Author's response to reviews

Title: Prognostic significance of peripheral monocyte count in patients with extranodal natural killer/T-cell lymphoma

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

We have enclosed our revised manuscript entitled Prognostic significance of peripheral monocyte count in patients with extranodal natural killer/T-cell lymphoma for consideration as Research Articles in BMC cancer.

We have revised the manuscript in response to the reviewers' comments. Attached please find the list of changes in the “Response to Reviewers” section of this cover letter. The changes made from the previous article file has been done using “track changes” in programs including MS Word or marked any changes in blue in the new document.

BMC Cancer is an open access, peer-reviewed journal that considers articles on all aspects of cancer research, which is quite attractive for our authors. Extranodal natural killer/T-cell lymphoma (ENKL) has heterogeneous clinical manifestations and prognosis. Monocyte, which is recently reported to be a surrogate marker of the tumor microenvironment and host immunity, has been found to induce the proliferation of natural killer (NK)/T lymphoma cells and to infiltrate lymphomas. This current study firstly evaluated the clinical relevance of the peripheral blood monocyte count in ENKL. We found that absolute monocyte count (AMC) at diagnosis was identified as a novel, powerful prognostic factor for survival in ENKL, independent of International Prognostic Index (IPI) and Korean prognostic index (KPI). The prognostic index incorporating AMC and absolute lymphocyte count (ALC, another surrogate indicator of host immunity) could be used to stratify all the patients with ENKL into different prognostic groups. When superimposed on IPI or KPI categories, the AMC/ALC index was better able to identify high-risk patients in the low-risk IPI or KPI category.

All authors have read and approved the manuscript. This manuscript is not under consideration elsewhere. There is none of financial support or relationship that may pose conflict of interest. Neither deviations nor any potential conflicts related to the exclusive nature of the publication. This study complies with the principles of the Declaration of Helsinki. The protocol of this study was approved by the Institutional Review Board (IRB) of Sun Yat-Sen University Cancer Center. Informed consent was obtained from all patients before the collection of patients information.

The manuscript is written and formatted in accordance with the latest Author Guidelines. A medical editor, who is an English native speaker and the member of American Medical Writers Association and the freelancer of MedCom Asia, Inc., has edited this manuscript to ensure the correct usage of grammar and syntax.

On behalf of the authors of this paper, I would like to confirm that this is our original unpublished work, and has not been submitted to any other journal for review.

Yours sincerely,
Response to Reviewers:

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Prognostic significance of peripheral monocyte count in patients with extranodal natural killer/T-cell lymphoma

EDITORIAL REQUIREMENT(S):
Please include an Authors' contributions section:
In order to give appropriate credit to each author of a paper, the individual contributions of authors to the manuscript should be specified in this section.

Response:
We thank the Editor’s kindly remind. We have added an Authors’ contributions section in the revised manuscript as follows:
JJH designed the study, participated in the statistical analysis, and drafted the manuscript. YJL performed the statistical analysis and participated in the collection of the clinical data. YX, YW, WXW, YJZ, TYL, HQH and WQJ participated in the collection of the clinical data. ZML conceived of the study, and participated in its design and coordination and helped to draft the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.