Author's response to reviews

Title: Analysis of EGFR, HER2, and TOP2A gene status and chromosomal polysomy in gastric adenocarcinoma from Chinese patients

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear editors,

Thank you very much for your email about our manuscript (MS: 4555040261914632), we have carefully read the suggestions from you and reviewers, and try to answer the questions point-by-point.

Major Compulsory Revisions

Question 1 The authors had provided additional information regarding their sample and its selection in their response letter. Those additional information regarding sample selection should be incorporated into the report. Please also add comment on whether the results would be biased when the patient selected has to have sufficient tumor tissues available for 20 slides.

Answer: The additional information regarding sample selection has been incorporated into the “methods and materials” section. All the samples we selected were surgical resected specimens, the blocks we selected could represent the features of tumor, and each tumor tissue block was available for 20 slides, so the results would not be biased.

Question 2 It appears that the issue of multiple comparisons is not yet addressed. For example, using a Bonferroni adjustment, the p-value that to be considered statistically significant will be the regular 0.05 alpha level divided by the total number of tests.

Answer: We performed multiple comparisons among chromosome 7 polysomy, 17 polysomy, EGFR FISH positivity, EGFR expression, HER2 FISH positivity, HER2 expression, TOP2A FISH positivity and TOP2A expression (5%, 10% and 25%). By using a Bonferroni adjustment, there were 10 tests, the p-value that to be considered statistically significant was 0.05/10=0.005, two p-values were statistically significant after Bonferroni adjustment in our results (association between chromosome 7 polysomy and EGFR copy number, p<0.0001. relationship between HER2 amplification and HER2 protein
expression, p<0.0001.

- Minor Essential Revisions

**Question 1**  It would be more appropriate to replace “difference” in the footnotes for Table1 with “association”.

**Answer:** We replaced “difference” in the footnotes for Table1 with “association”.

**Question 2** Sample size and power consideration: some kind of ad-hoc power consideration can be presented.

**Answer:** Our sample size was determined based on previous similar studies reported in literature, and two pathologists selected the samples after reviewing all the slides in our archive specimens, 100 samples were just what we could get during that period of time(2000-2005). Because no previous data about Chinese patients, we tried to present our data for reference. If sample size increased, the results would be more representative.