Author's response to reviews

Title: Insulin-like growth factor 2 mRNA binding protein 3 (IGF2BP3) overexpression in pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma correlates with poor survival

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Dr. Norton,

Thank you very much for considering our manuscript for publication in BMC Cancer. Please find enclosed our revised manuscript for resubmission.

We have addressed the following points, as outlined by your reviewers:

Reviewer 1 (Dr. R. Smith):
ad 1: We have performed a multivariate analysis to determine the independent effects of IGF2BP3.

ad 2: While we agree that IHC can be very variable, our study had the benefit of utilizing a TMA, thus having very limited IHC variability. We have mentioned this in the manuscript.

ad 3: The biological difference might be small, but statistically significant. Our patient cohort was followed for two years, which is reflected in a “flattening” off the graph. This might indicate that some patient might not die from the index disease.

Reviewer 2 (Dr. H. Tsuda):
ad 1: We have changed the title to reflect “overexpression” of IGF2BP3. Figure 1 is showing overexpression, but divided into high and low level positivity. We have changed this into high and low level ‘overexpression’.

ad 2: We have performed a multivariate analysis to determine the independent effects of IGF2BP3.

ad 3: We rescored the TMA and have indicated so in the manuscript. Discordant cases were decided upon by consensus.

ad 4: EGFR expression might be of great interest in pancreatic adenocarcinoma and we are thankful for the suggestion to compare EGFR expression with IGF2BP3. However, we feel that this comparison is beyond the scope of the current study, but we intend to study this in a future project.

ad4: We have added the company name.
Reviewer 3 (Dr. C. Kahlert):

ad 1: We have added AJCC stage and Resection status information for our patient cohort.

ad 2: Univariate survival analysis on AJCC stage group, resection status and chemotherapy did not show any statistical significant difference and we thus did not show this data. We indicated the lack of survival difference in the manuscript.

ad 3: We have performed a multivariate analysis to determine the independent effects of IGF2BP3.

We hereby resubmit our article entitled: Insulin-like growth factor 2 mRNA binding protein 3 (IGF2BP3) overexpression in pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma correlates with poor survival, to be considered for publication in BMC Cancer.

We hope that your reviewers will agree that we have addressed all of their suggestions.

Thank you for undertaking the review of this submission.

Yours sincerely,

David F. Schaeffer, MD (on behalf of the authors)