Author's response to reviews

Title: Quantitative methylation profiling in tumor and matched morphologically normal tissues from breast cancer patients

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor,

We would like to resubmit our manuscript entitled ‘Quantitative methylation profiling in tumor and matched morphologically normal tissues from breast cancer patients’ by Ilse Van der Auwera et al. We carefully took the comments into account and accommodated the remarks in a revised paper (as indicated below). All changes to the manuscript are underlined in the text.

- We have discussed the limited sample size of the normal breast tissues from healthy women on page 11 of the discussion. In the materials & methods section (page 6) we have added a sentence explaining that the normal breast tissues from healthy women did not show any pathological changes.

- We have added a sentence in the results section (page 10) explaining the fact that we did not investigate the association between methylation changes in normal breast tissue from healthy women and age. In the discussion (page 11) we clarified that the association between age and methylation was investigated on normal breast tissue from cancer patients.

- We have expanded our discussion regarding methylation as a predisposing event for cancer on page 11.

- We have stated that all study protocols were reviewed and approved by the Ethical Committee of our hospital (page 6).

Hoping for a positive answer, we are thanking you in advance.

Yours sincerely,

Ilse Van der Auwera