Author's response to reviews

Title: Knocking down CDK4 mediates the elevation of let-7c suppressing cell growth in nasopharyngeal carcinoma

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear editor and referee,

Thank you very much for your opinions to our submission. We think your insightful comments are very helpful for improving the quality of our article before publication. Following your suggestions, we have revised the paper. We hope that our revision is what you were looking for.

**Referee 1:**

**Minor Essential Revisions**

1. The authors mention in their latest response that “Table 2 described the correlation between the clinicopathologic characteristics and expression of CDK4 protein from NPC patients who did not accept any treatment of radiotherapy and chemotherapy”. What is the difference between the 133 samples that are described in the “Materials and Methods” and the 109 samples that are described in Table 2? It should be made clear how many samples were included in the survival analyses.

**Response:** Sorry for our errors in Table 2. In initial investigation, we used 109 sample to investigate the correlation between the clinicopathologic characteristics and expression of CDK4 protein from NPC patients. However, in subsequent investigation, we added 24 NPC cases for this study and finally the total cases were 133. In the second revision, we made a mistake and uploaded the initial table 2 for 109 cases. We are so sorry for our carelessness.

In this study, our analysis results including survival analysis are from 133 samples, but not 109 samples. We have revised the error of table 2.

2. The independent prognostic value of CDK4 did not reach statistical significance (p=0.087). The authors should also report this p value in the abstract.

**Response:** Thanks referee for his suggestion. We add this sentence to the abstract.

**Discretionary Revisions**

3. The authors can choose to omit Figure 5C and instead discuss the difference in survival courses between radiotherapy-treated and non-radiotherapy treated patients in the text.

**Response:** We omit Figure 5C and added some sentences “NPC is highly sensitive to radiotherapy. In this study, we also observed that NPC patients with the treatment of
radiotherapy had markedly better overall survival rates than those without the treatment of radiotherapy, which indicated the significance of radiotherapy for NPC patients.” in the discussion”.

**EDITORIAL REQUEST:**

**Please include Competing Interest section:**

Please be advised that manuscripts must include a ?Competing interests? section. This should be placed after the Conclusions/Abbreviations. If there are none to declare, please include the statement ?The authors declare that they have no competing interests.? Please consider the following questions and include an appropriate declaration of competing interests in your manuscript:

**Response:** We have added it.

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Non-financial competing interests? Are there any non-financial competing interests (political, personal, religious, ideological, academic, intellectual, commercial or any other) to declare in relation to this manuscript? If so, please specify.
Response: No