Author’s response to reviews

Title: Comparison among Perfect-C®, Zero-P®, and plates with a cage in single-level cervical degenerative disc disease

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Author’s response to reviews:

August 23, 2017

Carlo Biz, MD
Editor-in-Chief
BMC Musculoskeletal Disorders

RE: No. BMSD-D-17-00541

Dear Dr. Biz:

Thank you very much for your kind consideration to give us an opportunity to resubmit our paper, entitled "Comparison among the Perfect-C®, Zero-P®, and plates with a cage in the treatment of single-level cervical degenerative disc disease”. The comments of the reviewers have been very helpful in allowing us to revise our manuscript. We have attempted to answer to their suggestions, and the changed parts were underlined in the new manuscript.

Thank you for your consideration of the revised version.

Sincerely,

Ho Yeol Zhang, M.D. Ph D.
Reviewer #1: To the Authors

RECOMMENDATIONS to the Authors:

Are the methods appropriate and well described?

The reviewer response: Yes

-> Thank you so much.

Does the work include the necessary controls?

The reviewer response: Yes

-> Thank you so much.

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?

The reviewer response: No

-> I agree with your opinions that the data is inadequate to draw conclusions. Because the rate of 2-level surgery in the plate-cage group was higher than in the perfect-C and Zero-P groups, and statistically significant results were obtained. So only single-level surgery cases were performed. And we are able to get the same conclusions as before.

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
The reviewer response: I am able to assess the statistics.

-> Thank you so much.

Quality of written English

The reviewer response: Needs some language corrections before being published

-> I agree with your opinion. I received the English proof again.

Declaration of competing interests

Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?
5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

The reviewer response: write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below

-> I declare that I have no competing interests.

Reviewer #2: To the Authors

RECOMMENDATIONS to the Authors:

Are the methods appropriate and well described?

The reviewer response: Yes

-> Thank you so much.

Does the work include the necessary controls?

The reviewer response: No

-> I agree with your opinions that necessary controls is inadequate to draw conclusions. Because the rate of 2-level surgery in the plate-cage group was higher than in the perfect-C and Zero-P
groups, and statistically significant results were obtained. So only single-level surgery cases were performed. And we are able to get the same conclusions as before.

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?

The reviewer response: Yes

-> Thank you so much.

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?

The reviewer response: I recommend additional statistical review

-> I agree with your opinions about statistical review. We collect single-level surgery cases again. And then we perform additional statistical review.

Quality of written English

The reviewer response: Acceptable

-> Thank you so much.

Declaration of competing interests

Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:
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2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

The reviewer response: None

-> Thank you so much.