

ANSWERING REVIEWERS

June 25, 2014

Dear Editor,



Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format
(file name: 11094-review.doc).

Title: Comparing anterior approach with conventional approach during hepatectomy in patients with large liver cancer: A meta-analysis

Author: Lei Li, Hai-Qing Wang, Qing Wang, Jian Yang, Jia-Yin Yang

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 11094

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

1 Format has been updated

2 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer

(1) **Comment:** Grammatical mistakes and typing errors

Response: We have checked and corrected the mistake according to the reviewers' comment and suggestion. The manuscript has been edited by professional English language editing companies.

(2) **Comment:** Methods, Data extraction and quality assessment, line 8, please define "RCT" at its first use in text.

Response: We have defined the "RCT" at its first use in text as "randomized controlled trials"

(3) **Comment:** Results, Search results and characteristics, line 9, ... ranged from 25 to "160". Should the "160" be "188"? because Li et al (2010) ref 11 has 92+96 patients.

Response: After examination, the calculation error has been corrected in the manuscript. The correct result is "188" .

(4) **Comment:** The P values showed in the Results should be marked for heterogeneity, otherwise the readers might think they are P values for overall effect.

Response: In order to avoid readers misunderstanding, we have redefined the P values in the results for overall effect, according to **MATERIALS AND METHODS Statistical analysis**, Heterogeneity was explored by χ^2 test with significance setting at $P = 0.10$, and I^2 statistics were used for the evaluation of statistical heterogeneity ($I^2 \geq 50\%$ indicating presence of heterogeneity). We have used I^2 statistics marking for heterogeneity.

(5) **Comment:** Discussion, last paragraph, ... patients in AAH group have “less intraoperative blood loss”,... . According to the Results, the meta-analysis showed no significantly difference in blood loss between AAH and CAH group?

Response: We have rewritten the discussion, last paragraph, ... patients in AAH group have “less intraoperative blood loss”. The correct expression should be “ In conclusion, patients in AAH group have less transfusion requirement, tumor recurrence and mortality than CAH group. However, anterior approach did have no advantages on blood loss, morbidity and hospital stay over conventional approach after right hepatectomy.”

(6) **Comment:** Table 3, Tumor(:CM), what does “:CM” mean?

Response: “CM” was a letter capitalize error in an acronym. “cm” means centimeter. We have corrected in Table 3

(7) **Comment:** Please rewrite the methods in the abstract, they are unclear.

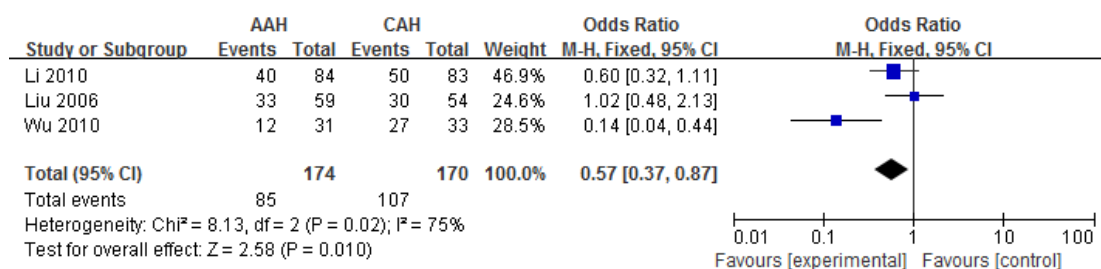
Response: we have rewrite the methods in the abstract, according to requirements and the reviewers’ comments

(8) **Comment:** In the paragraph “Blood loss”, the authors reported “The analysis indicated that no significantly difference in blood loss between the two groups (WMD:-0.43, 95%CI: -1.19 to 0.34, P=0.005, I2=87%).”. Please check the p-value.

Response: After examination, we have corrected “The analysis indicated that no significantly difference in blood loss between the two groups (WMD:-0.43, 95%CI: -1.19 to 0.34, P=0.005, I2=87%).” as “The analysis indicated that no significantly difference in blood loss between the two groups (WMD:-0.43, 95%CI: -1.19 to 0.34, P=0.27, I2=87%).”

(9) **Comment:** In the paragraph “Tumor recurrence”, the authors reported “Our meta-analysis showed that the recurrence rate of AAH group is less than the CAH group (OR=0.57, 95%CI: 0.37 to 0.87, P=0.02, I2=75%).” How the authors have reached this result is not clear, please provide more details and the meta-analysis.

Response: we have rewrite the above meta-analysis result as “the meta-analysis of included three trails^[7,13,14] showed that the recurrence rate of AAH group is less than the CAH group (OR = 0.57, 95%CI: 0.37 to 0.87, P = 0.01, I² = 75%).”



(10) **Comment:** Table 4: in the study of Li et al. 2010 [11] and Capussotti et al. 2012 [15], please indicate if the value are mean or median as in the other studies.

Response: we have indicated the values “in the study of Li et al. 2010 and Capussotti et al. 2012 ”are mean \pm standard deviation (SD) in Table 4

3 References and typesetting were corrected

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Sincerely yours,

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