Author's response to reviews

Title: The effect of menopause and hysterectomy on Systemic Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor in women undergoing surgery for breast cancer.

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Author's response to reviews:

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Sabina Alam, PhD
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Dear Dr. Alam,

Many thanks again for reviewing the above manuscript and for the suggestions of the reviewers.

The following is a point by point response to the concerns as requested.

Reviewer: N Bundred

Post-menopausal status was defined as amenorrhoea for greater than 12 months, a previous hysterectomy or postmenopausal levels of FSH, LH and oestradiol. (refer to manuscript page 6. lines 19-27). The ovarian function tests were most critical to define the menopausal status in the group of patients who
had a previous hysterectomy but no oophorectomy. As Dr. Bundred has pointed out, low oestradiol levels are also seen in the follicular phase of the menstrual cycle in premenopausal women when the LH and FSH are also low; in all the patients classed as postmenopausal in this study the oestradiol was low in combination with an elevated LH and FSH.

Reviewer: Ugur Coskun
There were no further revisions requested from this reviewer

We hope that we have addressed the comments of the reviewers appropriately resubmitting this manuscript to be considered for publication in BMC Cancer. We feel that this study will be of interest to your readership and has a high value in future investigation of the significance of VEGF in breast cancer.

Sincerely,

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