Systematic review and meta-analysis on laparoscopic cystectomy in bladder cancer: reply letter

Jialiang Zhu, Ziwen Lu, Wanbo Chen, Mang Ke, Xianguo Cai

Department of Urology, Taizhou Hospital of Zhejiang Province Affiliated to Wenzhou Medical University, Taizhou, China
Correspondence to: to: Xianguo Cai. No.150 Ximen Street, Linhai City, Taizhou, China. Email: mccaixianguo@126.com.
Response to: Tu J, Bao W, Ye X, *et al.* Laparoscopic radical cystectomy could be used in the clinical surgical treatment of bladder cancer patients. Transl Androl Urol 2022;11:731-2.

We thank Tu *et al.* for their comments on the systematic review and meta-analysis: Systematic review and meta-analysis on laparoscopic cystectomy in bladder cancer (1). The mean difference (MD) is the difference between the mean of the experimental group and the mean of the control group, while standard mean difference (SMD) is the difference between the means of the experimental group and the control group divided by the mean standard deviation. In the paper, the weighted mean difference (WMD) and MD are used to analyze continuous variables. For the indicators with uniform units of statistical variables, MD is applied for analysis. For indicators with different units of variables, WMD is for analysis to eliminate the influence of units and to make MDs of different dimensions can be combined (2). However, there are no differences in the units of intraoperative blood loss, operation time, length of hospital stays, and usage of analgesics in the included literature, so MD is used in the main text for analysis.

In this paper, RevMan 5.3 software was used to analyze the data rate. For RevMan5.3 software, the relative risk (RR) refers to the ratio of the incidence of exposure factors in the experimental group to that in the control group. The odds ratio (OR) refers to the ratio of the exposure odds in two groups, which is the ratio of the number of cases that exposure factors occurred to that with no occurrence in the experimental group, to the ratio of the same in the control group (3). When the incidence of exposure factors studied is low, OR≈RR; therefore, RR can also be converted to OR and then merged (4). *Fig. 6* in the article represents a comparison of the blood transfusion rate of patients in the two groups. Since the incidence of blood transfusion is low

for the included research objects, the OR value is adopted for analysis.

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Footnote

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Ethical Statement: The authors are accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

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