Author's response to reviews

Title: P-cadherin expression and survival rate in oral squamous cell carcinoma: an immunohistochemical study.

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Author's response to reviews:

Dear Editor,

We are submitting a copy of the revised manuscript according to the referees' suggestions. We were very grateful for your considerations and your constructive criticism about our paper: "P-cadherin expression and survival rate in oral squamous cell carcinoma: an immunohistochemical study"

Response to the referees' remarks

1) ANAK IAMAROON

Major revision
We corrected misspelled words:
1. we eliminated word "a" (p.2, line 7)
2. we eliminated repeated words (p.4, line 8)
3. On page 2 the first line from below, we abbreviated oral squamous cell carcinoma as OSCC.

Minor Essential Revisions
We modified the orientation of the figure 1A.

2) ALBERTO GASPARONI

Discretionary Revisions
We agree with the reviewer. In fact we are collecting several cases of dysplastic lesions in order to perform the analysis of P-cadherin expression changes.

Minor Essential Revisions
Page 2, Line 2: we spelled out E-cadherin and left the acronym in parenthesis
Page 2, Line 3: we modified in:" in in vivo studies"
Page 2, Line 7: we eliminated word "a"
Page 3, Line 7-11: we modified in "Recently, many investigations have been performed in this latter direction, until to know that intercellular adhesiveness is mediated by a family of glycoproteins named cadherins [15]. This family is composed of an extra-cellular domain, involved in Ca++-dependent homophilic binding to adjacent cells, a trans-membrane domain, and an intra-cellular domain which binds to proteins called catenins [16]"
Page 4, Line 8-9: we eliminated repeated words
Page 4, Line 8-9: we modified in "Aims of the present study were to assess the prevalence of P-cad expression in oral squamous cell carcinoma (OSCC) and to verify whether P-cad can be considered a marker of prognosis in patients with OSCC."
Page 4-5 We considered censored cases only dead patients (we modified page 6, line 13).
Page 6, Last line: we modified in "allowed us "
Major compulsory revisions.
1) we uniformed The objectives in the Abstract and those stated in the Introduction.
2) we agree with the referee. In fact we usually perform control using healthy oral mucosa from patients with no mucosal disease who do not receive oncogenic stimuli such as tobacco and alcohol, for example, from patients treated for impacted wisdom tooth. Nevertheless, in this paper we used 5 cases of oral mucosa apparently healthy enough distant from the site of the tumor. However we used the healthy skin specimens in order to be more sure. As positive controls, the immunoreactivity of 5 normal skin sections from leg was evaluated.
3) we classified the tumours into only two groups ([less than or equal to] 5% of +cells; >5% of +cells):
a) we modified group 1 ([less than or equal to] 5% of +cells);
b) since the scarce literature in this field, in this paper we focused in assessment of p-cadherin expression as usefulness marker for tumour prognosis. Of course, by means of a large sample size it would be very interesting to score OSCC in several groups according to P-cadherin expression.
4) we clarified in the text the techniques used (see Materials and Methods). Fig 1 D is a case of OSCC positive with LSAB-HRP
5) we clarified in text. According to referee, we meant to use the term "dedifferentiated areas"
6) we clarified the text in "In particular, well-differentiated oral carcinomas showed P-cad expression similar to normal oral mucosa or up-regulated"
8) we reduced the discussion focusing our interpretations

Yours, sincerely
Giuseppina Campisi