

Peer Review File

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To Reviewer A:

Comment 1: The subject matter of the paper is interesting and highlights the added cost of septic complications to oncology patients. There are many modifications that I consider necessary before the paper is fit for publication that would add value to the authors work. I would recommend writing the paper using the CHEERS statement (<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/23531108/>) as to standardize the manner in which it is reported.

Reply 1: Thank you for this suggestion. According to the CHEERS statement, we checked the manuscript and modified our title and text. (see Page 1, line 3; Page 3, line 22-25).

Changes in the text: We added “a cost consequences analysis in China” in the title (see Page 1, line 3) and “Considering the impact of inflation and cost changes, the conversion between RMB and US dollar was based on the average value of each month's exchange rate calculated by the People's Bank of China from January 2015 to December 2019 ” in the text (see Page 3, line 22-25).

Comment 2: I would also recommend that the economic data be also available in U.S. dollars, so that people in other parts of the world can more easily understand the amounts of money being spent on patient care, as most people in Europe and the Americas are not familiar with the Chinese yuan, but are in constant contact with the dollar.

Reply 2: We changed RMB to U.S. dollars and modified our text as advised (see Page 2, line 11; Page 4, line 11-12, line 14, line 25-26; Table2).

Changes in the text: We modified our text as advised (see Page 2, line 11; Page 4, line 11-12, line 14, line 25-26; Table2).

Comment 3: Since the paper spans 4 years, there should be adjustments for inflation and cost changes, I did not see that on the paper and recommend that it be added to give a clearer picture of the exact economic implications and present-day costs.

Reply 3: Considering the impact of inflation and cost changes, the conversion between RMB and US dollar was based on the average value of each month's exchange rate calculated by the People's Bank of China from January 2015 to December 2019. We added this in the text (see Page 3, line 22-25).

Changes in the text: See Page 3, line 22-25 for details.

Comment 4: I would also like to see the way the per item costs were generated, that way the reader can get a clearer picture of how the pricing model used can impact the cost of antibiotics, per-day hospitalization costs among others. It is clear that a great effort was done to match patients with their control, but in surgical costing, the way

you determine prices per item is very important and adding this would be of great use to the reader.

Reply 4: We were sorry for that. This study was a retrospective study and unable to evaluate the cost of the interventions. We hope that there will be more prospective studies to evaluate the interventions in health economics in the future

Changes in the text: No Change.

Comment 5: Some grammatical errors are present, especially in the discussion section.

Reply 5: We modified our text as advised (see Page 2, line 8, line 10-11, line 14-15, line 19, line 26-30; Page 3, line 1-2, line 4, line 28-20; Page 4, line 23; Page 5, line 1, line 3, line 5, line 8, line 13-15, line 30; Page 6, line 9-10, line 12, line 18).

Changes in the text: See Page 2, line 8, line 10-11, line 14-15, line 19, line 26-30; Page 3, line 1-2, line 4, line 28-20; Page 4, line 23; Page 5, line 1, line 3, line 5, line 8, line 13-15, line 30; Page 6, line 9-10, line 12, line 18 etc.