Author's response to reviews

Title: Impact of ABO blood group on the prognosis of patients undergoing surgery for esophageal cancer

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

Thank you very much for arranging a timely review for manuscript. We also thank the reviewers for their constructive comments, which we have studied carefully. Accordingly, we have made the revisions which are highlighted in red in the revised manuscript. Point-to-point replies are listed below. I would like to resubmit this revised manuscript to BMC Surgery, and hope it is acceptable for publication in the journal.

Looking forward to hearing from you soon.

With kindest regards,

Yours Sincerely

Minxin Shi

Point-to-point replies

1. When you do a procedure based on clinical indication, like Endoscopic examination and whole-body examination in your study, there is higher probability of observing positive findings in comparison with non-symptomatic cases. This will induce surveillance bias. How authors approached to this issue in their design or in their analysis

   Answer: Thanks for your comment. As we stated in the revised manuscript, clinical suspicious bias is one of the limitations in our study. Some cases without symptom may be omitted from our study, which biases our results. During the period of cases enrollment, those who were diagnosed as precancerous lesion for EC were followed up. Finally, a few of such cases were also included in the study, because of developing into EC. To some extent, this could decrease the rate of missed diagnosis (P9).

2. Some spelling check is also necessary.

   Answer: Thanks, some spelling mistakes and incorrect grammar was amended in the revised manuscript.