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: see over
Dear Editor,

We are submitting a copy of the revised manuscript according to your 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”

Title – we removed the full stop from the end of the title (in both the manuscript file and submission system).

Affiliations – We wrote each affiliation in full and provided them in the following format: department, institute, city, country. We did not use full capitals for country names, and did not include full-stops in abbreviated country names.

We linked each author to their corresponding affiliation with the use of superscript numbers.

Country – we included the country in the affiliation details.

Running title - we removed the running title from the title page.

Keywords section - we removed the keywords section from the manuscript.

Abstract - we structured Abstract into Background, Methods, Results, Conclusions. We also updated the Abstract details on the submission page.

Section headings – we used sentence case for all headings and sub-headings in the manuscript (i.e. remove all unnecessary capitals).

Introduction – We renamed this section ‘Background’.

Materials & Methods – we renamed this section 'Methods'.

Competing interests - we included a ‘Competing interests’ section between the Conclusions and Authors’ contributions.

Tables - We reformatted the tables in black and white.
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 “

3) MIGUEL ANGEL GONZALEZ-MOLES
**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 (≤ 5% of +cells; >5% of +cells):
   a) we modified group 1 (≤ 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