Author’s response to reviews

Title: Erythropoietin suppresses the activation of pro-apoptotic genes in head and neck squamous cell carcinoma xenografts exposed to surgical trauma

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Cover letter

The manuscript has been revised.

We have added images from the immunohistological staining for caspase 3.

One of the reviewers had suggested an anti CD-31 staining to estimate the vascular density. However, this is outside the hypothesis of this work where we have focused on apoptosis.

Animal ethics statement is moved to methods section according to your instructions.

The microarray data are deposited at the Gene Expression Omnibus (GEA).

The effect of Epo and tumours is addressed in the discussion.

We have made corrections in the author list and we have of course added a competing interest section.

Yours sincerely

Gustaf Lindgren