Author’s response to reviews

Title: Ventilation strategies with different inhaled Oxygen concentration during Cardiopulmonary Bypass in cardiac surgery (VONTCPB): study protocol for a randomized controlled trial

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Responses to the reviewers’ comments

We would like to thank the reviewers for their efforts in improving our paper. Our point-by-point responses to the reviewers’ and the editorial’ comments are as follows.

Ana Kowark, M.D. (Reviewer2):

1: In the discussion, you have written "The primary endpoints are clinical relevance." Do you mean: The primary endpoints are clinically relevant?

Response: Yes, that is exactly what we mean. We have revised “The primary endpoints are clinical relevance” to “The primary endpoints are clinically relevant”.
2. Discussion: The next sentence beginning with "The purpose of..." is difficult to understand. Please rewrite it.

Response: We have rewritten this sentence: “The purpose of setting ventilator parameters in this way is to make the ventilation closer to the general.”

3. Discussion: Please rewrite the following sentences as follows: "Compared with other hospitals, there are probably differences in the clinical practice. It is questionable whether the conclusion drawn by the VONTCPB trial can be applied in other hospitals.”

Response: We have rewritten the sentences: “It is questionable whether the conclusion drawn by the VONTCPB trial can be applied in other hospitals because of the different clinical practice in other hospitals.”

4. Fig 1: I do not see a corresponding check in the last column for 30 days after surgery. maybe you could add lines in the figure, so that the "X" marks could be easier identified.

Response: Thank you for your thoughtful advice. In order to make it easier to be identified, we have redesigned the Figure 1.