Author's response to reviews

Title: Neoadjuvant imatinib in patients with locally advanced non metastatic GIST in the prospective BFR14 trial

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

Please find enclosed a revised version of our manuscript by Bléïs et al entitled “Neoadjuvant imatinib in patients with locally advanced non metastatic GIST in the prospective BFR14 trial” resubmitted for possible publication in *BMC Cancer*.

We have tried to address every point raised by the reviewers.

Comments by Dr Bilimoria:

- We partially rewrote the discussion in order to emphasise the selection biases and minimise the survival differences.
- The abstract was amended as suggested and the typographical error in table 1 corrected.

Comments by Dr Abbott:

- The reasons that lead to the decision to operate each patient are now listed in table 2 and discussed in the text.
- The second sentence of the second paragraph in the discussion has been rewritten to reflect the fact that resection was not microscopically complete in 3 patients.
- The second sentence of the second paragraph of the introduction has been corrected as suggested.
- The last paragraph of the result section has been incorporated to the discussion.

All authors have read and approved the final manuscript and its submission to *BMC Cancer*.

Kind regards

Dr Philippe Cassier