Author's response to reviews

**Title:** Clinical efficacy of B-mode ultrasound-guided percutaneous transhepatic gallbladder drainage followed by laparoscopic cholecystectomy for acute cholecystitis in high-risk elderly patients

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I would be grateful if you could clarify them:

1. Did patients consent to participation in your study or just the procedures?
   We sincerely thank for your question. Actually, in our article, we have already made Ethics statement “The study was approved by the Institutional Review Board of the First People’s Hospital of Wenzhou, China. The informed written consent was collected from each eligible patient and the whole study was performed based on the Declaration of Helsinki” in Materials and Methods section.

2. How were patients divided into the two different treatment groups? Why did some patients receive LC only and others PTGD + LC combination?
   We sincerely thank for your question. In PTGD + LC group, the patients had undergone PTGD followed by LC, which was based on the indications and contraindications of PTGD for elderly high-risk patients with AC. additionally, 35 patients were randomly from previous cases who simply had undergone LC (LC group) as control group in our hospital your question makes this article more logical and structural. Thanks again.

3. Who decided which patient would be given which treatment?
   We sincerely thank for your question. All patients who underwent PTGD were characterized by indications of PTGD and all of them were informed and agreed about the operation of PTGD.