Author’s response to reviews

Title: Clinical significance of the preoperative main pancreatic duct dilation and neutrophil-tolymphocyte ratio in pancreatic neuroendocrine tumors (PNETs) of the head after curative resection

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Editor:

Thank you very much for your letter about our paper. We have checked the manuscript and revised it according to the comments. We submit here the revised manuscript.

If you have any questions about this paper, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely yours,

Bo Zhou

Editor Comments:

1. After the abbreviations section, please add a "Declarations" header.

Response: Thank you for your suggestions. We have added a "Declarations" header after the abbreviations section. Declarations section, line 317, page 15
2. 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.

Response: Thank you for your suggestions. We have added the state of administrative permissions in the “Ethics approval and consent to participate” section as follows:

“All the raw data are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request”. “Ethics approval and consent to participate” section, line 321-322, page 15

3. In the “Funding” section of your declarations, please clarify the role of the funding body in the design of the study and collection, analysis, and interpretation of data and in writing the manuscript.

Response: Thank you for your suggestions. We have added the role of the funding body in the “Funding” section as follows:

“The funder of Y201737812 and 2018C37115 was Bo Zhou who was the first and corresponding author, responsible for the overall study concept and design as well as the revision and final drafting of the manuscript”. Declarations section, line 337-340, page 16

4. Please remove the point-by-point response and language editing certificate additional files, as they are no longer needed at this stage.

Response: Thank you for your suggestions. We have removed the point-by-point response and language editing certificate additional files.

5. We note that the current submission contains some textual overlap with other previously published works, in particular:

Lines 113-114, 144-151, 158-159:


Lines 259-270:

While we understand that you may wish to express some of the same ideas contained in these publications, please be aware that we cannot condone the use of text from previously published work.

If there is overlap in the Methods section, please ensure to summarize the methods and cite the source.

Please rephrase these sections to minimise overlap.

Response: Thank you for your suggestions. We have rephrased our manuscript to minimize overlap as follows:

“Disease-free survival (DFS) was calculated as the time from initial diagnosis until relapse. Follow-up was routinely carried out every 6 months for the first 5 years and yearly thereafter. Follow-up examinations included laboratory tests and imaging techniques [12]”. Methods section, Lines 143-146, page 7

“All p values were two sided and considered significant when less than 0.05”. Methods section, Lines 157-158, page 8

“The NLR, which can reflect the systemic inflammation status, has been shown to be a reliable predictive marker for different types of cancer, such as PNET [12], pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma [15], renal cell carcinoma [26], breast cancer [14] and liver cancer [13]. Salman T et al. revealed that an advanced stage was accompanied by significantly higher NLR and platelet-to-lymphocyte ratio (PLR) in patients with NETs [27]. Recently, Luo G et al. conducted a retrospective analysis of 165 PNETs and reported that NLR was an independent predictor of overall survival for patients with PNETs [28]. Tong Z et al. demonstrated that increased NLR was related with advanced T stage, LN metastasis, tumor thrombus formation, and advanced grade in patients with PNETs [29]”. Discussion section, Lines 258-269, page 12-13

6. At this stage, please upload your manuscript as a single, final, clean version that does not contain any tracked changes, comments, highlights, strikethroughs or text in different colours. All relevant tables/figures/additional files should also be clean versions. Figures (and additional files) should remain uploaded as separate files.

Response: Thank you for your suggestions. We have uploaded the manuscript as a single, final, clean version that do not contain any tracked changes, comments, highlights, strikethroughs or text in different colors.