Author’s response to reviews

Title: Comparison of femtosecond laser-assisted corneal intrastromal xenotransplantation and the allotransplantation in rhesus monkeys

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Editors and Reviewers:

Thank you for your letter and for the reviewers’ comments concerning our manuscript titled “Comparison of femtosecond laser-assisted corneal intrastromal xenotransplantation and the allotransplantation in rhesus monkeys.” (ID: BOPH-D-17-00337). All of the comments are all valuable and very helpful for revising and improving our paper, as well as for guiding our researches. We have studied the comments carefully and have made corrections that we hope will be met with approval. The revised portions of the paper are highlighted in red color throughout. The main corrections in the paper and the response to the reviewers’ comments are as follows.
Responses to reviewers’ comments:

Reviewer #1 (Jae Woong Koh):

Comment: additional statistical review and some language corrections before being published.

Response: We really appreciate your careful concern. We have revised all the statistical review in the manuscript. We revised the Fig. 5B and its description, and add the P value in its description (revised Fig. 5). We also change Fig.6 to Table 1, using specific data and the P value to describe the expression of cytokines (new Table 1).

In addition, we have submitted our manuscript to American Journal Experts (AJE) for Premium Editing Service (ID: 828V1HXS) and Nature Research Editing Service for language editing service (ID: QCF19C65). The language revised portion is also highlighted in red color throughout.

Reviewer #2 (Je Hyung Hwang):

Comment 1: Page 4. last line: lamellae-> lamellar

Response: We really appreciate your careful concern. We have change ‘lamellae’ to ‘lamellar’ in the page 4 (last paragraph in the Background). We also highlighted it in the red color.

Comment 2: The data of cornea clarity could be clarified

ex) In figure 4. Are these sries of photos acquired from the same animal?

In figure 4. B The clarity cannot be assessed from the retoroillumination photograph.
Response: Thank you very much for the suggestion. We have changed some photos to add cornea clarity (revised Fig.4). Photo NO.1 to NO.4 are from the same monkey in the allotransplantation group. Photo NO.5 to NO.8 are from the same monkey in the ‘Human to Monkey’ group, and photo NO.9 to NO.12 are also from the same monkey in the ‘Rabbit to Monkey’ group. In conclusion, these photos are captured from 3 single representative monkeys. In addition, we marked the boundary of grafts using white arrows in Fig.5B to assess the inlay grafts.

Comment 3: In discussion section requires additional considerations about how such surgeries in animals can be applied in clinical situations.

Response: Thank you very much for your professional suggestion. We have added the clinical application in the last paragraph in discussion section. We also highlighted it in the red color.

Responses to the Editors’ comments

1. Thank you for providing an Declarations section. In accordance with BioMed Central editorial policies and formatting guidelines, all manuscript submissions to BMC Ophthalmology must contain a Declarations section which includes the mandatory sub-sections listed below. Please refer to the journal's Submission Guidelines web page for information regarding the criteria for each sub-section

Response: Thank you very much for the suggestion. We have modified this section to meet the requirement of BMC Ophthalmology.

2. Thank you for providing an Availability of data and material section.

Response: Thank you very much for your careful concern. It has been edited according to your suggestion: All the data supporting the conclusions of this article are contained within the
The datasets used and/or analyzed during the current study are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to all the editors’ and reviewers’ comments and suggestions on this paper, which certainly help us to improve the manuscript. We appreciate the editors’ and reviewers’ earnest assessments of our work and hope the corrections will meet with approval. Once again, thank you very much for your comments and suggestions.

Yours sincerely,

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