquartile range and were performed with the Mann-Whitney U test.
Results: Confirm the sample size in the sub-section "Demographic, physiologic and surgical characteristics". It seems that sample size was 166 from the statement.

Response: We recruited 239 parturients, 37 of whom withdrew from the study. Thus, the final numbers of participants were 110 in experiment group and 92 in control group.

Discussion:

Rewrite the sentence "Previous literature concluded that the anticoagulants contraindicated to spinal/epidural anesthesia" with reference to that literature.

Response: We have rewritten the sentence and added related references according to your suggestion.

Keep the sentence "Because of the difficulty in studying … performed on any parturient" on 'Limitation of the study' section.

Response: We have moved the sentence into section of Limitation of the study.

Cite other references to support the sentence "Previous studies have indicated … related to the decrease of pain perception or responses due to aging[17]."

Response: We have added related references according to your suggestion.

Cite references of those studies to support the sentence "The conclusions drawn by previous studies showed discrepancies."

Response: We cited references in the following sentences: Lowery et al. reported that 11% of the oncologic patients were aged between 2 and 17 years who suffered from LBP after lumbar puncture following the use of a 22gauge cutting Quincke needle[5]. In contrast, Kim M and Yee K, respectively reported no significant difference in pain score in 1-3 days after punctures with different needles[15, 18].

Check and confirm the citation in the sentence "In contrast, Kim M and Kim HK, respectively reported no difference in 1-3 days after punctures with different needles[15]."
Response: We have checked and changed the references according to your suggestion.

Rewrite the sentence "The use of anticoagulant therapy during pregnancy was cautious because of the potential for both fetal and maternal complications" clearly.

Response: We have rewritten the sentence according to your suggestion.

Cite those references to support the statement "… randomized control trials in vitro and in vivo studies was inconsistent."

Response: We have added related references according to your suggestion.

Keep the last paragraph "Insufficient sample size was the main limitation … explore the cause and mechanism in future study" in 'Limitation of the study' section.

Response: We have changed the whole paragraph into section of Limitation of the study.

References: Rewrite references 13, 21 and 23 clearly.

Response: References 13 and 21 are French. Reference 23 is German. We have attached these three references.