**Author's response to reviews**

**Title:** High prevalence of Y-box protein-1/p18 fragment in plasma of patients with malignancies of different origin

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**Author's response to reviews:** see over
Dear Editor,

thank you very much for accepting our manuscript (“High prevalence of Y-box protein-1/p18 fragment in plasma of patients with malignancies of different origin”) for publication in BMC Cancer. We have incorporated all requested final changes in the re-revised manuscript (changes are underlined).

Kindest regards,

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Point-to-point responses to the reviewers

Thank you very much for the thorough and fair review of our manuscript.

Reviewer: Reinhold Schäfer

In the revised manuscript, the authors have weakened their initial claims regarding the sensitivity and specificity of the plasma marker that cannot yet be detected quantitatively. This would be important to be able to define a critical threshold that potentially distinguishes healthy and diseased individuals. The study describes the prevalence of the marker rather than its clinical or diagnostic value. Estimation of any diagnostic value (in terms of early detection of malignancies) would require an independent prospective study based on blinded samples from healthy donors and diseased individuals. It would also be very important to understand the function of the p18 peptide, because the complete YB-1 protein has been repeatedly shown to exhibit prognostic value (e.g. in breast cancer or colon cancer). I propose to specify the title of the work in the following way “High prevalence of YB-1/p18 in plasma of patients with malignancies of different origin”

Response:
We fully agree with the reviewer and thank him for his very constructive criticism. We have changed the title of the manuscript and agree with the reviewer that this modified title better reflects the nature of the study.

Reviewer: Kimitoshi Kohno

Now, this revised manuscript is acceptable for publication.

Response:
We thank the reviewer for his positive and constructive evaluation.

EDITORIAL REQUEST:

1) Please include the full name of the Ethics committee that approved the study.

Response:
This information is now provided in the revised Materials & Methods section (ethics committee of the University Hospital Aachen, RWTH-University, Aachen, Germany, reference number EK 107/05).