Author's response to reviews

Title: Safety and survival effect comparison of adjuvant tamoxifen and toremifene in premenopausal patients with ER/PR positive breast cancer: a retrospective cohort study

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

We submit our manuscript entitled "Safety and survival effect comparison of adjuvant tamoxifen and toremifene in premenopausal patients with ER/PR positive breast cancer: a retrospective cohort study" to BMC cancer for publication. We aimed to establish whether toremifene should be part of endocrine therapy for premenopausal patients with ER/PR positive breast cancer besides tamoxifen.

The expert panel of the 2009 St. Gallen Conference accepted either tamoxifen or tamoxifen plus ovarian suppression as standard endocrine therapy for premenopausal patients. Unfortunately, long-term safety data for tamoxifen have raised concerns over many widely recognized adverse events associated with this therapy; the increased risk of secondary endometrial cancers, increases in pulmonary embolism, deep vein thrombosis, and stroke. Toremifene is a synthetic analogue of tamoxifen and was developed to improve its risk–benefit profile. However, few studies have investigated the therapeutic role of toremifene as adjuvant endocrine therapy for premenopausal breast cancer patients. So we aimed to study whether toremifene is a valid and safe alternative to tamoxifen in premenopausal women with endocrine-responsive breast cancer.

The study protocol and all relevant amendments were reviewed and approved by Ethics Committees of Sun Yat-Sen Memorial Hospital (no.2, 2010).

All authors have seen the manuscript and approved to submit to your journal.

Thank you very much for your attention and consideration.

With kind personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

Fengxi Su,
Erwei Song