Author's response to reviews

Title: Relationships between the ABO blood group SNP rs505922 and breast cancer phenotypes: a genotype-phenotype correlation study

Authors:

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Version: 2 Date: 19 April 2012

Author's response to reviews:

Dear Dr. Sands,

Thank you for your consideration of our manuscript entitled “Relationships between the ABO blood group SNP rs505922 and breast cancer phenotypes: a genotype-phenotype correlation study” (MS: 1928199137637432). We have addressed the reviewers’ comments below. Responses to the reviewers’ comments are below; changes in the manuscript are highlighted in yellow.

Reviewer 1:

Reviewer's report
Title: Relationships between the ABO blood group SNP rs505922 and breast cancer phenotypes: a genotype-phenotype correlation study
Version: 1 Date: 17 February 2012
Reviewer: Yoshihiko Kominato
Reviewer's report:
Acceptable for publication
Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
Quality of written English: Acceptable
Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.
Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests' below.
No revisions suggested by reviewer 1.

Reviewer 2:

Reviewer's report
Title: Relationships between the ABO blood group SNP rs505922 and breast
cancer phenotypes: a genotype-phenotype correlation study
Version: 1 Date: 11 March 2012
Reviewer: Mingzhou Guo
Reviewer's report:
Seth Rummel et al entitled “Relationships between the ABO blood group SNP rs505922 and breast cancer phenotypes: a genotype-phenotype correlation study” is a short report. The work is simple but the result is reliable. Even though they got negative result but is publishable.
Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests
Quality of written English: Acceptable
Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.
No revisions suggested by reviewer 1.
Reviewer 3:
Reviewer's report
Title: Relationships between the ABO blood group SNP rs505922 and breast cancer phenotypes: a genotype-phenotype correlation study
Version: 1 Date: 28 March 2012
Reviewer: Julia Greer
Reviewer's report:
Discretionary Revisions
Overall, this manuscript is beautifully-written and well-organized and designed. I feel that it addresses an area of research that holds great interest and its findings are valuable for risk stratification and breast cancer prevention.
The only issue that I would recommend addressing would be to add a statement in the discussion that mentions the limitation of small cell size for some of the clinicopathological variables. For instance, there were only 4-5 patients in the certain cells, particularly of the CC genotype.
Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field
Quality of written English: Acceptable
Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.
Declaration of competing interests:
No competing interests
We thank Reviewer 3 for her comment re: the effect of small sample size in some of the groups. On her suggestion, we have added the following to the end of the third paragraph in the discussion:

It should be noted, however, stratification of genotyping data into phenotypic groups did, for certain characteristics, result in small sample size (e.g., when stratified by subtype, only 4, 5 and 6 patients with the CC genotype had luminal B, HER2-enriched and triple negative tumors, respectively). Detection of association between genotype and phenotype where the sample size was small could, therefore, be masked.