Author's response to reviews

**Title:** Malignant transformation of oral potentially malignant disorders: a retrospective cohort study

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**Author's response to reviews:** see over
Dear Editor:

Please consider the attached manuscript entitled “Malignant transformation of oral potentially malignant disorders: a retrospective cohort study for publication in the Oral Disease. This manuscript was not submitted to or published in any other primary scientific journals. All of the authors are aware of and agree to the content of the manuscript.

The malignant oral potentially malignant disorders (OPMDs) has been identified in many geographical areas and in many different populations. The difficulties of comparison across populations were arose from the computation of malignance rates. Generally, a crude calculation based on the number of malignance dividing by total number of patients may consequently develop bias. This bias is because that patients may have different follow-up time. Hence, a person-time malignant rate is more subjective in terms of cross population comparison. But few studies have identified this follow-up duration issue. In this paper, we estimated the malignant rate and associated risk factors of OPMDs in Taiwan, an endemic areca quid chewing without tobacco area and identified the important factors indicative for malignancy change of different oral precancerous diseases. We found that the potentially malignant of lesions involving the tongue has significantly higher than that in other subsites after adjusting for type or life style factors at diagnosis. Also aggressive follow-up should be advised in the 2-3 years after occurrence of precancerous disease.

We look forward to receiving your comments regarding this manuscript for publication in the BMC Cancer. Please send all the correspondence to Dr. I-Yueh Huang at Kaoshiung Medical University Hospital, Kaoshiung, Taiwan.

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