Author's response to reviews

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

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Author's response to reviews: see over
RE: Manuscript 1953419757112834
Somatostatin receptor expression in Merkel cell carcinoma as target for molecular imaging

Dear Editors,

We thank you very much for your efficient and timely handling of our manuscript (No. 1953-4197-5711-2834) entitled “Somatostatin receptor expression in Merkel cell carcinoma as target for molecular imaging”.

We are pleased that the manuscript is close to acceptance and would like to address the remaining comment of the editor.

Editor´s Comments:

(1) Please could you remove the statement 'as this is not a prospective clinical trial, the Declaration of Helsinki does not apply.' The Declaration of Helsinki applies to the use of human material and data which is not exclusive to prospective clinical trial studies.

As requested by the editors, the sentence “As this is not a prospective clinical trial, the Declaration of Helsinki does not apply.” was removed in the section “Study design” (page 5).
Also, the sentence “Consequently, no additional approval by the local ethics committee was necessary following established local practice.” was removed for redundancy reason in section “Study design” (page 5). In the section “Patients” (page 5) we already stated that due to the retrospective nature of our study, the requirement for approval has been waived by the local ethics committee of the University of Würzburg.

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