Author’s response to reviews

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

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Editor,

We have responded to the following comments.

Editorial requests:

1) There is one outstanding point that needs further clarification. Please describe the process by which some informed consent was obtained at the group rather than individual level and include that information in the methods.

Because no guidelines on informed consent process were available for conducting epidemiologic studies in the 1980s in Japan, informed consent was obtained from at a group level in a few areas in the JACC Study. In this case, the municipality head gave the consent to participation representing the participants living in that area. As we wrote in the manuscript, 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. In fact, more than 200 papers have been published based on the data from the JACC study, with informed consent process approved by the IRB of all institutes.

In accordance with the comment, we revised the manuscript again.

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Informed consent for participation was obtained from each participant in the majority of study areas. However, it was obtained at the group level in a few areas because the concept of informed consent was not popularized during the 1980s in Japan. In that case, the municipality head gave the consent to participation representing the participants living in that area. 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) Please also include email addresses for all authors on the title page of the manuscript.

We have included email address for all authors on the title page of the revised manuscript.