Author’s response to reviews

Title: Meta-analysis comparing laparoscopic versus open resection for gastric gastrointestinal stromal tumors larger than 5 cm

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Reviewer #1

Lesly Dossett (Reviewer 1): The revisions made to the manuscript were relatively minor. My main point about the manuscript being difficult to follow given the attempt to present both a case-control study and a meta-analysis in the same paper was not addressed. The flow chart provided in Figure 1 does not make sense (Go from n=97 to n=45 with no explanation, 20 records excluded with no explanation, go from n=45 to n=7 with change being 20 records excluded. This limits my overall confidence in the process of the review and manuscript.

Answer: Thank you for your comments. I apologize for my ignorance of the previous suggestion. I have follow your advice to separate the meta-analysis from retrospective cohort study in our center, for a better overall quality of the systematic review and meta-analysis itself. The results related to the single case-control study have been exhibit as attached information and the
changed contents have been highlighted in the text. In addition to the deleted contents, the main revision was in the discussion section (paragraph 1, line 1 to line 7 and paragraph 2, line 1 to 6).

I am very sorry for the wrong flow chart upload before. The corrected flow chart (Fig 1) with explanation of excluded has been re-submitted.

Reviewer #2

Christina Angeles, MD (Reviewer 2): Your responses and additions have improved the paper. When reviewing your PRISMA checklist, you listed that your systematic review registration number is in your abstract on page 3, yet I could not find this piece of information.

As previously recommended, I think adding the results from other recent meta-analysis on the same topic in your discussion would help frame and strengthen your paper.

Answer: Thank you for your encouragement. Indeed, our research did not register for a systematic review registration number, consider that the number of studies currently included in the meta-analysis was relatively small and there was no prospective randomized controlled study that could be merged. I have made some minor corrections of PRISMA checklist (Appendix 3) in response to this omission.

Based on your suggestion, I have adding the results from other recent meta-analysis on the same topic in discussion resection (paragraph 1, line 1 to line 7 and paragraph 2, line 1 to 6) as comparison.