Author’s response to reviews

Title: Association between Environmental Particulate Matter and Arterial Stiffness in Patients Undergoing Hemodialysis

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1. The definition of abnormal baPWV: in your revised manuscript, you stated that "Because there was no previous data to show the normal range of baPWV in dialysis patients, the normal (within the distribution of PWV) or abnormal (higher than the distribution of PWV) of PWV was based on the study by The Reference Values for Arterial Stiffness Collaboration [11], which showed the distribution of pulse wave velocity according to the age category in the normal values population." However, the reference 11 refers to the reference value of carotid-femoral PWV rather than baPWV. Please be advised that the former is the pulse wave velocity of conduit artery and the latter comprises the PWV of both conduit and muscular arteries. They are correlated but definitely not interchangeable at all. If you cannot locate a better study for the reference value of baPWV, please refer to the following article: Chuang SY, Chen CH, Cheng MG, Chou P. Combined use of brachial-ankle pulse wave velocity and ankle-brachial index for fast assessment of arteriosclerosis and atherosclerosis in a community. Int J Cardiol 2005; 98:99-105.

   Ans: Thanks for reviewers suggestion. We used the reference Int J Cardiol 2005; 98:99-105 for the definition of normal and abnormal PWV and re-calculated the parameters in Table 2.

2. English should be polished further, the sentence "Because there was no previous data to show the normal range of baPWV in dialysis patients, the normal (within the distribution of PWV) or abnormal (higher than the distribution of PWV) of PWV was based on the study by..." has grammatical errors apparently.

   Ans: We have polished our English.