Author’s response to reviews

Title: Health-related quality of life in adults undergoing transthoracic device closure of ventricular septal defect

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Dear editor and reviewers:

Thank you for your decision letter on our MS(ID JCTS-D-19-00210 entitled "Health-related quality of life in adults undergoing transthoracic device closure of ventricular septal defect") We studied the reviewer’s comments thoughtfully and found that all these comments are very constructive for revising the manuscript. We have revised the manuscript according to the comments and send it to you again.

To reviewer 1:

The reason that we chose healthy adults as the control group was to compare the quality of life of normal people and postoperative patients, so as to explore whether there was a difference in the quality of life between postoperative patients and normal people. The control group was selected from the local physical examination center, who underwent regular physical examination and were not suffered from major diseases or undergone major surgery. We added such material in the revision. We think a healthy control group is necessary. In addition, Fig 5 was changed to table 1, in which the characteristics of case group and control group were shown in detail. We added the results of comparison between the preoperative case group and the control group in order to compare the differences between them more intuitively. We would further do a research about the comparison of quality of life in adults undergoing transthoracic or transcatheter device closure of VSD.

To reviewer 2:

We revised my paper point-by-point from the reviewer’s opinion of the PDF. We tried to add clarification about “common sense findings” and “unjustified overstatements” in discussion part. We added and changed reference 14, 15, 23, 24, 25, 26 to support our opinion.
1. We changed "patients experienced overall better feelings than the control group." to "postoperative patients experienced better feelings in some dimensions than the control group." in the Abstract.

2. We deleted the reference 23 here.

3. We delete the sentence “Meanwhile, we decided to match 1:1 frequency between the control group and the case group.”

4. We deleted the sentence “The higher the score in each field, the more positive was the score.” in the Statistics.

5. We changed “It can be concluded that the quality of life score is affected by gender, age, marriage status, and education level.” to “It can be concluded that the quality of life score of adult patients who had undergone transthoracic device closure of VSD is affected by gender, age, marriage status, and education level.” in the discussion.

6. We deleted “Their psychosocial characteristics also seemed to enable them to adapt to social life as ordinary people.” in the conclusion.

Thanks for your advice.
Dr Cao