Author's response to reviews

Title: Clinical Significance of Survivin Expression in Ductal Carcinoma in situ with Microinvasion of the Breast

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Answers to the reviewer 1

Thank you for your comments and we are pleased that you are interested in our paper. We hope that we can answer your questions adequately, one by one. I turned the color of the changed-parts to blue.

1. On the title of our paper, we still think our present title is concise and clear and it emphasized on our main result and its clinical importance and it cannot be changed.

2. On page 3 the Background section, we cannot accept your suggestion to remove everything about mammography, because it is the fact that the widespread use of mammography make the identification of DCIS increasing. It is very important for the clinical background.

3. We cannot understand why the sentence from “TO STUDY UNTIL ADJUVANT SYSTEMIC THERAPY” is weak and not correct. We think from clinical perspective it is correct and it is also the purpose of our study to study biomedical changes from DCIS to DCIS-Mi and pursue their clinical importance.

4. Because of the words limitation in Abstract, we did not mention other methods used in our study but we used the word mainly through the use of immunohistochemistry.

5. Page 5: It is true that DCIS and DCIS-Mi were diagnosed by post-operative histopathological examination after surgery but the pre-operative screening and diagnosis were done by mammography. So we think there is not any contradiction of thoughts.

6. P5, L 17; Thank you. I will change variation to morphology.

7. P6, last 3 lines; It is our hypothesis and we need these sentences in the Introduction.

8. P7; We added the sentence as follow: In our study, it was true that for some cases the ethical approvals were obtained after surgery.
9. We are sorry we changed it to: The histological diagnosis was made by 2 specialized pathologists.

10. Page 8; Thank you very much.
    We changed ‘prepared’ to ‘mounted’.
    We changed ‘adhesive-coated slides’.
    We changed “Sections were” to “The sections were”, but native speaker already checked it.
    Retrieval buffer at pH 9 was used for survivin and the buffers used for others were mentioned in Table 1.
    The “previously published” was changed to “previously described”.
    We are sorry for our misspelling on Netherland and changed it to Netherlands.
    All of our immunohistochemical details were already shown in Table 1.

11. Page 9, Line 2; we specified the alcohol used in dehydration.
    Line 16-17, we changed it to: To quantitate apoptosis, the mean number of……

12. Page 10;
    Paragraph 2 was moved to the beginning of discussion section.
    Exam changed to examine. We are sorry for misspelling.

13. Page 11; we changed ‘previous’ to ‘previously’. Thank you for your consideration.

14. Page 12: Lines 3-5: We think it is OK to leave it here, because if we move it to Discussion section and it will make discussion more complicated.


16. Page 14: end of second paragraph: we changed ‘balance’ to ‘specific interaction’.

17. Reference 24: We used Endnote to edit the references and we checked again and we are sorry for the misspelling for the authors’ name and we corrected it.
We hope we have addressed these issues satisfactorily. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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Answers to the reviewer 2

Thank you for your comments and we are pleased that you are interested in our paper.

We supposed that the cases that DCIS was douted might predict microinvasion by observating survivin expression in ductal componant of the lesion. We wrote this hypothesis down in the last paragraph in Introduction or in the first paragraph in Discussion.

Yes, we can see the cytoplasmic and nuclear staining in the tumor cells. We did not mention the membrane staining. Thank you, this intracelluer localization of survivin is impoatant and shows future direction of our interests.

We hope we have addressed these issues satisfactorily. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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