Author's response to reviews

Title: Neoadjuvant chemotherapy or primary surgery for stage III/IV ovarian cancer: contribution of diagnostic laparoscopy.

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Author's response to reviews:

April 12, 2008

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the first revised version of the manuscript entitled “Neoadjuvant chemotherapy or primary surgery for stage III/IV ovarian cancer: contribution of diagnostic laparoscopy”.

You will also find additional information regarding our study, as requested in your last e-mail.

1. This study was retrospective (see abstract line 1, page 2; and background section page 3, last line but one).
2. The intervention (laparoscopy) was part of normal course of management and systematically performed since 2001, as well as other pre-operative assessments, such as CT scan, CA125 level, etc.
3. As laparoscopy is considered as a standard of care in our institution, no ethic committee approval was necessary to carry out this study.
4. Patients were informed that surgery included a preliminary laparoscopic step to assess resectability. Therefore, informed consent was obtained for the whole surgery itself.

See method section, underlined lines page 4.

Sincerely yours,

Dr Jean-Luc Brun Prof. Emile Daraï