Author’s response to reviews

Title: Single-stage transforaminal decompression, debridement, interbody fusion, and posterior instrumentation for lumbosacral brucellosis

Authors:
yakefu abulizi (yakup0213@126.com)
weidong liang (362746037@qq.com)
aikeremujiang muheremu (yakupspine@163.com)
weibin sheng (wbsheng@vip.sina.com)
Maierdan Maimaiti (halida0222@163.com)

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Author’s response to reviews:
Thank you for your letter and for the reviewers’ comments concerning our manuscript entitled “Single-stage transforaminal decompression, debridement, interbody fusion, and posterior instrumentation for lumbosacral brucellosis” (BSUR-D-17-00077). 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 meet with approval. Revised portion are marked in different colors in the paper. The main corrections in the paper and the responds to the reviewer’s comments are as flowing:

1. Response to comment: the general quality of the manuscript is poor, and the English writing should be revised by a native English speaker.
Response: English writing was revised by a native English speaker, and we have made correction according to the reviewer’s comments

2. Response to comment: No postoperative lumbar CT in the part on the outcome.
Response: Last follow-up CT of the first patient was added (Fig 1h). The CT showed solid intervertebral and facet joint bony fusion. Because the second case was an elderly patient, and his last follow-up VAS score was 0, CT examination was not performed.
3. Response to comment: Deep wound infection in patients with sinus formation and wound surface infection patients suggested the analysis of the causes.
Response: The wound complications were analyzed. Superficial wound infection may caused by the poor general condition of the patient; Deep wound infection and sinus formation may associate with the patients` history of diabetes. (highlighted with red)

4. Response to comment: Please discuss more about the previously published data, and describe the comparison between this study and the others. Is there any improvement using this technique.
Response: The other valuable studies about spinal brucellosis was discussed in the discussion part, especially the previous studies about its medical treatment, and the indications for surgical treatment. However, the surgical treatment of spinal brucellosis has been rarely reported in the literature. We have rewritten this part according to the reviewer`s suggestion (highlighted with yellow and green).

We tried our best to improve the manuscript and made some changes in the manuscript. These changes will not influence the content and framework of the paper. We appreciate for editors and reviewers` warm work earnestly, and hope that the correction will meet with approval. Once again, thank you very much for your comments and suggestions.