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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Version: 8 Date: 16 August 2012

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

Thank you for your letter dated Aug 15, 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.

1) Abstract: the sentence beginning "Especially?" suggest change to: "In particular, breakpoints that clustered at 11q13.3-q13.4 were identified in 43.3% (58/134) of ESCC tumours"
   We have modified the sentence according to the editor’s suggestion.

2) In the sentence that follows point 1 - remove the word "of"
   We have removed “of” in the sentence.

3) Abstract: ":..for appropriate uses for the ESCC cell lines" - its not clear what "uses" is referring to
   We have changed the sentence to “…appropriate uses of these ESCC cell lines for cytogenetic and molecular biological studies”.

4) Last sentence of background ":.the gene disruption" - change to "...disruption of critical genes"
   We have modified the sentence according to the editor’s suggestion.

5) discussion - "Gene rearrangement formation may be resulted from the gene breakages?" - change to "Gene rearrangements may result from such breakages, leading to the formation of an aberrant gene product"
   We have replaced the sentence according to the editor’s suggestion.

6) "If the CNA boundaries?" change to " If the CNA boundaries occur in non-coding regions flanking genes, expression may be controlled by proximity to regulatory sequences from other genes. Alternatively the recurrent breakpoint may indicate loss of a TS gene distal to the CNA boundary"
We have replaced the sentence according to the editor’s suggestion.

7) Generally please review for occasional over-use of the word "the". For example the sentence in the discussion beginning "The small amplification and deletions?" - almost every "the" can be removed from this sentence!

We have reviewed sentences throughout the article, and removed superfluous word “the”.

8) In the penultimate sentence of the conclusions "...appropriate APPLICATIONS for these cell lines" - it isn't clear what is meant by "applications" (similar to point 3).

We have changed the sentence to “…appropriate applications of these cell lines for cytogenetic and molecular biological studies”.

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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