Author’s response to reviews

Title: Survival After Lobectomy Versus Sub-Lobar Resection in Elderly with Stage I NSCLC: A Meta-analysis

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Author’s response to reviews:

Thanks for editor and reviewer's help. Those comment are all valuable and very helpful for revising and improving our paper, as well as the umportant guiding significance to our reserachers. We have studied comments carefully and have made correction which we hope meet with approval.

Editor Comments:
1. Please remove the Authorship Change form, and if you have not done so, please email a copy to BMCSeriesEditorial@biomedcentral.com

We removed the Authorship Change form. Thanks for your reminding.

2. Please remove the completed MOOSE and PRISMA guidelines, as they are no longer needed at this stage.

We removed the MOOSE and PRISMA guidelines. Thanks.

3. Please remove the Table legends from the Figure Legends section, table legends should just be included alongside the tables in the main text.

We modified the manuscript according to your demand. Thanks.
4. Please change "Figure caption" to "Figure Legends".

According to your suggestion, we have corrected the "Figure caption" into "Figure Legends".

5. Please consider the list of authors as it currently stands with reference to our guidelines regarding qualification for authorship (http://www.biomedcentral.com/submissions/editorial-policies#authorship).

Yes. We add an author, Steven A. Roberts, as he take part in revising the manuscript both the second and third revisions. And as the reviewer’s recommendation, we update the searched to identify newer relevant articles. Steven A. Roberts undertaken this part of revision. The Fig one were updated according to our newer article search. The Authors’ contributions section were also updated according to the authors’ contributions. So we think he is qualified to be an author. We removed the Authorship Change form, do we need to send it to BMCSeriesEditorial@biomedcentral.com? Thanks for your suggestion and help.

6. Please amend the Availability of data and materials statement to "All data generated or analyzed during this study are included in this published article".

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Please ensure that you indicate where all of the revisions can be found in the text in the "Response to Reviewers Comments" box in Editorial Manager.

We try our best to make sure our manuscript and other files meet the journal’s requirement. Thanks.

Reviewer reports:

REQUESTED REVISIONS:
1 The search date is >1 year old. I would recommend authors to update the searches to identify any newer relevant articles.

According to your valuable suggestion, we searched the newest articles until March 2019, and we update the search results in Fig 1. Thanks.

2 Provide the clinicaltrials.gov number for the ongoing randomized trial evaluating sub-lobar resection vs lobectomy.

Thanks for your suggestion. We added the registry number which are in page 13 line 266-268.

3 Provide the complete search strategy from at least one research database.
Thanks for suggestion. Your suggestion really means a lot to us. The search strategy in PubMed is provided in page 4 line 84-88.

Publication bias evaluation using funnel plots is not ideal when total number of publications included in the pooled analysis are less than 10. Inability to assess publication bias accurately using funnel plots should be mentioned as a limitation.

Thanks for your suggestion. We add the limitation of the funnel plots to evaluate publication bias of our research in the article. Your valuable suggestion improve our article a lot.