Author’s response to reviews

Title: Health-related quality of life in children and adolescents undergoing intraoperative device closure of isolated perimembranous ventricular septal defects in southeastern China

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Dear Editor:

Thank you for your decision letter on our MS(JCTS-D-19-00115 entitled “Health-related quality of life in children and adolescents undergoing intraoperative device closure of the isolated perimembranous ventricular septal defect in the south-east of China”). 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.

We revised our MS with the help of a native English speaker from AJE. We also answered the reviewer’s questions one by one. (P3L27, P3L46, P4 L49,51, P9L26, P9L35). We added a description of transthoracic device closure of VSD in Materials and Methods part as the reviewer’s opinion.

The aim of this study was to investigate the health-related quality of life in children and adolescents who underwent transthoracic device closure of perimembranous VSD, instead of exploring a comparison of the three techniques of VSD closure.(surgical with CPB, surgical with device and trans-cats device) We had reported the comparative study which the reviewer’s concerned in our teams’ previous paper.(reference 12, Fang GH, Chen Q, Hong ZN, Lin Z1, Zhang GC, Cao H, Chen LW. The Comparison of Perventricular Device Closure with
Transcatheter Device Closure and the Surgical Repair via Median Sternotomy for Perimembranous Ventricular Septal Defect. Ann Thorac Cardiovasc Surg. 2018 Dec 20;24(6):308-314.) So we had added a table (the data derived from the reference 12) and a statement in the discussion part about the comparison of the three techniques of VSD closure(included percentages for CHB/ppm, brain damage and death, length of stay, cost). Such a table could answer the reviewer’s concerns, but I’m not sure such a change is appropriate.

Thanks for your advice.

Dr Chen