Author's response to reviews

Title: Membrane testosterone binding sites in prostate carcinoma as a potential new marker and therapeutic target: Study in paraffin tissue sections

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Dr Iratxe Puebla,

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to publish in BMC Cancer. In this version of our manuscript we have made the corrections that the reviewer suggests, as follows:

1. Page 4. End the paragraph after the last question. Omit the rest of the text starting from the sentence beginning "Our findings show...". We have deleted the suggested sentences.

   We have reported standard deviations and the paragraph is now as follows:
   One hundred and nine (109) cases of prostate carcinoma (age 45-93 years, mean±SD 71.17±9.02, median 71 years, followed for 4 to 72 months) and one hundred and three (103) cases of BPH (age 37-92, mean±SD 70.44±8.38, median 70 years), retrieved from the archives of the Pathology Department of the University Hospital of Crete, were analyzed retrospectively. Prostate carcinoma specimens corresponded to 23 radical prostatectomies, 15 transurethral resections harboring incidentally encountered carcinoma, and 71 transrectal biopsies. Three cases of carcinoma diagnosed in transurethral resection specimens were rejected for technical reasons. Survival of patients ranged from 1-72 months (mean±SD 31.4±9.32, median 29.5 months). Benign prostate hyperplasia cases corresponded to 96 transurethral resection and 7 prostatectomy specimens. Hematoxylin and Eosin (H&E) stained slides were reviewed by two investigators independently and blindly to the patients’ clinical data. The Gleason’s sum (combined score, Gleason’s score) [10, 11] of carcinoma cases was reevaluated by two observers. The results obtained from the histological study of carcinomas using the Gleason’s grading system are presented in Table 1. In case of discrepancy between the two observers, the final decision was reached by consensus.

3. Page 7. Paragraph 3. Test is mispelled. Please revise to "Mann-Whitney U"
   We have corrected the spelling.

4. Page 8. Paragraph 1. Modify the sentence "Mann-Whitney U was calculated, as a non-parametric alternative to the analysis of variance" to "The Mann-Whitney U test was used to compare the distribution of continuously-scaled outcomes by mAR expression."
We have modified the sentence as it was suggested “The Mann-Whitney U test was used to compare the distribution of continuously-scaled outcomes by mAR expression. All statistical evaluations were double-sided.”

Sincerely,

E. N. Stathopoulos