Author's response to reviews

Title: VEGFR-3 and CXCR4 as predictive markers for treatment with fluorouracil, leucovorin plus either oxaliplatin or cisplatin in patients with advanced esophagogastric cancer: a comparative study of the Arbeitsgemeinschaft Internistische Onkologie (AIO).

Authors:

Thomas Thomaidis (tomagiot@hotmail.com)
Annett Maderer (anett.maderer@unimedizin-mainz.de)
Salah-Eddin Al-Batran (albatran@aol.com)
Janis Kany (jakany@web.de)
Claudia Pauligk (pauligk.claudia@khnw.de)
Kristina Steinmetz (steinmetz.kristina@khnw.de)
Arno Schad (Arno.Schad@unimedizin-mainz.de)
Ralf Hofheinz (ralf.hofheinz@umm.de)
Harald Schmalenberg (Harald.Schmalenberg@med.uni-jena.de)
Nils Homann (nils.homann@klinikum.wolfsburg.de)
Peter R Galle (Peter.Galle@unimedizin-mainz.de)
Markus Moehler (Markus.Moehler@unimedizin-mainz.de)

Version: 2 Date: 21 December 2012

Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Mrs Chap,

We would like to thank you and the Editorial Office for your comments on our manuscript entitled “VEGFR-3 and CXCR4 as predictive markers for treatment with fluorouracil, leucovorin plus either oxaliplatin or cisplatin in patients with advanced esophagogastric cancer: a comparative study of the Arbeitsgemeinschaft Internistische Onkologie (AIO).”

Point-by-point-reply:

(1) Ethics Statement

We revised the Material and Methods section specifying the institute that gave its approval for the study including a reference number. The sentence was modified as follows:

"Patients gave written informed consent according to the Helsinki protocol before entering the study, which was approved by the ethics committees of the participating institutions and the Federal Institute for Drugs and Medical Devices (Ref. Nr: 4020513)."

(2) Acknowledgements
We added a separate section acknowledging anyone who contributed substantially to the presented work, but not met the criteria for authorship. We would like to thank once again all the patients and investigators who participated in the trial.

Yours sincerely

Thomas Thomaidis MD
I. Medical Dept
Johannes-Gutenburg University
Lagenbeckstr. 1
55131 Mainz
Germany
Tel ++49 (0) 6131 177146
Fax ++49 (0) 6131 173438
Email: tomagiot@hotmail.com