Author's response to reviews

Title: Laparoscopic versus open wedge resection for gastrointestinal stromal tumors of the stomach: a single-center 8-year retrospective cohort study of 156 patients with long-term follow-up

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor,

July 7th, 2014

We would like to submit our manuscript entitled “Laparoscopic versus open wedge resection for gastrointestinal stromal tumors of the stomach: a single-center 8-year retrospective cohort study of 156 patients with long-term follow-up”, by Ke Chen, Xiao-Wu Xu, Yu-Pan, et al. for consideration of publication in *BMC Surgery*.

In this study, we compared the outcomes of patients treated with laparoscopic (LWR) or open wedge resection (OWR) for gastrointestinal stromal tumors (GISTs) of the stomach and found that the LWR was safe, feasible, and efficacious for the treatment of gastric GISTs. We observed encouraging 3-year relapse-free survival rates. Additionally, a rapid systematic review with a meta-analysis was conducted to further assess accurately the current status of LWR for gastric GISTs. This study protocol was prospectively approved by ethics committee of Sir Run Run Shaw Hospital, School of Medicine, Zhejiang University and conducted in accordance with the ethical guidelines of the Declaration of Helsinki. Informed consent was signed prior to surgery by each case.

No portion of this paper has been published elsewhere. All authors have read and approved the content, and agreed to submit it to your journal. There are no ethical/legal conflicts involved in the article.

Your consideration of this manuscript is highly appreciated.

We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely,

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