

## **Point-by-point responses**

**WJD 2020-05-26**

**Manuscript NO.: 56431**

### **Risk of anemia in morbidly obese patients after bariatric surgery in Taiwan**

#### **Reviewer #1:**

thank you for the interesting paper and review. However I would suggest few data on the hemoglobin level before surgery since the obese patients have malabsorption as well.

#### **Answer:**

Thank you for the kind review.

We conducted nationwide population-based cohort study based on Taiwanese National Health Insurance Research Database [NHIRD]. We obtain patient information including the disease ICD code from the NHIRD. But we could not retrieve the hemoglobin level from the data base.

As your important viewpoint, the prevalence of anemia among the obese patient may interfere the results of post-bariatric surgery anemia. To reduce the influence of pre-surgery anemia, the patients with pre-surgery anemia should be excluded from the study group. Therefore, our study group are recruited and analyzed after the exclusion of those who diagnosed anemia before the index date. (As we mentioned in Results section, page 9, line 198). We also add the explanation into the limitations in discussion section (Discussion section, page 13, line 324, 326)

**Reviewer #2: This is an interesting and meaningful study, and I recommend accept.**

#### **Answer:**

We are so grateful for your kind words. Thank you very much.