Author’s response to reviews

Title: Epstein-Barr virus infection and clinical outcome in breast cancer patients correlate with immune cell TNF-alpha/IFN-gamma response

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Version: 3 Date: 20 March 2014

Author’s response to reviews: see over
On March 20th, 2014

To the editor, BioMed Central Cancer

You will find enclosed a first version of our article entitled “Epstein-Barr virus infection and clinical outcome in breast cancer patients correlate with immune cell TNF-α/IFN-γ response”. This franco-portuguese collaborative study was to show to the scientific community the impact which EBV has on the clinical outcome of breast cancer patients, which is certainly due to its ability to alert and strengthen the patients’s immune system (especially NK and T cells). This is particularly relevant as breast cancer is the most frequently found tumor in women. This novel research has proved very paradoxical, as EBV normally induces tumors; in this case it possibly “protects” the tumor-bearing patients by strengthening their immune system. The importance of this is why we are choosing to expose these preliminary results to the public, as well as to the medical and scientific world through the “Breast Cancer Research” format. In the supplementary data, we put some information regarding the treatments that patients received and additional data regarding their survivals.

Best regards

Pr Emmanuel Drouet, PharmD, PhD

In Line with editorial criteria, we made changes as described in the document point by point:

1) Numbering line: Now, the line numbering is formatted continuously as recommended.

2) Competing interest : The new section entitled Competing interests was placed after of the abbreviations section

3) Figure legends: This section was placed at the end of the document. Also, the short title of each figures was added