Author's response to reviews

Title: Differential survival following trastuzumab treatment based on quantitative HER2 expression and HER2 homodimers in a clinic-based cohort of patients with metastatic breast cancer.

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Point-by-point responses to the reviewers’ comments on the first revision of “Differential survival following trastuzumab treatment based on quantitative HER2 expression and HER2 homodimers in a clinic-based cohort of patients with metastatic breast cancer” MS: 7112649042625397.

Points raised by Shaheenah Dawood

1. A summary of patient and tumor characteristics.

As suggested, we have added descriptions of patient and tumor characteristics at the beginning of the results section.

2. Chemotherapy prior to trastuzumab treatment.

For the 66 patients with recurrence, we analyzed the number of pre-chemotherapy received after recurrence. We have added a footnote at the bottom of Table 1 to explain it.

3. IHC measurements.

In the second row, we showed the summary of IHC which was obtained by the central pathological review. Therefore, the discrepancy was observed between the first and second rows for IHC. We have revised the header of the row to avoid some confusion by readers.