Author’s response to reviews

Title: Comparison of quality of life in patients who underwent mechanical mitral valve replacement: Star GK vs SJM

Authors:

Jiang-shan Huang (huangjiangshan2013@163.com)
Ning Xu (xuning2014@126.com)
Kai-peng Sun (sunkaipeng2014@163.com)
Zhi-nuan Hong (hongzhinuan@163.com)
Liang-Wan Chen (chenliangwan0781@163.com)
Yur-Ren Kuo (kuoyrren@gmail.com)
qiang chen (chenqiang2228@163.com)

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Dear Editor and Reviewers:

Thank you for your decision letter on our MS(JCTS-D-19-00178 entitled “Comparison of the impact on quality of life between the mechanical Star GK and SJM valves after mitral valve replacement in the Chinese population”). 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:

This is a retrospective observational study, not a prospective randomized trial, and it is limited by its retrospective nature and possible deviation in case selection. we also agree that the prospective controlled study is more statistically significant, but we still consider our paper also has some clinical significance. We added this section of comment in the limitation part. We plan to complete the prospective study next.

We added reference to each questionnaire and employed method according the reviewer’s opinion. (We used SF-36 to measure the HRQoL5-7and valve-specific questions8 to evaluate patient anxiety. To provide more evidence, 3 self-designed questions were added.9 The Noise measurement method refer to reference 10.)
Our research has been approved by the ethics committee of our university (No: 2013002), but it has not been registered on the Internet. Is it ok?

We changed the title to “Comparison of quality of life in patients who underwent mechanical mitral valve replacement: Star GK vs SJM”.

We added “The scores of the SF-36 were analyzed by t-tests, and the answers to the self-questionnaire were analyzed by chi-squared tests.” in Statistical Analysis part.

To Reviewer 2:

It’s our pleasure to provide you some supportive opinion for this manuscript. The surgeons should consider and discuss with the patients the “clicking” of mechanical valves and its impact on patients’ quality of life.

Thanks for your attention.

Chen