Author's response to reviews

Title: Clinical implications of thymidylate synthetase, dihydropyrimidine dehydrogenase and orotate phosphoribosyl transferase activity levels in colorectal carcinoma following radical resection and administration of adjuvant 5-FU chemotherapy

Authors:

Masashi Ishikawa (masa1192@tokushima-med.jrc.or.jp)
Toshihiro Ichimori (ichimori@viola.ocn.ne.jp)
Akihiro Sakata (asakata@tokushima-med.jrc.or.jp)
Takayuki Miyauchi (t-miyauchi@tph.gr.jp)
Yutaka Kashiwagi (masa1192@tokushima-med.jrc.or.jp)

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Dr Annabel Phillips,

Thank you for your letter of 12/10/2007. The comments of reviewers have been helpful in allowing us to revise our manuscript. We checked some mistakes and have attempted to address the questions raised by reviewers according to the following. We are enclosing the new manuscript entitled "Clinical implications of thymidylate synthetase, dihydropyrimidine dehydrogenase and orotate phosphoribosyl transferase activity levels in colorectal carcinoma following radical resection and administration of adjuvant 5-FU chemotherapy" for consideration as a publication in BMC CANCER.

Thank you for your consideration of the revised version.
We appreciate your review of this work.

Sincerely,

Masashi Ishikawa MD Ph.D.
Department of Surgery
Tokushima RedCross Hospital
Reviewer: Dr. Carlo Barone

General
1) Discussion were shortened, by deleting general statement of enzymes. Some statement was removed (P11,L2-6,P1119-21,P12,L6-8,P13,L6-9,24-25,P14,L8-9,P14,L22-29).

2) Explanation by the different methodologies for TS, DPD and OPRT was brought forward in Discussion and discussed briefly.

3) We rewrote as follows. [Patients with Dukes’ B corresponded with UICC stage II A (T3pN0, n=15) and UICC stage III A (T4pN0, n=7), and those with Dukes’ C corresponded with UICC IIIA (T3pN1, n=11), UICC stage III B (T4pN1, n=6) and UICC stage III C (T4pN2, n=1).] (P5L8~)

4) Regarding how to stop reaction, we changed as follows [the reaction was stopped immediately by adding 10% active carbon suspension containing 4% trichloroacetic acid.] (P12L2)

5) P8L16 was revised (To evaluate the relationship between enzyme activity and survival period, the subjects were divided into high-activity and low-activity groups).

6) P10,L1-5, title was changed to (Correlation of enzymes activity and prognosis). P10L5-6 was deleted.

7) P14,L24-25 was deleted.
1) Regarding how to stop reaction, we changed as follows [the reaction was stopped immediately by adding 10% active carbon suspension containing 4% trichloroacetic acid.] (P12L2)