Author’s response to reviews

Title: Four collateral circulation pathways were observed after common carotid artery occlusion

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Version: 1 Date: 28 Jul 2019

Author’s response to reviews:

To the Editor:

Thank you for your recognition of our work. We have carefully read the comments of the reviewers and have revised the manuscript. As for the English language problem raised by the first reviewer, we have learned the author and reviewer tutorial regarding English writing, and have checked and revised the manuscript word by word once again. The tutorial is really helpful. If you still think the manuscript is of poor readability, just send it back for further revision, and we’ll seek for professional English language editing service. Besides, Chengrong Zheng, one of the authors, is now working in another department of the same hospital. We have updated his information in the title page. We guess this update will not be counted as an authorship change.

To Harold Adams (Reviewer 1)

Question: The reviewer recognizes that English is not the native language of the authors and commends them for their efforts. Still, the paper does need additional work on usage and syntax.

Answer: We have learned the author and reviewer tutorial regarding English writing, and have checked and revised the manuscript word by word once again.
To Alex Brehm (Reviewer 2)

Question 1: Background: If you write: "This information, however, is available in few studies." Cite these studies!

Answer: We have added references at this place.

Question 2: Methods: Please include the exact imaging methods used on the patients, maybe in a table and patient demographics and other baseline information.

Answer: We have supplemented a table including the patients’ demographic data, risk factors and examinations.

To Anuska V. Andjelkovic-Zochowski (Reviewer 3)

Question 1: Although the cohort is pretty small it will be important to statistically present the obtained data.

Answer: This is a retrospective study rather than a cohort study. The patients were not assigned to groups. The collateral circulation pathways and hemodynamic characteristics have been clearly described. We don’t see any necessity for further statistical analysis.

Question 2: The medical history of the presented patients including gender co-morbid condition should be included.

Answer: We have supplemented a table including the patients’ demographic data, risk factors and examinations.

Question 3: The brain perfusion should be quantified in the all presented cases.

Answer: In the end of the discussion section, we mentioned the limitations of this study – we did not quantitatively evaluate the influence of these collateral circulation pathways on brain perfusion. Since this is a retrospective study, we were not able to add any further examinations.