Author’s response to reviews

Title: Chromosomal imbalances in four new uterine cervix carcinoma derived cell lines.

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PDF covering letter
We have received the reviewer’s reports and your comments about our manuscript: “Chromosomal imbalances in four new uterine cervix carcinoma derived cell lines” Manuscript ID 1657641584126853.

We have done corrections of the manuscript following the reviewer’s advice as follows:

Reviewer: Kenji Umayahara

1. *The authors should explain why they selected 1.2 an 0.8 as threshold for detecting copy number gains and losses.*

We are aware that the use of predetermined standard thresholds might not be the best way to determine CGH gains and losses. We chose the used thresholds based on published data and on our own experience with normal versus normal hybridization experiments.

2. *Gains at 1q31-q32 and 7p13-p14, and losses at 6q26-q27 seem to be unique alterations for HPV18 positive cell lines. The authors should focus on these chromosomal lesions.*

A more profound discussion of these chromosomal regions, their relevance in cervical cancer and possible target genes has been added in the discussion section.

3. *The lesion on chromosome 7p13-14 has been shown to harbour a transcribed human sequence related to HPV18 E5 gene, as the authors described previously. Application of FISH with probes to HPV18 and 7p13-p14 would strengthen this manuscript.*

We completely agree with the idea, however, when we aligned the the PE5L gene sequence, mapped by Geisen at 7p13-p14 in 1995, against the November 2002 freeze of the Human Genome working draft, it mapped on 7p11.2. A comment on this situation and the possibility of using the Human Genome sequence information to better define HPV integration sites was added. Regarding the FISH experiments, we are now studying which cytogenetic regions might be more promising for HPV integration, and these results will be included in a future paper.

Reviewer 2: Pulivarthi Rao

1. *The authors should highlight the high level chromosomal amplifications at 7p15-p13, 7q21, 7q31, 11q21 and 12q12 in the table and also discuss these sites in relation to the previously reported sites in cervical cancer.*

These chromosomal regions were also further discussed in their relation with cervical cancer.
2. Instead of presenting their data in table and CGH ratio profiles from each cell lines, the authors should summarize their results on chromosomal ideogram.

Table I was kept in the paper because we think it contains relevant information regarding the cell lines. Figure 1 was improved and instead of the ratio profiles, a chromosomal ideogram was presented.

3. The authors should provide G-banded karyotypes from these cell lines. The karyotypic information is very useful to several investigators.

We fully agree with the suggestion, we are currently working with to obtain the karyotypes of the cell lines, however, this will take more time. Based on the advices of both reviewers, we believe the paper can be published without the karyotypic info, this will be included in a future paper analyzing HPV integration sites in the cell lines.