Author’s response to reviews

Title: Plasma prolactin in patients with colorectal cancer

Authors:
  Ahmad Reza Soroush (info@dr-soroush.com)
  Hosein Mahmood zadeh (hmaz2002@yahoo.com)
  Mehrnush Moemeni (mehrnush_momeni@yahoo.com)
  Behnam Shakiba (b_shakiba@razi.tums.ac.ir)
  Sara Eimi (sara_el_yah@yahoo.com)

Version: 3 Date: 30 September 2004

Author’s response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor,

Enclosed please find the revised version of manuscript "Plasma prolactin in patients with colorectal cancer" that we are resubmitting to *BMC Cancer Journal.* Thank you for reviewing our paper. We have incorporated the suggested changes and otherwise improved the paper. A new version of the paper is included as well as a response letter. We also confirm that the manuscript has been seen and approved by all co-authors. We have made the following corrections:

Dr. Konishi had 3 major comments as follows:

1. **Please describe how the cutoff levels of serum prolactin and CEA were determined.**

Cutoff point levels of serum prolactin have been determined in the literature. Herewith some of the papers that have used the same cut off points as ours:

Cutoff point levels of serum CEA determined in some literature such as:


We have added two more studies as references in the “methods” section:

**It previously read:** The cutoff levels for PRL and CEA were 20 ng/ml and 5 ng/ml serum respectively (17, 18).

**& It now reads:** The cutoff levels for PRL and CEA were 20 ng/ml and 5 ng/ml serum respectively (17, 18, 19 and 20).

2. **Were there differences in the prolactin levels between male and female patients?**

We have added one sentence in the “result” section: “There was no statistically significance difference in the prolactin levels between male and female (P=0.99).”

3. **Among the previous reports, some demonstrated the higher serum prolactin levels in colorectal cancer patients and the others did not. Please discuss the possible reasons for the difference.**

We have added one paragraph in the “discussion” section: “The discrepancy between the results of our study and those of other studies, which report no significance difference in the prolactin levels between patients with colorectal cancer and control...
group, may be explained by a number of factors. First, some of the previous reports have too small sample size. Second, prolactin concentrations are subject to diurnal variation and in some studies, blood samples were collected at different times for each patient and this may give misleading results.”

Dr. Claudio Belluco has pointed out that language corrections need to be made in order for the manuscript to be suitable for publication.

We have done our best to improve the language quality of the manuscript, we rephrased and rewrote most of the sentences; but please consider that we are not English native speakers, so some minor mistakes are inevitable.

In this version, we added “Author’s contributions” section, because this section was forgotten in last version.

As you kindly see, we have addressed all the comments of the esteemed reviewer as best we could.
Thank you in advance for your consideration and timely re-review of this manuscript.

Sincerely Yours,

Behnam Shakiba,
Students’ Scientific Research Center (SSRC),
Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran.