Author's response to reviews

Title: Primary small cell carcinoma of esophagus: clinicopathological study of 44 cases

Authors:

Wei-Wei Chen (chenww@sysucc.org.cn)
Feng Wang (wangfeng@sysucc.org.cn)
Dong-Sheng Zhang (zhangdsh@sysucc.org)
Hui-Yan Luo (luohy@sysucc.org)
Zhi-qiang Wang (wangzhq@sysucc.org)
Feng-Hua Wang (wangfh@sysucc.org)
Miaozhen Qiu (qiumzh@sysucc.org)
Chao Ren (Renchao@sysucc.org)
Xiao-Li Wei (weixl@sysucc.org)
Wen-Jing Wu (wwwj@sysucc.org)
Yuhong Li (lyh@sysucc.org)
Rui-Hua Xu (xurh@sysucc.org.cn)

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September 29, 2013

Dear Ms. Cherry Battad,

Thank you for your last letter providing the chance to revise our manuscript. We have carefully studied the editor’s advice and added more information about the diagnosis of small cell esophageal carcinoma. We are now re-submitting the revised manuscript.

EDITOR'S COMMENTS:

**I would like to have more information about the diagnosis of small cell esophageal carcinoma (i.e. demonstration of neuroendocrine markers), which should all be part of the pathology report. Otherwise the conditions for the study are not sufficient. The authors should additionally acknowledge the pathologists in their paper since they made the diagnosis and assumably provided the tissue. Were they involved in the study?

A: In the Methods section, we have stated the histological criteria used by pathologists at diagnosis and briefly described the histological characteristics. The immunoreactivity of neuroendocrine markers such as NSE, Syn, CgA obtained from patient pathology reports was demonstrated. Moreover, Shu-Mei Yan and Mu-Yan Cai are pathologists who participated in diagnosis confirmed. So they were additionally acknowledged.

Thank you for your consideration.
Yours sincerely,

Rui-hua Xu MD, Ph.D
Department of Medical Oncology, Sun yat-sen university cancer center
651 Dongfeng Road East
Guangzhou, 510060
Tel: 86-20-8734 3228;
Fax: 86-20-8734 3228;
Email: xurh@sysucc.org.cn.