Author's response to reviews

Title: Two novel missense mutations in the myostatin gene identified in Japanese patients with Duchenne muscular dystrophy

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Dear Dr. Norton,

It is my great pleasure to hear that our manuscript (MS: 8093524641197856) would be accepted for publication in BMC Medical Genetics after revision. I appreciate all suggestions and comments from two reviewers and totally agree with them. Therefore I corrected our manuscript based on your suggestions and comments.

The most important point that was added to this revised manuscript was data of mutation analysis of the 3' untranslated region of the myostatin where a disease causing mutation was identified in the sheep myostatin gene. This revision consolidates our results.

I am sending our revised manuscript entitled "Two novel missense mutations in the myostatin gene identified in Japanese patients with Duchenne muscular dystrophy" for the publication in BMC Medical Genetics. On behalf of all co-authors I declare that this is an original manuscript and not under the review for any other journal.

I hope this revised manuscript is accepted for publication.

The followings are answers to comments from each reviewer;

Reviewer 1
I appreciate your reviewing of our manuscript and giving comments.
1) I revised the sentence to make the meaning clear and added the reference.
2) One report says that a polymorphism in the myostatin gene correlated with a hypertrophic response to muscle strength training. Therefore, I think a large scale studies are necessary to get a conclusion on our hypothesis.
3) The sentence was revised and one fact was inserted to explain the rationale.
4) Sentences were revised according to your suggestion.
5) I agree with your opinion and replaced the word of mutation with polymorphism. Other minor points were edited as you pointed out.

Reviewer 2
I appreciate your comments and suggestions to our manuscript.
i) As a mutation in the 3' untranslated region was disclosed in the sheep myostatin gene, additional results concerning a nucleotide change in the 3' untranslated region was included in this revised manuscript.
ii) The reference reporting a hypertrophic response to muscle strength training was cited

Sincerely yours

Masafumi Matsuo MD PhD