Author's response to reviews

Title: Sialyl Lewis x expression in canine malignant mammary tumours: correlation with clinicopathological features and E-Cadherin expression

Authors:

Salome S Pinho (salomep@ipatimup.pt)
Augusto J F Matos (ajmatos@icbas.up.pt)
Celia Lopes (celiacristinalopes@gmail.com)
Nuno T Marcos (nmarcos@ipatimup.pt)
Julio Carvalheira (jgc3@mail.icav.up.pt)
Celso A Reis (celso.reis@ipatimup.pt)
Fatima Gartner (fgartner@ipatimup.pt)

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Author's response to reviews:

To: Doctor Deborah Saltman

Editorial Director of BMC Cancer

Dear Sir:

We are submitting the revised manuscript entitled "Sialyl Lewis x expression in canine malignant mammary tumours: correlation with clinicopathological features and E-Cadherin expression", in light of the reviewer comments. We provide a cover letter giving a point-by-point response to the reviewer concerns.

Reviewer: Juana Martin de las Mulas

Discretionary Revisions

1. Histological examination of tumours

According to the reviewer suggestion we have included in page 7, line 1, that the benign proliferative lesions found in the vicinity of tumours were also classified according to the World Health Organization classification.

2. According to the reviewer suggestion we added the following sentence in page 13, line 5-6: "It was analysed a total of 43 adjacent benign proliferative lesions (6 simple adenomas; 8 epitheliomes and the others were hyperplasias in general)."

3. In both sub-types of tumours (2 cases of in situ carcinoma and 2 cases of carcinoma in benign tumour),
the expression of sLex was the following: 1 case (50%) express < 25% of sLex and the other case (50%) express > 25% of sLex. This information is included in Table 1. Therefore we think that we cannot further state that sLex expression is lower in the first stages of canine mammary carcinoma progression. The role of sLex in the progression of the canine mammary carcinoma is discussed in the discussion section.

Sincerely yours

Maria de Fatima Gartner