Author's response to reviews

Title: Prospective, open, multi-centre phase I/II trial to assess the safety and efficacy of neoadjuvant radiochemotherapy with docetaxel and oxaliplatin in patients with adenocarcinoma of the oesophagogastric junction

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Markus Moehler et al:
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Version:3

Dear Sirs:
Please find enclosed our
Point by point response to the reviewers

Reviewer: Donald Richards
I believe the changes are fine and agree that publication should proceed.
Authors’ response
We agree with the comments and thank the reviewer. No corrections needed.

Reviewer: Thomas Ruhstaller
Date: 20 November 2012

The Manuscript is much improved.
Two additional changes have to be done before acceptance:
Authors’ response
We agree with his comments. All corrections were made fully according to the reviewer's comments.

In details:
Reviewer:
Results: "Radiotherapy could be administered as planned in most cases". It has to be clearly stated how many patients received the planned dose, how many not, and the reasons for.

Authors’ response
We agree and included accordingly on page 11 in results:
...Radiotherapy could be administered as planned total dose of 45 Gy followed by a boost of 3 times 1.8 Gy in 21/24 (88%) of all cases. One patient discontinued radiotherapy due to thrombopenia (final dose 39.6 Gy) and 2 patients discontinued due their patients wish (final doses 41.4 and 10.8 Gy).

Reviewer:
Discussion: Obviously no detailed informations from pathology reports were available for five patients, then it is not appropriate to compare the response rates with other studies in the discussion. The following chapter has to be deleted: In our trial, it is notable that a pCR rate of 33% and a pPR of 39% were achieved among the 18 the patients who underwent surgery were achieved in our trial. This is comparablesimilar to pCR rates reported by Urschel et al. in a meta-analysis of nine randomized controlled trials that includinge 1,116 patients [23] and 49% reported in the a small trial bial by Spigel et al. [21].

Authors’ response
We agree with the comment and deleted this paragraph accordingly on page 15 in the discussion: