Author's response to reviews

Title: Immunohistochemical detection improves the prognostic value of lymphatic and blood vessel invasion in primary ductal breast cancer

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Philippa Stevens,

MS: 5502572311002185. (Immunohistochemical detection improves the prognostic value of lymphatic and blood vessel invasion in primary ductal breast cancer).

Thank you for your e-mail on 8th October. We acknowledge the initial comments and we have considered them carefully. There follows our response;

1. “Please clearly confirm that you had all necessary consent from any patients involved in the study, including consent to participate in the study and consent to publish, where appropriate. If no consent was needed please clearly state this in the Methods section”

Point taken ‘‘In the method section we have clearly stated the approval of tissue use from West of Scotland Research Ethics Service Rec 4 (REC reference is 07/s0704/61)”.

2. ‘‘Please include a Conclusions section as the last section of the text. This should state clearly the main conclusions of the research and give a clear explanation of their importance and relevance. Summary illustrations may be included.

Point taken, text amended accordingly ‘‘Conclusions : IHC for D2-40 and Factor VIII define lymphatic and blood vessel invasion with greater sensitivity and specificity than H&E, improving detection of LVI and BVI in early invasive breast cancer. As LVI and BVI are powerful independent adverse prognostic factors in breast cancer, including node-negative and triple-negative cases, there is a clear case for their use in diagnostic clinical practice.
3. ‘‘Please include a list of abbreviations used in the manuscript and their meanings, after the conclusion’’.
Point taken, text added after conclusion ‘‘List of abbreviations: LBVI: lymphovascular invasion; LVI: lymphatic vessel invasion; BVI: blood vessel invasion; LBVIH&E: LBVI on H&E sections; LVID2-40: Immunohistochemical staining for D2-40; BVIFVIII: Immunohistochemical staining for Factor VIII’’.

4. ‘‘If applicable, please include an acknowledgement section at the end of the manuscript before the reference list’’.
Point taken, text added after conclusion ‘‘Acknowledgment: We gratefully acknowledge the funding from Ministry of Higher education – Libya’’.

5. ‘‘Please ensure all authors meet all three authorship requirements’’.
We agree with the BioMed Central Ltd editorial policy regarding authorship requirements and that were stated under authors’ contributions: FJA, DCMCM and JG conceived the study design. FJA, JE, ZMAM and CO made substantial contributions to acquisition of data and provided administration, technical, and material support. FJA carried out the experiment. FJA and DCMCM made substantial contributions to interpretation of data and drafted the manuscript. JG and JE critically revised the manuscript for important intellectual content and helped to draft the manuscript. DCMCM supervised the study. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

We look forward to your reply in due course.

Yours sincerely

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