Author’s response to reviews

Title: Eyebrow hairs from actinic keratosis patients harbor the highest number of cutaneous human papillomaviruses

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Editor,

Thank you for the final comment on our submission (MS: 1384423676897003) to BMC INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

We hope that our manuscript is now suitable for publication in BMC INFECTIOUS DISEASES and would like to thank you for your consideration.

Editor Comment 1: We note from the reviewers comments that these patient samples have been previously used in another article (Br J Derm 2009). Could you clarify if this is the case and if so clearly indicate this within the methods section (and cite the article)?

Answer: We have used the same patient biopsies (Ak lesions and normal skin) in a previously reported study analyzing the mutations of p53, p16 and H-Ras. In the present study we analyzed the presence of cutaneous HPV types in these samples and additionally in eyebrow hairs. This is indicated in the methods section of our revised manuscript and cited.

"This study was designed according to a previously reported study analyzing the tumor-specific mutations of p53, p16INK4a and Ha-Ras in immunocompetent AK patients [31]."