Author's response to reviews

Title: Celecoxib decreases prostaglandin E2 concentrations in nipple aspirate fluid from postmenopausal high risk women and women with breast cancer

Authors:

Edward R Sauter (sautere@health.missouri.edu)
Wenyi Qin (qunw@health.missouri.edu)
Lisa Schlatter (schlatterl@health.missouri.edu)
John E Hewett (hewettj@health.missouri.edu)
John T Flynn (john.flynn@jefferson.edu)

Version: 4 Date: 15 September 2006

Author's response to reviews:

September 14, 2006

Editor, BMC Cancer

RE: Celecoxib Decreases Prostaglandin E2 Concentrations in Nipple Aspirate Fluid From High Risk Women and Women with Breast Cancer

Dear Colleagues:

Enclosed please find the revised manuscript which addresses each of the three reviewers' comments. Attached are the point by point responses to each concern.

Sincerely,

Edward R. Sauter

Reviewer 2

Minor Essential Revisions

1. Page 8, 3rd line 2nd paragraph: change "at" to "for"

Thank you again for your thorough review. The change you suggest has been made.

2. Page 9, 4th paragraph, line 1: P values in text do not match p values in Table 4.

This has been corrected.

3. Page 10, line 8: The sentence beginning "The differences..." is confusing; do the authors mean "The differences in the ratios of NAF to serum levels?"

We do mean what you ask, and your suggested words have been added to the manuscript.

4. Line 11 (of page 10): change "at" to "high"

This has been done.

5. Page 11, 2nd paragraph: Delete the sentence, "Also of note..." Since women with breast cancer are included in the high risk group, one cannot make the conclusion stated in the sentence.

This has been done.

Reviewer 3

1. I still have concerns about the interpretation of the PGE2 results in NAF and plasma (page 9). The
statement that Celecoxib significantly decreased PGE2 levels in NAF of high risk women needs clarification as it was only observed in the postmenopausal high risk group...As a consequence the 2nd paragraph of the discussion on page 11 will need adjustment.

Thank you for your thoughtful review. We have revised the text on page 9 to include the word in capital letters so that the sentences now read, "Celecoxib significantly decreased PGE2 levels in the NAF (p=0.02) but not the plasma of POSTMENOPAUSAL high risk women. Changes in individual subjects after treatment and after washout are illustrated in Figure 1B. Celecoxib did not significantly alter PGE2 levels in premenopausal women."

The sentence on page 11 has been adjusted to read, "First, PGE2 levels significantly decreased in the NAF, but not in the plasma, of POSTMENOPAUSAL women at increased risk of breast cancer."

2. Also, "NAF PGE2 levels are higher in pre than in post menopausal women" (page 9). The p values stated in the text (0.0083 and 0.0023) are different from those in table 4 (0.04 and 0.003).

The p values on page 9 have been changed to the correct values, which were listed in Table 4.