Author's response to reviews

Title: Radiation Therapy for Desmoplastic Medulloblastoma - A Retrospective Analysis of Outcome and Prognostic Factors

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Ms Neilan,

today we are submitting our re-re-revised original article entitled

**Outcome and Prognostic Factors of Desmoplastic Medulloblastoma treated within a Multidisciplinary Treatment Concept**

The data presented in this analysis were acquired retrospectively and anonymously. Therefore and in accordance with policies at our institution, no official approval by the local ethics committee was necessary. A statement was added in the methods section.

Please find below a point-to-point response to the concerns raised by the referees. All corresponding changes in the manuscript are highlighted in red colour.

**Referee 2: Christian Senft**

ad 1: Data were corrected in the methods section. Two patients were lost to follow-up briefly after diagnosis of recurrent disease. They were not regarded as dead, but survival data were calculated from the initial diagnosis until the last available date of follow-up at our institution.

ad 2: Due to the large number of censored patients, providing detailed data on OS, LPFS and DPFS for each non-prognostic factor (n=21) would not enhance the manuscript, but confront potential readers with extensive information of questionable statistical and medical relevance. We added a comment in the discussion.
ad 3: The data were corrected. One patient had received sole preirradiation chemotherapy and was now added to the subcohort description, so the percentage of patients who received chemotherapy now sums up to 100%.

ad 4: A statement on the limiting factor of how “complete resection” was defined, is now included in the discussion.

ad 5: This phrase was deleted from the abstract.

ad 6: A website address was added to the citation.

We hope that our manuscript is now suitable for publication in BMC Cancer and look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely

Dr. Stephanie Combs and Dr. Stefan Rieken
For all co-authors