Author’s response to reviews

Title: A phase II study of intraoperative radiotherapy using a low-energy x-ray source for resectable pancreatic cancer: a study protocol

Authors:

Jun Won Kim (junwon@yuhs.ac)
Yeona Cho (iamyona@yuhs.ac)
Hyung Sun Kim (milk8508@yuhs.ac)
Won Hoon Choi (wonhoon@yuhs.ac)
Joon Seong Park (jspark330@yuhs.ac)
Ik Jae Lee (ikjae412@yuhs.ac)

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Author’s response to reviews:

This letter provides our response to the reviewers’ comments regarding the revised manuscript “A phase II study of intraoperative radiotherapy using a low-energy x-ray source for resectable pancreatic cancer: a study protocol” (BSUR-D-18-00589R1). Thank you very much for your positive review, and we look forward to the publication of our manuscript in BMC Surgery.

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Your manuscript "A phase II study of intraoperative radiotherapy using a low-energy x-ray source for resectable pancreatic cancer: a study protocol" (BSUR-D-18-00589R1) has been assessed by our reviewers. Based on these reports, and my own assessment as Editor, I am pleased to inform you that it is potentially acceptable for publication in BMC Surgery, once you have carried out some essential revisions:

1. Please provide Ethics Committee approval certification.

Response:

We have uploaded an English version of Ethics Committee Approval Letter of our trial as a supplementary material.

2. In the section 'Funding', please also describe the role of the funding body/bodies in the design of the study and collection, analysis, and interpretation of data and in writing the manuscript.
Response:

We have provided the role of the funding bodies as follows (in page 14):

This work was supported by the Faculty Research Grant from Yonsei University College of Medicine (6-2016-0094) and the Basic Science Research Program through the National Research Foundation of Korea (NRF), funded by the Ministry of Education, Republic of Korea (2017R1D1A1B03035047). These funding sources approved this study; however, they had no role in the design of this study and will not have any role during its execution, analyses, interpretation of the data, writing the manuscript, or decision to submit results.

3. At this stage, please upload your manuscript as a single, final, clean version that does not contain any tracked changes, comments, highlights, strikethroughs or text in different colours. All relevant tables/figures/additional files should also be clean versions. Figures (and additional files) should remain uploaded as separate files.

Response:

We have uploaded a clean version of our manuscript as instructed.