Author’s response to reviews

Title: Analysis of Risk Factors for Cervical Lymph Node Metastasis of Papillary Thyroid Microcarcinoma: A Study of 268 Patients

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Ms. Debney:

I am writing to submit a revised manuscript, entitled “Analysis of Risk Factors for Cervical Lymph Node Metastasis of Papillary Thyroid Microcarcinoma: A Study of 268 Patients” (BEND-D-19-00208R1).

The editor comments have been carefully studied. The manuscript has been revised accordingly. The changes included: 1) adding ethics approval information; 2) removing funding information from Acknowledgements; 3) removing Table 4.

As for availability of the raw data, we added a statement to the Methods section: “Anonymized patient data (in the Chinese language) are available upon request.”

With warm regards.

Fei Wang
Point-to-point responses

Editor comments

#1: Please clarify whether any administrative permissions were required to access the raw data. If so please state who granted permission in the “Ethics approval and consent to participate” section.

Author response: The current study (including access to raw data) was approved by the Ethics Committee of Shanghai Ruijin Rehabilitation Hospital. The Committee Chairman, as of the date of approval, was Ms. Yuezhen Dai. This information now appears in the first paragraph of the Methods section (page 6, lines 2-4 in the revised manuscript).

#2: Please remove the funding information from the Acknowledgements and include it in the Funding section instead. If you have no further acknowledgements please put “Not Applicable” in the Acknowledgements section.

Author response: The funding information has been removed from the Acknowledgement. It now appears in the Funding section only.

#3 Please ensure that all sources of funding are declared in the “Funding” section of your declarations.

Author response: All sources of funding are declared in the Funding section.

#4 Table 4 is not cited in the body of the manuscript, please amend this.

Author response: Table 4 contains the information of the 4 patients with skip metastasis. Following the instruction by one reviewer, I removed description of these patients from the main text, but did not remove the table. I apologize for the negligence, and have now deleted Table 4.

#5 Table 4 contains potentially identifying patient information. Due to this, please alter this table so that it is not identifying, for instance by converting the information to aggregate form.

Author response: Table 4 has been deleted from the manuscript.

Reviewer comments
Reviewer 1: The manuscript was revised according to all the suggestions made by the reviewers. I have no further comments and recommend it for publication in BMC Endocrine Disorders.

Author response: I appreciate the encouraging comment by this reviewer.