**Author's response to reviews**

**Title:** Characterization of genetic rearrangements in esophageal squamous carcinoma cell lines by a combination of M-FISH and array-CGH: Further confirmation of some split genomic regions in primary tumors.

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**Author's response to reviews:** see over
Dear Editor-in-Chief,

Thank you for your letter dated July 9, 2012. We appreciate your careful evaluation of our work and are grateful to the Reviewers for their valuable suggestions. We have made major revisions following your and Reviewers’ advice.

We have revised our manuscript with taking into account all your comments point by point. All amendments have been highlighted in blue in the revised manuscript. Here is how we have addressed each revision request or comment:

**Reviewer: Susanne Gollin**

**Reviewer's report:**

This manuscript is significantly improved and the results and discussion are extremely interesting and useful to the scientific community.

**Minor essential revisions:** Please make sure that Reshmi is spelled properly (not Reshimi) and that you write fluorescence rather than fluorescent in situ hybridization. Thank you.

We have changed “Reshimi” to “Reshmi”, and “fluorescent” to “fluorescence” according to the reviewer’s suggestion.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:** I declare that I have no competing interests.

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**Reviewer: Ruth MacKinnon**

**Reviewer's report:**
Comments:
This is a very comprehensive study reporting a large amount of data. The manuscript is improved but the following suggestions are made.

Compulsory revisions
1. Background paragraph 2: sentence 3 does not make sense (2 time phrases).
   We have modified the sentence, and removed the word “since”.

2. Results – copy number aberrations: List of losses and gains – authors can refer to the table instead of repeating these lists. List of gains in other cell lines – this would be easier to follow if each region was listed with its frequency.
   We have modified the results and removed the repeating contents (“copy number aberrations” of “Results” section). Besides, according to the reviewer’s suggestion we have added a list of gains with the frequency in other cell lines (Table S2).

3. Page 11, 4th line: “nearly the 67-72 Mb” – the meaning is not clear.
   We have removed the word “nearly”.

4. Correlation between split regions and clinicopathological characteristics. Have the authors investigated the relationship between 11q13 amplification and LNM?
   We have added the results of the relationship between 11q13.3-q13.4 amplification and LNM as well as the stage (Paragraph 3 in “Abstract”, last two paragraphs in “Results” and last two paragraphs in “Discussion”).

5. FRA11A is a rare fragile site. If breakage at a rare fragile site is being suggested this should be mentioned or discussed (as it would mean carriers are at a greater risk).
   We have added the description that “FRA11A is a rare fragile site” (Paragraph 8 in “Discussion” section).

Discretionary revisions:
1. The English is still a little cumbersome but as it can be understood it is acceptable.

We have changed “fluorescent” to “fluorescence” according to the reviewer’s suggestion.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests: 'I declare that I have no competing interests'

Many thanks again for your interest in our work. We hope that in its present form the article will be suitable for publication in BMC Cancer.

Sincerely Yours,

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