Author’s response to reviews

Title: Medium-term outcomes of 78,808 patients after heart valve surgery in a middle-income country: a nationwide population-based study.

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Editor:

We are pleased to resubmit for publication the revised version of BCAR-D-17-00348 Long-term outcomes of 78,808 patients after heart valve surgery in a middle-income country: a nationwide population-based study.

Once again we would like to thank the Editor and reviewers for their comments, which have helped improve our paper.
We would add that, at the suggestion of reviewer 2, we are changing the title to Medium-term outcomes of 78,808 patients after heart valve surgery in a middle-income country: a nationwide population-based study.

We have addressed each of the reviewers’ concerns as outlined below.

Reviewer reports:

Hendrik Treede (Reviewer 1): The authors have sufficiently answered the requests of my first review. It is unfortunate that the database does not include major information e.g. on valve type and anticoagulation. Nevertheless the data presented is worth being published.

1.1 The authors have sufficiently answered the requests of my first review.
Comment: We are pleased that our endeavor to take the opportunity to improve the paper has been recognized.

1.2 It is unfortunate that the database does not include major information e.g. on valve type and anticoagulation.
Comment: We agree.

Efstratios Charitos (Reviewer 2): The authors did a great job addressing the comments of the reviewers. My only remark is that the title is misleading. Regardless of how big the cohort is maximum and median follow-up of 7.7 and 2.8 years, respectively is not "Long term" as the authors write. At the very best this is mid-term follow up.

I strongly suggest that the authors change this to better reflect reality. This is not a drawback to the study. It is just a matter of proper reporting.

1.1 The authors did a great job addressing the comments of the reviewers.
Comment: We thank the Reviewer for the opportunity to improve our paper.

1.2 I strongly suggest that the authors change this to better reflect reality. This is not a drawback to the study. It is just a matter of proper reporting.
Comment: Considering the Reviewer's suggestion, we are changing the title to "Medium-term outcomes of 78,808 patients after heart valve surgery in a middle-income country: a nationwide population-based study.”