Title: A comparison of supracostal and infracostal access in treating renal and upper ureteral stones using MPCNL with the aid of a patented system

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Author’s response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor,

On behalf of all the co-authors, please find a revised manuscript entitled “A comparison of supracostal and infracostal access in treating renal and upper ureteral stones using MPCNL with the aid of a patented system” submitted to your prestigious journal BMC Urology. In order to increase the efficacy of stone clearance, we invented a patented system (patent number ZL200820137434.6) with suctioning ability to facilitate minimally invasive PCNL (MPCNL). There were several advantages of infracostal access. These include accuracy in establishing a percutaneous tract, safety, quickness, convenience and flexibility in moving the patented sheath, and higher renal and upper ureteral stone clearance rate by one surgery.

All the authors have agreed with the contents and the data are original without publishing in any other places.

Also, we have revised the manuscript per instruction as below,

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Please revise your manuscript to include line and page numbers. Authors are asked to ensure that line numbering is included in the main text file of their manuscript at the time of submission to facilitate peer-review. Once a manuscript has been accepted, line numbering should be removed from the manuscript before publication. For authors submitting their manuscript in Microsoft Word please do not insert page breaks in your manuscript to ensure page numbering is consistent between your text file and the PDF generated from your submission and used in the review process.

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We suggest the following format (please use initials to refer to each author's contribution): AB carried out the molecular genetic studies, participated in the sequence alignment and drafted the manuscript. JY carried out the immunoassays. MT participated in the sequence alignment. ES participated in the design of the study and performed the statistical analysis. FG conceived of the study, and participated in its design and coordination and helped to draft the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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Please state in the Methods section whether written informed consent for participation in the study was obtained from participants or, where participants are children, a parent or guardian.

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Thank you for your consideration!

Sincerely,

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