Author’s response to reviews

**Title:** Randomized phase II trial of toremifene 120 mg compared with exemestane 25 mg after prior treatment with a non-steroidal aromatase inhibitor in postmenopausal women with hormone receptor-positive metastatic breast cancer

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**Author’s response to reviews:** see over
Dear Editor:

I am very pleased to resubmit our manuscript titled "Randomized controlled trial of toremifene 120 mg compared with exemestane 25 mg after prior treatment with a non-steroidal aromatase inhibitor in postmenopausal women with hormone receptor-positive metastatic breast cancer" (Yamamoto Y et al.) for consideration of its publication as an Article in BMC Cancer.

In this study, we performed a randomized, open-labeled, controlled trial comparing the efficacy and safety of daily toremifene 120 mg (TOR120) and exemestane 25 mg (EXE) in postmenopausal breast cancer patients who were pre-treated by non-steroidal aromatase inhibitor. We concluded that TOR120, as a subsequent endocrine therapy for metastatic breast cancer patients who failed non-steroidal AI treatment, could potentially be more beneficial than EXE.

The manuscript has not been published nor submitted for publication elsewhere except as a brief abstract in the proceedings of a scientific meeting or symposium. All co-authors agree to share equal responsibility for the content of the manuscript. This manuscript has been carefully reviewed by an experienced medical editor whose first language is English and who is specialized in the editing of papers written by physicians and scientists whose native language is not English.

We have replied to reviewer’s questions, one by one. Within the manuscript we have used red font to distinguish those parts that apply to their queries. We would greatly appreciate your consideration of the manuscript for publication as an Article in BMC Cancer.

Sincerely yours,

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for your advice. We added the part of results in the first paragraph in Discussion.