Author’s response to reviews

Title: Subxiphoid vs transthoracic approach thoracoscopic surgery for spontaneous pneumothorax: a propensity score-matched analysis

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Version: 2 Date: 27 Mar 2019

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Dear editors,

The revised manuscript "Subxiphoid vs transthoracic approach thoracoscopic surgery for spontaneous pneumothorax: a propensity score-matched analysis" (BSUR-D-19-00028R1) has dealt with the suggested questions and improvements.

Preoperative data such as weight, height were added in the revised manuscript. According to the eligibility criteria, pulmonary risk factors (asthma) was not included.

There were no cases of postoperative bleeding, or mortality in either group.

The present study may have potential limitations. First of all, this was a retrospective study, and no postoperative pain assessment was performed. After matching, there was one woman for 31 men, and the gender distribution varied greatly.

In conclusion of this article, the subxiphoid thoracoscopic approach is an potentially alternative to VATS in selected cases, especially for bilateral surgery. Since the subxiphoid method required longer operating time and more cardiac complications in this study, causions should be taked. However this study opens an other possible alternative way to management of pneumothorax by surgery.

I look forward to hearing from you and please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Best wishes,

Liang Chen