Author’s response to reviews

Title: Optical puncture combined with balloon dilation PCNL vs. conventional puncture dilation PCNL for kidney stones without hydronephrosis: a retrospective study

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Title: Optical puncture combined with balloon dilation PCNL vs. conventional puncture dilation PCNL for kidney stones without hydronephrosis: a retrospective study

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Response to Reviewers’ comments

Dear Dr. Tailly,

We thank you for your careful consideration of our manuscript. We appreciate your response and overall positive feedback, and made modifications to improve the manuscript.

We hope that you will find the revised paper suitable for publication, and we look forward to contributing to your journal. Please do not hesitate to contact us with other questions or concerns regarding the manuscript.

Best regards,
1. The abstract is the most important part of an article, because you’re aim most be to increase reader’s interest. What is an optical puncture? It is not clear from the abstract…….An abstract must be written in a proper way i.e. understand the issue without reading the complete article

Response: We thank the Reviewer for the comment. We tried to improve our abstract as much as possible. In "optical puncture", the puncture is visualized on a screen as seen through the needle. In our previous version, we used "visual puncture", but a Reviewer asked to change it to "optical puncture".

2. Abstract - Results: „The postoperative VAS score was lower (1.6±0.9 vs. 2.5±1.2, P=0.004). The rate of postoperative analgesic use was lower (14.3% [3/21] vs. 40.5% [15/37], P=0.04), and the postoperative mean hospitalization days was shorter (3.7±0.9 vs. 4.4±0.8, P=0.005)” what does it mean? comparing which groups????? Please revise

Response: We are sorry for this. It was revised.

3. Please revise the manuscript by a natural English speaker (correct tense etc).

Response: The manuscript was revised.

4. The study was subject to approved by the ethics committee of Zhejiang Provincial People's Hospital (subject to approved????)?

Response: This was corrected.

5. Why were patients tested for syphilis?

Response: We thank the Reviewer for the comment. As per the Chinese guidelines, the patient has to be tested for contagious diseases before PCNL, including syphilis.

6. What is the indication for a CT scan 1 to 3 days after surgery? To test the stone-free rate or to analyze complications? A CT scan is not indicated if there are no complications……
Response: We thank the Reviewer for the comment. In China, PCNL operations are generally conducted under ultrasound guidance because most physicians are more used to it and have been trained with it because of the low cost and higher availability. Nevertheless, postoperative routine CT examinations of the urinary system can help rule out complications, display residual stones, and help decide whether the nephrostomy tube should be removed. Previous studies suggest that some inconclusive results are to be expected when evaluating a patient using ultrasound, and imaging with a low-dose CT in these circumstances is reasonable [1-3].

7. Why were DJ stents removed 1 month after surgery and not earlier?

Response: We thank the Reviewer. Because we are a tertiary center, most of our patients are not local residents. Therefore, the DJ tubes are removed at the first re-examination at the outpatient department at 1 month after surgery.

Reviewer #3

No comments. Authors reviewed their manuscript in a good way.

Response: We thank the Reviewer for taking time to review our manuscript and for the comments.

References

