Reviewer’s report

Title: An Association of Spleen Volume and Aortic Diameter in Patients and in Mice with Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm

Version: 1 Date: 27 Sep 2017

Reviewer: Robert Doonan

Reviewer’s report:

I thank the authors for their detailed response to the reviewer's comments and addressing the issues with the manuscript.

1. Referring to response of 'Results comment 3'.

Answer: Thank you for your kind suggestions. It is a pity that our study was just retrospective cross-sectional design to learn the potential association of spleen volume and abdominal aortic aneurysm, inspired by our preliminary laboratory experiments, which is quite controllable. Because our study is just retrospective cross-sectional design, limitations do exist. One of the limitations is that we could not get any data about the CV risk factors, smoking history, medications etc., because the clinicians only recorded the main diagnosis to apply CT scan. To solve the problem, under the guidance of the results of present study, we would conduct prospective cohort study in the future to learn more about the details. Moreover, the data about statistic analysis of spleen volume between large and small AAA sizes has been shown in the quantitative analysis of spleen volume section of the method part, though we did not show the data in a table. If you think it necessary, we will modify the graphs to add the data in a table.

Were these patients seen by a physician in a clinic or otherwise that recorded their comorbidities? If yes, these files should be reviewed and the information entered into Table 1 as suggested. If you are able to exclude patients with 'conditions that may increase spleen size' you should also be able to obtain other clinical information I would think.

2. Otherwise I have no new comments.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes
Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?  
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?  
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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No conflicts

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