Author's response to reviews

Title: Eligibility criteria for breast intra-operative radiotherapy: a study about 12,025 patients treated in two distinct cohorts

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May 6th, 2014

Dear Editor-in-Chief,

Please, find enclosed a paper by ZIOUECHE Amira et al. titled “Eligibility criteria for breast intra-operative radiotherapy: a study about 12,025 patients treated in two distinct cohorts”, that we would like to submit to your journal BMC Cancer.

This is a retrospective study concerning 12,025 breast cancer patients belonging to 2 cohorts to estimate the proportion of eligible patients for Exclusive Intra-Operative Radiotherapy and their expected survival rate without local recurrence. This study suggests that almost an half of T0-2 N0 patients could be eligible for exclusive IORT with an expected 5-years survival rate without local recurrence more than 96%.

At our knowledge, it is the first time that such a study has been conducted and these results reported.

This work has not been previously published elsewhere for review and the manuscript is not currently under submission in any other journal. All authors have agreed to the submission to the journal.

We hope this manuscript will be favourably considered. Thank you for your help and consideration in the matter.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Amira ZIOUECHE

PS : I made the changes requested for resubmission : line numbering was added, title page was completed by the email address of all authors, authors contribution was specified. Please note that we don’t have any to acknowledge.

I have precised as requested that an ethical approval was not necessary for our study which is not a clinical trial. The databases are not freely accessible; permission is required from both the committee senology and the Clinical Research Management and Innovation of the Institut Paoli-Calmettes.