Author’s response to reviews

Title: Assessment of intracranial pressure with ultrasonographic retrobulbar optic nerve sheath diameter measurement

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Editor,

We appreciate your offer to let us amend our work. We have revised the manuscript accordingly. All changes that we have made have been highlighted in yellow. The point to point response is indicated below.

For the questions raised by the first reviewer, our answer is as follows:

Q1: The study is an observational study rather than a cohort study in my opinion.
A1: We agree with this proposal, and amend as suggested (see page 3 yellow highlighted).

Q2: Should the sentence in line 17, page 9 "How it is the exact value can be not given and then" be "however......"?

A2: This sentence has been modified. (see page 8 yellow highlighted).

Q3: There are studies showed that age is associated with ICP, while the author's results showed a negative correlation. I think an explanation about this difference should be made in the discussion part.

A3: In our study, we found no relationship between age and ICP. Our results are consistent with some other study. (Xie X, Zhang X, Fu J, et al. Noninvasive intracranial pressure estimation by orbital subarachnoid space measurement: the Beijing Intracranial and Intraocular Pressure (iCOP) study[J]. Crit Care, 2013, 17(4): R162.)

Q4: The ONSD is the key parameter for this study. A repeatability evaluation of the ultrasononographic measurement is better to be made.

A4: This is a good suggestion. We have done this work and described it in the second paragraph of method. (see page 4). We did the ultrasonic measurement of optic nerve sheath diameter research and has published articles. Ultrasound diagnosis on the diameters of retrobulbar optic nerve. Journal of Clinical Ophthalmology, 2011, 19(1).

Q5: The time interval between ultrasononographic measurement and lumber puncture should be described.

A5: When ultrasononographic measurement completed, we immediately performed lumbar puncture. The time interval between these two operations was less than ten minutes.
For the questions raised by the second reviewer, our answer is as follows:

Q1: I suggested to make the discrimination equation clearer with parenthesis.

A1: The discriminant equation was obtained in our study to be as: \( D = 0.169 \times \text{BMI} + 1.484 \times \text{mean ONSD} - 12.74 \). We think this formula is clear enough, and we don't think it necessary to add parentheses in this formula.

Q2: Again I suggested to edit the discrimination equation.

A2: Same as answer 1.

Q3: Typing error on "colleges". It should read "colleagues".

A3: Thanks very much for finding out our spelling mistakes, and the corresponding words have been corrected. (see page 6 and 7 yellow highlighted)

Q4: Please clarify the numbers as it is quoted from reference number 18 incorrectly.

A4: Thanks very much for finding out our typing mistakes, we have verified and modified the figures. (see page 7 yellow highlighted)

Q5: I am not sure I fully understand what the sentence means. Please elaborate why it the patients were clarified wrongly. Should it read "classified incorrectly"?

A5: Yes, the idea we want to express is “there are about 5%-15% of the patients who were classified incorrectly”. We have modified this sentence (see page 8 yellow highlighted)

Q6: I think the third reason is too obvious to write down.
A6: We agree with this viewpoint, and delete it. (see page 8)

Best wishes!

Yours sincerely,

Zhen Li and Dachuan Liu

On behalf of all authorship