Author’s response to reviews

Title: Association between sagittal balance and adjacent segment degeneration in anterior cervical surgery: A systematic review and meta-analysis

Authors:

Yijian Zhang (yjzhang2013@stu.suda.edu.cn)
Hao Liu (liuhaodoctor@suda.edu.cn)
Fan He (hefan@suda.edu.cn)
Angela Chen (acchen@uwaterloo.ca)
Huilin Yang (suzhouspine@163.com)
Bin Pi (bpi@suda.edu.cn)

Version: 1 Date: 19 Jun 2019

Author’s response to reviews:

List of Response:

Dear Editors and Reviewers:

Thank you for your letter and for reviewers’ comments concerning our manuscript entitled “Association between sagittal balance and adjacent segment degeneration in anterior cervical surgery: A systematic review and meta-analysis” (BMSD-D-18-01701) Those comments are all valuable and very helpful for revising and improving our paper, as well as the important guiding significance to our researches. We have studied comments carefully and have made correction which we hope to meet with approval. The main corrections in the paper and the responds to the reviewer’s comments are as flowing:
Editors

1 Response to comment: Please included the PRISMA checklist in this study.

Response: Considering the Editor’s comment, we have attached the PRISMA checklist of this meta-analysis in the revised version.

Special thanks to you for your good comments.

Reviewer #1:

1 Response to comment: The bias of several results was substantial and most of included studies were retrospective.

Response: Due to limited studies reported the association between sagittal balance and ASD after anterior cervical surgery, in the present preliminary study, we only included seven studies for data analyzing. We also considered it may cause the increased heterogeneity and reduced validity and we listed this limit in Limitation section. Considering the reviewer’s suggestions, we added the quality assessment of each study before data processing using Newcastle-Ottawa Scale (NOS) in revised version [1]. Moreover, we also performed the publication bias and sensitive analysis for key parameters and results were showed stability and reliable (as shown in supplementary 1).

2 Response to comment: The study lack of reference list of the included studies.

Response: Considering the reviewer’s suggestions, we have added the included studies in the reference list of Table1 (Characteristics of included studies).

3 Response to comment: The authors should provide a very strong statement in the discussion, conclusions and abstract regarding the substantial risk of bias of their conclusions.

Response: Considering the reviewer’s suggestion, we have reviewed carefully and added necessary statement in the revised version.

Special thanks to you for your good comments.
Reviewer #2:

Response to comment: The C2~7 SVA is a crucial sagittal balance parameter that needed to be mentioned in discussion.

Response: As the reviewer mentioned, C2~7 SVA is an important parameters in cervical sagittal balance and a previous study in our team also indicated the critical function of C2~7 SVA in reducing postoperative axial symptoms [2]. However, due to limited articles reported the association between C2~7 SVA and ASD (only one paper in the enrolled study), the authors cannot perform proper statistical analysis. Considering the reviewer’s suggestions, we have added sufficient statement and explanation in the Discussion and Limitation section.

Special thanks to you for your good comments.

References
