Author's response to reviews

Title: Efficacy of Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor targeting in advanced chordoma: case report and literature review

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May 9, 2011
Dear Editor-in-Chief,

Please, find enclosed a paper by Launay et al entitled “Efficacy of Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor targeting in advanced chordoma: case report and literature review”, that we would like to submit to BMC Cancer as a Case Report.

This work has not been previously published or submitted elsewhere for review, and its publication has been approved by all co-authors.

In this paper, we report on a patient with EGFR-overexpressing advanced chordoma that progressed on imatinib and subsequently responded to erlotinib during 12 months. Biological analysis of the tumor is described.

Chordomas are very rare low-grade malignant bone tumors characterized by slow growth and long history with frequent local relapses, and sometimes metastases. Today, there is no standard systemic therapy for advanced chordoma, which remains incurable. Chemotherapy is not efficient. Our case represents the fourth case of advanced chordoma benefiting from EGFR inhibitors, and the second one treated with erlotinib alone in literature. We review these four cases, as well as the literature concerning the rationale and potential of EGFR targeting in chordoma. We think that EGFR targeting represents a new promising therapeutic mean in advanced chordoma for which other therapeutic solutions are very limited. Given the scarcity of disease and the time required before the results of clinical trials are available, we think that clinical cases like ours should help the medical and scientific community to manage patients with advanced chordoma and to boost research.
We hope this manuscript will be favorably considered. Thank you for your help and consideration in the matter.

Sincerely yours,

Pr François BERTUCCI