Author's response to reviews

Title: Variation of perioperative plasma mitochondrial DNA correlate with peak inflammatory cytokines caused by cardiac surgery with cardiopulmonary bypass

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Date: 25 May 2015

Author's response to reviews: see over
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Manuscript ID: 1654415571681448

Title: Variation of perioperative plasma mitochondrial DNA correlate with peak inflammatory cytokines caused by cardiac surgery with cardiopulmonary bypass

Author's response to reviews: see over

Dear Miss Faye Estrera Cauman,

Thank you for your letter dated May 21, 2015. Thanks a lot for the reviewers’ comments and their kind suggestions of our manuscript which was rated as an article of importance in its field by both the 2 reviewers and as potentially acceptable for publication in Journal of Cardiothoracic Surgery.

Based on the instructions provided in your letter, we uploaded the file of the revised manuscript on the journal's website.

As you wished, we provide the appended contents to this letter to explain, point by point, the details of our revisions in the manuscript and our responses to the reviewers’ comments as follows. Besides, The whole manuscript was carefully checked through and some grammar mistakes were corrected by a native speaker. We guarantee that our revised manuscript conforms to the journal style.

We hope the revised paper would satisfy you as well as the reviewers. We are looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely Yours,

Wei Meng

May 24, 2015
Reviewer’s report (1)

Title: Variation of perioperative plasma mitochondrial DNA correlate with peak inflammatory cytokines caused by cardiac surgery with cardiopulmonary bypass

Version:1 Date:5 May 2015

Reviewer: Gianni Angelini

Reviewer's report:

The study is interesting and it reports a fairly sizeable number of patients. The information can add some evidence to what is already known on the inflammatory response following cardiopulmonary bypass.

Thanks for your comments. We are a little bit confused about this comment. We stated many studies to confirm the inflammatory response following CPB. However, we can make some revision you would like to explain more specific and clearly.

My main concern is mostly the English which I think could do with some improvement.

Thanks for your comments. We had invited a native speaker to revise this paper.

A few other things are, for example, the patient characteristics which is pretty scanty in table1 - the core baseline information. Baseline information is patient characteristics and then you can have perhaps postoperative characteristics.

Thanks for your comments. We had re-write baseline information and enriched the patients’ characteristics.

All in all, it is a reasonable study. It can add some information to the literature and on balance with a little bit of English improvement it should be accepted for publication.
Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests.

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests: none

**Reviewer’s report (2)**

Title: Variation of perioperative plasma mitochondrial DNA correlate with peak inflammatory cytokines caused by cardiac surgery with cardiopulmonary bypass

Version: 1 Date: 8 May 2015

Reviewer: Antonio Miceli

Reviewer's report:

I have very few comments: Major: From a methodological point of view, I suggest to remove those patients who had acute renal failure and low cardiac output syndrome as these patients represent a bias and your data might be stronger.

Thanks for your comments. We accepted your advice and we will emphasis on these patients with severe complications in future study. We have excluded these patients and re-calculated our data. Please check it through, thanks.

Minor: In Table 1, you should report more information on baseline characteristic to delineate your patients. More information on baseline characteristics Remove all patients who had low output cardiac syndrome and that who had acute renal failure. These data may alter your results.
Thanks for your comments. We had made the changes in Table 1.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests: I declare that I have no competing interests.