Author's response to reviews

Title: Four cycles of paclitaxel and carboplatin as adjuvant treatment in early stage ovarian cancer: the experience of the Hellenic Cooperative Oncology Group.

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Re: MS 1103156207983361

Dear Sir,

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to resubmit our manuscript. We are now resubmitting the above manuscript after we addressed all the points raised by the reviewers. Please find below a detailed list of the revisions made according to their suggestions and questions. In addition, the manuscript has been formatted according to the Authors’ checklist.

We would like to express our gratitude both to you and the reviewers for your time and effort. We hope that in the present form our manuscript will be acceptable for publication in BMC Cancer.

Yours sincerely

Aristotle Bamias, PhD, MRCP (UK)
ANSWERS TO REVIEWER'S COMMENTS

Reviewer #1

Major Compulsory Revisions
1. The importance of surgical staging in early ovarian cancer cannot be stressed enough and the Reviewer is fully justified to raise this point. It is stated in Table 1 that lymphadenectomy (LND, now defined) was performed in 11% of cases. This is a limitation of our study, as already stated in the Discussion (page 10, line 22). This, indeed, may have resulted in understaging in some cases, since about 17% of presumed stage I inadequately staged patients are upstaged to stage III after proper surgical staging (Young et al, 1983). This is now stated in the Discussion and the respective reference has been added (page 10, lines 23-25).

Minor Essential Revisions
1. “and” is not capitalized now in the abstract
2. Correction made.
3. References have been added
4. Diaphragmatic washings were performed
5. OS and RFS have been defined
6. Two out of the 14 patients relapsed in lymph nodes. In both cases there were also other sites of relapse (peritoneal metastases and liver metastases)

Reviewer #2

Major compulsory revisions
1. We agree with the comment of the Reviewer and we have now added a phrase in the Discussion commenting on the retrospective nature of our analysis (page 10, lines 4-5).

Reviewer #3

1. We have rephrased the sentence in the abstract: “had a significantly shorter 5-year RFS rate”.
2. Correction made.
3. It should be “phase II and III studies” as corrected.
4. “All patients had” has been now substituted for “All patients should have”.
5. ANC has been defined.
6. OS and RFS have been defined.
7. “Elevated levels” were above 37 U/ml, as now stated.
8. We fully agree with the comment and we have now substituted RFS for PFS in the relevant section of the Results as well as Table 3 and Figures 1 and 2.
9. We have now substituted 1,2,3 for I,II,III in Table 3 regarding tumor grading.