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,

Below, we present our detailed responses to each point raised in your review.

We apologise for including the initials BS in the list of authors’ contributions (in the “Declarations” section of the manuscript), given that BS was not included as an author of the article and the initials appeared by mistake. In the new version we have submitted, those initials have been removed from the list of “Authors’ contributions”, as that person is not one of the authors.
Also, we understand that we need to detail all authors’ participations better. In the cases where you have requested further clarifications regarding these contributions, they are as follows:

Authors’ contributions:

RBMC performed data cleaning, contributed to data acquisition and interpretation, statistical analysis, critically revised and approved the final manuscript and is accountable for all aspects of the work.

CW performed data cleaning and interpretation, critically revised and approved the final manuscript and is accountable for all aspects of the work.

CAX contributed to data acquisition, critically revised and approved the final manuscript and is accountable for all aspects of the work.

LAH contributed to data acquisition, critically revised and approved the final manuscript and is accountable for all aspects of the work.

PHG contributed to data interpretation, critically revised and approved the final manuscript and is accountable for all aspects of the work.

MGC contributed to the statistical analysis, approved the final manuscript and is accountable for all aspects of the work.

We have uploaded a new version of the manuscript as a clean version without any tracked changes, comments, highlights, strikethroughs or text in different colours and we have duly made the alterations to the text of the “Authors’ contributions” (Declarations section).

Extract with the alterations to the new version:

Authors’ contributions:

RMAX undertook the literature review.

RMAX, VMPA and NASS contributed to the study conception and design.

VMPA, RBMC, CW and RMAX performed data cleaning

RMAX, CAX, LAH and RBMC contributed to data acquisition.

VMPA, RMAX, MGC and RBMC performed statistical analysis.

RMAX, VMPA, RBMC, AM, NASS, PHG, ALPR and CW contributed to data interpretation.
RMAX, VMPA, ALPR and AM drafted the manuscript.

All authors read, critically revised and approved the final manuscript and are accountable for all aspects of the work.