Author’s response to reviews

Title: Gender differences in plaque characteristics of nonculprit lesions in patients with coronary artery disease

Authors:

Jiangtian Tian (tianjiangtian@126.com)
Xuedong Wang (wxd_198608@163.com)
Jinwei Tian (tianjinweidr2009@163.com)
Bo Yu (dryu_hum@163.com)

Version: 1 Date: 15 Jan 2019

Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Editors and Reviewers:

Thank you for your letter and for the reviewers’ comments concerning our manuscript entitled “Gender differences in plaque characteristics of nonculprit lesions in patients with coronary artery disease” (BCAR-D-18-00779). Those comments are all valuable and very helpful for revising and improving our paper, as well as the important guiding significance to our researches. We have studied comments carefully and have made correction which we hope meet with approval. Revised portion are marked in red in the paper. The main corrections in the paper and the responds to the reviewers’ comments are as flowing:
Responds to the reviewers’ comments:

Major:

1. Response to comment: (The analyses on this study were based on descriptive data and no adjustments for possible confounding were computed. The authors motivate the lack of power as a reason to not present the adjusted data however due to the large differences in age and smoking habits it should be more informative for the reader to receive that information in the manuscript.)

Response: It is really true as Reviewer suggested that we should adjust data to provide more information for the readers. Therefore, we supplemented our data with regression analysis represented in Table 4. We also added explanations and discussion of this part in the abstract (line 41-44), method (line 164-168), result (line 196-201), and discussion (line 207-209).

2. Response to comment: (In the study limitations the age difference as a possible confounding should be discussed in line of previous evidence on the impact of the age on plaque characteristics. https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0167527311000714?via%3Dihub)

Response: We have added discussion about previous evidence on the impact of the age on plaque characteristics according to the Reviewer’s suggestion in line 210-214.

3. Response to comment: (The main findings and conclusions should be adapted to the results after adjustments for age and smoking habits.)

Response: Considering the Reviewer’s suggestion, we have carried out regression analysis for adjustment other factors, and added discussions about these factors, especially about age and smoking habits (line 210-221).
1 Response to comment: (It would be helpful for the reader if the authors provide a flow-chart for the study population and participants.)

Response: We added Figure 1 to provide flow-chart for the study population and participants.

2 Response to comment: (In table 1 there are some differences in the inflammation between genders that are not discussed further. I suggest a short discussion on that and the possible impact in the results.)

Response: We have added a short discussion on the differences of inflammation between genders and on the possible impact in the results (line 228-229).

3 Response to comment: (In table 1: Information on family history and physically activities should be provided if disposable. E-gfr should also provide information on whether men have lower kidney function than women in this population.)

Response: It is really true as Reviewer suggested that more information on family history, physically activities and E-gfr should be helpful, but we are very sorry that this part of the patient information is incomplete, so it can not be provided.

4 Response to comment: (Table 3: Abbreviations in the title should be avoided.)

Response: We are very sorry for our negligence of abbreviations in the title, we have made correction about this (Table 3)
Other changes:

1. The discussion part “At the time of presentation with CAD, women tend to be 10 years older than men.[28] Consistent with previously reported data, the present study found that women were significantly older when presenting with suspected CAD than men, with average ages of 70.8 and 60.8 years in women and men, respectively.” was moved to line 207-210.

2. Line 271-273, “In particular, the imbalance of smoking prevalence between both genders might have affected the results because smoking is associated with increased lipid index.” was deleted

3. Line 413-422, references 29-31 were added

We tried our best to improve the manuscript and made some changes in the manuscript. These changes will not influence the content and framework of the paper. And here we did not list the changes but marked in red in revised paper.

We appreciate for Editors/Reviewers’ warm work earnestly, and hope that the correction will meet with approval.

Once again, thank you very much for your comments and suggestions.