Author's response to reviews

Title: CXCR4 expression on circulating pan-cytokeratin positive cells is associated with survival in patients with advanced non-small cell lung cancer

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BioMed Central Cancer

Re: Revised Manuscript—CXCR4 expression on circulating pan-cytokeratin positive cells is associated with survival in patients with advanced non-small cell lung cancer

Dear Editor:

We would like to thank the reviewer for the additional comments on our manuscript, “CXCR4 expression on circulating pan-cytokeratin positive cells is associated with survival in patients with advanced non-small cell lung cancer.” The manuscript has been revised in accord with the reviewers’ suggestions. Please find below point-by-point responses to each of the reviewers concerns. The modifications are formatted to display the reviewer’s comment first followed by the revision. The revised manuscript has been reviewed and approved by all of the authors, and as such, submitted for your timely review.

Reviewer 3:

1. The revised manuscript appears to respond to the most queries. The authors showed that combined pan-cytokeratin/CXCR4 expression was increased in patients with NSCLC, but the results was not significant (p = 0.11), however, why high circulating pan-cytokeratin/CXCR4 expression was correlated with poorer prognosis although combined pan-cytokeratin/CXCR4 expression was not significantly correlated between normal controls and NSCLC patients statistically? I would propose the above issue should be described in the discussion section. This procedure should make the discussion section more attractive than the present form.

A discussion of pan-cytokeratin vs. pan-cytokeratin/CXCR4 expression in these patients has been added to the Discussion section in paragraph 3.

2. In the Abstract, line 6, on circulating pan-cytokeratin “positive” cells is preferable. “Positive” has been added.

3. In the Abstract, line 7, “Results:”, black color is preferable.

All text is in black.

4. In the Results (Low Circulating CXCR4 and Pan-cytokeratin Expression Predicts for Improved Survival), “In this these patients”, “this” should be deleted.
“This” has been deleted.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this revised manuscript for publication in BioMed Central Cancer.

Sincerely,

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