Author's response to reviews

Title: Ki67 expression and the effect of neo-adjuvant chemotherapy on luminal HER2-negative breast cancer

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Ki67 expression and the effect of primary systemic chemotherapy on luminal breast cancer - a new concept for determining an institution-specific Ki67 cut-off value -

8th June 2014

Dear Editors,

We are submitting a revised version of our manuscript, originally entitled *Ki67 expression and the effect of neo-adjuvant chemotherapy on luminal HER2-negative breast cancer - a Ki67 cut-off value for identifying patients who would benefit from chemotherapy* -. We changed the title of the manuscript in response to the reviewer’s suggestion.

We deeply appreciate the reviewers for their comments based on careful reading. Our specific responses are detailed below. Reviewers’ comments are in **bold type**. All revised portions are in blue text.

**Reviewer1:**

#1) Title: The title cannot stay how it is. There is no internal or external validation for finding a cut-off.
We totally agreed with the reviewer’s suggestion. We have now removed the subtitle.

#2) DISCUSSION: Last sentence of the conclusion. The paper does not allow to move the findings into clinical practice.
We totally agreed with the reviewer’s suggestion. We have now removed the last sentence from the abstract and the conclusion.

**Reviewer2:**

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published
In response to the reviewer’s suggestion, we have now performed a number of minor corrections. The entire manuscript was edited by a native speaker of English with extensive experience in medical proofreading and editing.

We thank you very much in advance for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Yoshiya Horimoto