Author's response to reviews

Title: Association between shift work and the risk of death from biliary tract cancer in Japanese men

Authors:

Yingsong Lin (linys@aichi-med-u.ac.jp)
Takeshi Nishiyama (nishiyama@minos.ocn.ne.jp)
Michiko Kurosawa (mic@juntendo.ac.jp)
Akiko Tamakoshi (tamaa@med.hokudai.ac.jp)
Tatsuhiko Kubo (kubo@med.oueh-u.ac.jp)
Yoshihisa Fujino (zenq00@gmail.com)
Shogo Kikuchi (kikuchis@aichi-med-u.ac.jp)

Version: 4 Date: 17 August 2015

Author's response to reviews:

Dear editor,

We have provided point-by-point responses to Editorial requests.

1) Regarding the original ethical approval for the JACC study, did this also extend to cover the collection of data in the present manuscript? In addition, please clarify the informed consent procedure where it was obtained at group level. Does this mean it was not obtained from individual patients? Was this procedure approved by the ethics committee? Please add appropriate detail in the manuscript.

Yes, the original ethical approval for the JACC Study included the collection of data in the present manuscript. The JACC Study is a large cohort study that enrolled and followed healthy subjects, not patients. Because the JACC Study was initiated in 1988-1990, during which period the concept of individual, written informed consent was not so deep-rooted in Japan, we obtained informed consent at group level in some areas. The ethics committee at the Aichi Medical University School of Medicine approved the JACC Study, including study design, informed consent procedure, and data collection and analysis.

We have revised the manuscript as follows.

Page 5 Line 44-48
Informed consent for participation was obtained from each participant, except in a few areas where it was obtained at group level. The ethics committee at the Aichi Medical University School of Medicine approved the JACC Study, including study design, informed consent procedure, and data collection and analysis.

2) As minor points, please ensure a Conclusions section is present, and change the heading Introduction to Background.
In accordance with the comment, we have added a Conclusions section (Page 12 Line 182-186) and changed the heading Introduction to Background (Page 3 Line 1) in the revised paper.