**Author’s response to reviews**

**Title:** Impact of Endourological Procedures with or without Double-J Stent on Sexual Function: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis

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**Author’s response to reviews:**

Reply Letter
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Prof. Anna Melidoni
Editor-in-Chief
BMC Urology

RE: BURO-D-19-00296R1
Impact of Endourological Procedures with or without Double-J Stent on Sexual Function: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis

Dear Prof. Melidoni
Thank you very much for arranging the timely review for our manuscript entitled “Impact of Endourological Procedures with or without Double-J Stent on Sexual Function: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis” (BURO-D-19-00296R1). We appreciate editor and reviewers’ critical comments and constructive suggestions, which enormously help improve the article. In the revised manuscript, we rephrased the sentences and made them more explicit according to the reviewers. We hope that these changes will make the manuscript finally acceptable for publication. Thank you for your consideration of our manuscript. Please do not hesitate to contact me if any further changes are needed.

Sincerely yours,
Shiyi Cao

A point-by-point response to the concerns:

Reviewer 2
Q1: 1st paragraph of Background....."An endoscope or catheter passes through the urethra, the same
tract of the male genital system, might causing potential adverse effects on sexual function" needs rephrasing and it should be substantiated from literature.

AUTHORS’ RESPONSE: Thank you for your precious time and suggestions to improve the manuscript. The sentence was amended as below:

(Background, para.1, line 2-5) Endourological procedures (EP), including percutaneous nephrolithotomy (PCNL) and ureteroscopy (URS), are strongly recommended to remove stones according to guidelines [1, 2]. However, these transurethral procedures may have adverse effects on sexual function [3]. In 2003, Joshi et al. firstly found that indwelling double-J stent resulted in sexual problems in 35% of sexually active patients [4, 5].

Q2: 1st paragraph of Background......" Inpatients also express concerns regarding ......" needs rephrasing as it not making sense.

AUTHORS’ RESPONSE: Thanks very much for your suggestion. For fluency of the manuscript, we replaced the sentence by an example from the literature. The revised paragraph is as below:

(Background, para.1, line 3-5) However, these transurethral procedures may have adverse effects on sexual function [3]. In 2003, Joshi et al. firstly found that indwelling double-J stent resulted in sexual problems in 35% of sexually active patients [4, 5].

Q3: Last paragraph of Background "The results may also promote the understanding of surgical physiology and fast recovery after surgery". Is also not clear.

AUTHORS’ RESPONSE: Thank you for the comment. In the revised manuscript, we explained this sentence more clearly. The revised sentences are as below:

(Background, para.3, line 4-6) This result is also helpful for urologists to have a comprehensive understanding of the complications of transurethral surgery. Accordingly, optimized surgical strategy could be developed to reduce complications and promote fast recovery after surgery.

Q4: The limitations should also mention the variability in the use of validated questionnaires.

AUTHORS’ RESPONSE: Thank you for the important suggestion. The variability of questionnaires should not be neglected. In the limitation, we added this point as following:

(Discussion, limitation paragraph, line2-5) In addition, the sexual function assessment questionnaires were various and the heterogeneity was high in the male groups. Addressing the effect of EP or stent on sexual function still demands well-designed and large sample studies with a standard assessment tool.

Reviewer 3
Thank you for your precious time and providing constructive suggestions to improve this manuscript.

Reference:
5. Joshi HB, Newns N, Stainthorpe A, MacDonagh RP, Keeley FX, Jr., Timoney AG: Ureteral