

## Responses to the Reviewer's Comments

We appreciate your timely review with professional comments and suggestions. These will be very helpful for the improvement of the quality of our paper.

Here are the responses to your comments:

*1.The manuscript has a number of issues with its usage of the English language. At present it is quite hard to read, the typographical and grammatical issues should be addressed.*

Response:

Thank you for your comments.

First, we co-worked with Prof. Ji-Hong Wei, Ph.D and deputy chair at the Department of Applied Linguistics of Peking University Health Science Center (PUHSC). We pursued and polished the language in the paper and went through the discourse to doublecheck the cohesion and coherence of the whole paper. We also made necessary adjustments to the format of the paper as requested. Next, with the help of the *American Journal Experts* (AJE), recommended by the World Journal of Gastroenterology, our paper was examined and further polished carefully by the native English experts. The AJE has ensured that the content of the article be accurate and expressive, and the English level of the paper is graded as A.

*2.The manuscript title is misleading. I rather think the authors are refering to hepatolithiasis patients treated by Oddi sphincter preserved cholangioplasty with hepatico-subcutaneous stoma. Moreover, this is not a controlled study. Thus, I suggest changing the manuscript title to "Oddi sphincter preserved cholangioplasty with hepatico-subcutaneous stoma for hepatolithiasis: a single-center eastern experience".*

Response:

Thank you for your comments.

Many thanks for pointing this out from a professional perspective. As discussed with Prof. Zhi Xu, the corresponding author of our paper and with other co-authors, we decided to respect your suggestion, and we have now replaced the title from "*Surgical Therapy For Hepatolithiasis: A Single-Center Eastern Experience*" to "*Oddi Sphincter Preserved Cholangioplasty With Hepatico-Subcutaneous Stoma For Hepatolithiasis: A Single-Center Eastern Experience*". We sincerely apologize for the misleading part of the title we initially used.

*3.Abstract is redundant please shorten it.*

Response:

Thank you for your comments.

As suggested, we have curtailed the original abstract to make it more brief and concise. Hope this updated abstract will meet your requirement.

*4.Please clarify the limitation of the study.*

Response:

Thank you for your comments.

Thank you for your reminder. We noticed that the limitation of the study is an important part of this paper, and it should be carefully discussed. So, in the last but one paragraph of Discussion, we added the limitation of our study and clarified the limitation accordingly.

*5.The materials of the patients from this retrospective study were not in very high quality, more like a working summary, which influenced the quality of whole article.*

Response:

Thank you for your comments.

Based on our experiences during the past two decades, we noticed that severe reflux cholangitis could happen after the deprivation of the sphincter of Oddi, which may lead to a high recurrent rate of pigment stone in the remaining bile duct. Clinically, the control group is hard to set because some patients' Oddi sphincter is damaged iatrogenically. However, we will try to solve this issue in the near future by carrying out a multiple center survey to investigate the advantages and disadvantages of OSPCHS.

Best regards

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