Author's response to reviews

Title: Prognostic information of serial plasma osteopontin measurement in radiotherapy of non-small cell lung cancer

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Dear Madams, Dear Sirs,

we hereby submit our work entitled “Prognostic information of serial plasma osteopontin measurement in radiotherapy of non-small cell lung cancer” for consideration of publication in BMC Cancer.

We previously demonstrated the prognostic role of pre-treatment osteopontin (OPN) plasma levels in the curative-intent radiotherapy of NSCLC (Ostheimer et al. Strahlenther Oncol. 2013 Dec 11. [Epub ahead of print]) and showed that a co-detection of osteopontin, carbonic anhydrase IX and vascular endothelial growth factor plasma levels measured before radiotherapy augments the prognostic value.

Now we present results of a prospective translational study in non-small-cell lung cancer patients treated with definite radiotherapy. Serial OPN plasma level were measured before, at the end of and after radiotherapy and correlated with prognosis. Our data indicate, that OPN plasma level changes over time, particularly in the post-therapeutic time window, may provide additional prognostic information in the curative-intent radiotherapy of advanced NSCLC.
The current manuscript has not been under consideration elsewhere and all authors have approved the final version.

Sincerely,

(Christian Ostheimer)  (Prof. Dr. Dirk Vordermark)