Author's response to reviews

Title: Right Versus Left Transthoracic Approach for Lymph Node-negative Esophageal Squamous Cell Carcinoma

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor,

Thank you very much for your E-mail regarding the submission of our manuscript entitled “Right Versus Left Transthoracic Approach for Lymph Node-negative Esophageal Squamous Cell Carcinoma”. We would like to thank both reviewers of our manuscript for their encouragement and comments. We are pleased to hear from the reviewers that our article will be beneficial in this field. We have implemented all the concerns suggested by the reviewers. Before presenting the details, we outline the main points here and hope that the revision has responded adequately to both reviewers comments and suggestions. Firstly, we have made efforts to improve our English expressions, as proposed by both reviewers. Secondly, we have improved our tables. Thirdly, we added more references. Below we itemize the changes made while briefly addressing each of the points raised by the reviewers.

From Reviewer Mohsen Ibrahim

1). The tables are few and unclear.
   We improved our tables by adding unit for some variables; clarified names of some units’ and changed the name of table 3. On the other hand, all the tables are focusing on the objective of the article, and we think the number and the content of the tables are adequate to reveal our conclusions.

2). References are not enough for such a vast subject.
   Indeed, it seems that the number of the references is too small for our article, and we have added more authoritative references.

3) The number of patients is high, but the number of patients in the two control groups is not consistent.
   Because our research is a retrospective analysis, it is inevitable that the two control groups will be consistent. However, we adapted the multivariate analysis to exclude confounding factors.

Please consider our manuscript for publication as an original article in your journal. We look forward to receiving good news from you soon.

Sincerely,

Guowei Ma

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