Author's response to reviews

Title: Ureteral reconstruction using a tapered non-vascularized bladder graft: an experimental study in a canine animal model

Authors:
Lujia Zou (zlj_880522@163.com)
Shanhua Mao (maoshanhua@163.com)
Shenghua Liu (08301010098@fudan.edu.cn)
Limin Zhang (alexzlm1126@126.com)
Tian Yang (09301010090@fudan.edu.cn)
Yun Hu (10301010087@fudan.edu.cn)
Qiang Ding (huashanurologyqd@163.com)
Haowen Jiang (huashanurologyhwj@163.com)

Version: 2 Date: 04 Oct 2017

Author’s response to reviews:

Response Letter for Minor Revision

1) Response to previous comments from reviewer 1:

Some modifications have been made to the text of the manuscript:

- the choice of a canine experimental model: see Discussion section, Paragraph 5, Line 1-2.

- the aim of this preliminary study being the evaluation of the anatomical possibility of the technique: see Discussion section, Paragraph 5, Line 12-14. We have repeatedly emphasized on “a new substitute material” in the Background and Discussion sections.

- the degree of loss of urothelial lining and its possible causes: see Results section, Paragraph 4, Line 3-4 and Discussion section, Paragraph 5, Line 5-8.

2) iThenticate analysis:
In the iThenticate document, some textual overlaps have been pointed out, counting up to 30%. Among, 20% words are actually overlaps from a published article of our previous study. Most of overlaps are about our methods and results, which are really similar or even totally the same in both our studies. We tried our best to alter some words. We hope that it would not bother you much.

3) English language:

We have invited one of our co-authors to revise our manuscript, who is undergoing a postdoctoral course in the US.

4) Title page:

Email addresses for all co-authors are included on the title page.

5) Manuscript text:

The ‘Introduction’ header has been changed to ‘Background’.

6) Abbreviations list:

There is no abbreviation in the manuscript.

7) Declarations:

* Ethics approval and consent to participate:

The document of our ethical approval was collected by the institutional review board of our hospital. Therefore, we are afraid that the reference number cannot be offered.

* Authors’ Contributions:

The individual contributions of each author to the manuscript were specified using the authors’ initials. However, to differentiate, we remained two surnames as their initials are the same.