

**Answer to the Letter to the Editor of J. Huang et al. concerning  
“Risk factors for surgical site infection and urinary tract infection  
after spine surgery” by Tominaga H, Setoguchi T, Ishidou Y,  
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Dear Sir,

We thank you for your interest in our article entitled “Risk factors for surgical site infection and urinary tract infection after spine surgery”, and we are very grateful for the kind comments. Our responses are as follows:

We did not exclude risk factors of UTI preoperatives, such as urinary tract abnormalities, blockages in the urinary tract. In the current study, there is a possibility that the SSI group might include asymptomatic UTI patients.

However, we performed preoperative urine test strip routinely. And so, we can differentiate that spine surgery was the primary or secondary risk factors of postoperative UTIs.

We appreciate the opportunity to respond to the concerns of the authors of the letter.

**Compliance with ethical standards**

**Conflict of interest** The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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