Author's response to reviews

Title: Serum p53 antibody detection in patients with impaired lung function

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Answers to specific questions

Reviewer 1

Minor points:

1- In the Discussion section, the paragraph focused on KRAS and EGFR in lung cancer is too long and focus on their roles as biomarkers in lung cancer prognostic, while this manuscript is dedicated to early lung function impairment that may reflect lung cancer development. Thus, this paragraph on KRAS and EGFR can be restricted to their roles as markers of early lung function impairment through ELISA detection.

As suggested by the reviewer, we have eliminated the sentences:

a) after the reference “[32].” up to the terms “On the other hand”, in the fourth paragraph of the Discussion section (page 11, last line);

b) after the term “pathways” up to the terms “A soluble fragment”, in the fourth paragraph of the Discussion section (page 12, line 2);

c) after the terms “NSCLC patients” in the fourth paragraph of the Discussion section (page 12, line 4).

Furthermore, we have inserted the terms “by ELISA” after the term “detected” (page 12, line 3) and substituted the full stop after the terms “NSCLC patients” with a comma (page 12, line 4). Then, we have added the following sentences “and may also be elevated at an early stage of carcinogenesis in asbestosis patients [33]. Thus, KRAS and EGFR might have a role as markers of lung function impairment that may reflect cancer risk.” (page 12, line 4).

In addition, a sentence can be added to clearly say that other proteins can be used to detect early lung function impairment.

According to the reviewer, we have added the following sentence “Of interest, other proteins can be used to detect lung function impairment, such as Fibrinogen, Neutrophil gelatinase associated lipocalin, Extracellular newly identified RAGE-binding protein and Heparin-binding EGF-like growth factor, showing significantly different serum levels when comparing mild/moderate and severe/very severe COPD patients to smoking and non-smoking controls [34].” at the end of the fourth paragraph of the Discussion section (page 12, line 6).

Furthermore, references 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39 of the original list have been eliminated, while new references have been added to the updated list in numbers 33, 34.

Finally, the terms “RAGE, Receptor for advanced glycation end products.” have been added to the List of abbreviations section (page12, line 2 from bottom).

As suggested, the language in our manuscript has been revised by a native-English speaker with scientific expertise.