Author's response to reviews

Title: MicroRNA in exosomes isolated directly from the liver circulation in patients with metastatic uveal melanoma

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Author's response to reviews:

Dear Professor Ajit Narayanan, Dear Ms. Cherry Battad,

Firstly, we would collectively like to thank you very much for a very efficient editorial evaluation of our manuscript. You really pointed out some very clear weaknesses, which we now have amended, and we certainly also feel that the manuscript has developed significantly.

Here is a point-by-point reply to the editorial proposals.

1. We apologize for the errors with duplicate wording in the previous submission, which we do not understand how it has appeared. This has now been addressed, in some detail.

2. We thank the Editor for carefully pointing out that aims and the corresponding conclusions should correspond, which we now tried to better describe in the new version of the manuscript.

3. As the Editor suggested, a section has been added to the end of the Discussion acknowledging the limitations of the study, including low patient numbers, and some other issues (second last paragraph of the Discussion)

4. Regarding the Figure, we presume suppose that you refer to figure 3 in the current version, and we have now in the Results section typed the full range, to better describe that there is a small overlap in exosome concentration.

5. Because of the small yield of exosomes, not everything can be performed in all patients. This has now been further mentioned in the Discussion (second last paragraph). Also, in Table 1 we have pointed out exactly which analysis was performed for the samples retrieved from each patient that participated in the
6. The abstract has now been re-phrased, to avoid any possible misinterpretation that all analyses were done in samples from all patients.

7. We have also revised the statements of potential utilization of exosomes as biomarkers of uveal melanoma, to address that this paper does not provide such evidence, merely bring up the possibility for future studies.

We now truly hope that the manuscript is suitable for publication in BMC Cancer. If required, we may propose two Reviewer’s for the manuscript, including

1) Professor Takahiro Ochiya, National Cancer Centre, Tokyo (tociya@ncc.go.jp), or

2) Professor H. Richard Alexander Jr., University of Maryland Medical Center, Baltimore, MD, USA (HRAlexander@smail.umaryland.edu)

Sincerely yours,

Jan Lötvall
Author for Correspondence