Author’s response to reviews

Title: A new age-related cutoff of medial temporal atrophy scale on MRI improving the diagnostic accuracy of neurodegeneration due to Alzheimer's disease in a Chinese population

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Author’s response to reviews:

Reply to the editor

Dear editor:

Thank you so much for your kind and patience correction. Here are our point–to-point replies to the reviewer’s answers.

-- In the section 'Funding', please also describe the role of the funding body/bodies in the design of the study and collection, analysis, and interpretation of data and in writing the manuscript.
Reply: Thanks for your advice, we have checked in the manuscript and described the role of the funding bodies in the design of the study and collection, analysis, and interpretation of data and in writing the manuscript. See page 15, line 339.

-- We note that the current submission contains some textual overlap with other previously published works, in particular: Tian, J., Wei, M., Shi, J., Ni, J., Zhang, X., Li, T., Chen, Z., Zhou, M., Zhang, L., Tan, Z. and Wang, Y., 2018. A NEW AGE-BASED CUTOFF OF VISUAL RATING SCALES IN MRI: IMPROVING THE DIAGNOSTIC ACCURACY OF AD IN A CHINESE POPULATION. Alzheimer's & Dementia: The Journal of the Alzheimer's Association, 14(7), pp.P893-P894. This overlap mainly exists in the abstract section. While we understand that this is work that you have previously published, and some of the same ideas are contained in these publications, please be aware that we cannot condone the use of text from previously published work. Please re-phrase these sections to minimise overlap.
Reply: Thanks for your advice, we have revised the abstract to minimize overlap. See page 3 abstract section.

-- We notice that author ZT is missing from the authors' contributions section. Also currently, the contributions of author JS does not automatically qualify them for authorship. In the section “Authors’ contributions”, please provide further clarifications on their contributions, and see our guidelines for authorship below.
Reply: Thanks for your patience, we have checked the manuscript and added the ZT, in addition, we have provide further clarifications on authors' contributions. And the author's contribution was showed as followed: JT developed the research idea and designed the study. JS and JT analysed and interpreted the data. MW and JS wrote first draft of the manuscript. ZC, MZ conducted the MRI rating. MW, TL, JN, XZ did the neuropsychology assessment. LZ, ZT conducted the MRI scan, JT and JS were principal investigators for this study and finalized the manuscript. YW reviewed the design of the trial protocol and revised the manuscript. All authors reviewed and approved the final version. See page 15, line 346.

-- Please ensure to only upload one set of figures with your submission.
Reply: Thanks for your advice, we have uploaded one set of figures.

-- We notice that you have mentioned 'Table 3' in your manuscript and not 'Table 2'. Please amend this.
Reply: Thanks for your advice, we have revised the Table 3 as "Table 2". See page 10, line 214.

-- At this stage, please upload your manuscript as a single, final, clean version that does not contain any tracked changes, comments, highlights, strikethroughs or text in different colours. All relevant tables/figures/additional files should also be clean versions. Figures (and additional files) should remain uploaded as separate files.
Reply: Thanks for your advice, we have uploaded manuscript as a single, final, clean version, also uploaded figures as separate files.

Reviewer reports:

Klaus P. Ebmeier (Reviewer 1): Please include all comments for the authors in this box rather than uploading your report as an attachment. Please only upload as attachments annotated versions of manuscripts, graphs, supporting materials or other aspects of your report which cannot be included in a
text format.
Please overwrite this text when adding your comments to the authors.
Reply: Thanks for your advice, we have uploaded manuscript as a single, final, clean version, also uploaded figures as separate files.

Please read the following information and revise your manuscript as necessary. If your manuscript does not adhere to our editorial requirements, this may cause a delay while this is addressed. Failure to adhere to our policies may result in rejection of your manuscript.

In accordance with BioMed Central editorial policies and formatting guidelines, all manuscript submissions to BMC Geriatrics must contain a Declarations section which includes the mandatory subsections listed below. Please refer to the journal's Submission Guidelines web page for information regarding the criteria for each sub-section (https://bmcgeriatr.biomedcentral.com/)

Where a mandatory Declarations section is not relevant to your study design or article type, please write "Not applicable" in these sections.

For the 'Availability of data and materials' section, please provide information about where the data supporting your findings can be found. We encourage authors to deposit their datasets in publicly available repositories (where available and appropriate), or to be presented within the manuscript and/or additional supporting files. Please note that identifying/confidential patient data should not be shared. Authors who do not wish to share their data must confirm this under this sub-heading and also provide their reasons. For further guidance on how to format this section, please refer to BioMed Central's editorial policies page (see links below).

Reply: Thanks for your kind of patience, we have revised the declaration sections according to the guidelines, and the declaration was revised as following:

- **Ethics approval and consent to participate**
The protocol was approved by Dongzhimen Hospital, Beijing University of Chinese Medicine Institutional Ethics Committee. All procedures performed in this study were in accordance with the ethical standards of the institutional and national research committee and with the 1964 Helsinki declaration and its later amendments or comparable ethical standards. All the patients and responsible caregivers provided written informed consent.

- **Consent for publication**
Not applicable.

- **Availability of data and material**
The datasets used and/or analysed during the current study are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

- **Competing interests**
The authors have declared that no conflict of interest exists.

- **Funding**
The study design was supported by the 111 project (No:B08006). The data collection and analysis was supported by a grant from 111 project (No: B08006), National Natural Science Foundation of China [grants number 81473518; 81573824], the Capital Health Research and Development of Special [grants
number: SF2016–4–4193]. The interpretation of data and in writing the manuscript was supported by the 111 project(No:B08006).

Authors' contributions
JT developed the research idea and designed the study. JS and JT analysed and interpreted the data. MW and JS wrote first draft of the manuscript. ZC, MZ conducted the MRI rating. MW, TL, JN, XZ did the neuropsychology assessment. LZ, ZT conducted the MRI scan. JT and JS were principal investigators for this study and finalized the manuscript. YW reviewed the design of the trial protocol and revised the manuscript. All authors reviewed and approved the final version.

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Best wishes,

Jinzhou Tian