Title: Somatostatin receptor expression in Merkel cell carcinoma as target for molecular imaging

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Author's response to reviews:

Dear Professor Solera,
Dear Professor Povoski,

Enclosed please find our revised manuscript entitled “Somatostatin receptor expression in Merkel cell carcinoma as target for molecular imaging” to be considered for publication in BMC Cancer.

We present the so far largest cohort of Merkel cell carcinoma patients studied by imaging somatostatin receptor expression by PET with the radiotracers 68Ga-DOTATOC and 68Ga-DOTATATE. This analysis revealed that molecular imaging of somatostatin receptor expression has a clinically meaningful impact on clinical staging and subsequent patient management in Merkel cell carcinoma, i.e. by superior detection of bone and brain metastases.

As requested by the editorial office, we added the email addresses of all co-authors on the title page of our manuscript (1).

As this is a retrospective analysis of single institutional data (co-authors with other affiliations have been part of our institution at time of analysis) it is not a clinical trial. Because of the retrospective nature and institutional setting, the ethics committee of the university hospital Würzburg waives such applications (2).

The acknowledgement section was added at the end of the manuscript (3).

We think that our data may be of interest to the readership of BMC Cancer and we look forward to your evaluation of this manuscript.

All authors have read and approved the manuscript. This manuscript is not under
consideration elsewhere. On behalf of all co-authors, C. Lapa, A. Schirbel, K. Herrmann, M.C. Kreissl, A. Schnack, E.-B. Bröcker, M. Goebeler, A.K. Buck, and J.C. Becker,

Yours sincerely,

Kristina Buder, MD