Author’s response to reviews

Title: Role of enteral nutrition in nonthyroidal illness syndrome: a retrospective observational study

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Version: 2 Date: 21 Aug 2015

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Reviewer reports:

Reviewer #2: This first revision of the manuscript has been significantly strengthened.

MINOR

1. Please cite a reference to support your definition of the criteria of NTIS.

   Answers: we have cited a reference to support our definition of the criteria for NTIS. The NTIS is often defined as the state of a low serum T3 concentration (compared with the normal range) in association with illness, in the absence of intrinsic disease of the
hypothalamic–pituitary–thyroid axis. Thus, we defined the NTIS in our study as FT3 level less than 3.8 pmol/L (the lower limit of the normal range).

2. Under the Methods section of "EN Therapy", "Detaily" should be changed to "In detail,..."

   Answers: we have changed the expression.

3. Table 1: The hospital cost figure is irrelevant to the baseline characteristics of the study sample and should be deleted.

   Answers: we have deleted the hospital cost in Table 1.

4. Results, Changes in Thyroid Function: Suggest rewriting this slightly to be more clear and to include the respective p-values. For example: Serum FT3 concentrations were significantly increased, from --- to --- (p= ----), while TSH, etc.

   Answers: we have re-write this part according to your suggestion.

5. Table 4: Suggest changing the orientation of the x and y axes in this table, so that the differences in the variable lab tests can be more easily visualized across rows, to include a final column reporting the respective p-values.

   Answers: we have tried to re-organized data in Table 4 according to your suggestions.