Author's response to reviews

Title: Nuclear expression of Snail1 in borderline and malignant epithelial ovarian tumours is associated with tumour progression

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Version: 2 Date: 6 August 2009

Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear BMC Cancer Editor

Please find our revised manuscript entitled “Nuclear expression of Snail1 in borderline and malignant epithelial ovarian tumours is associated with tumour progression” (MS: 8260507992716020). In addition, a point-by-point response to the concerns of the Reviewers are shown below.

Reviewer Karen L Abbott:

…My only criticism is that the authors don't evaluate any correlation between E-cadherin expression and nuclear Snail1 expression in these tissue sections…

The aim of our study was to examine particularly Snail1 protein expression during progression of ovarian cancer and it’s relation to clinicopathological features and prognosis. Snail1 has been shown to be a key transcription factor in tumourigenesis related to epithelial-mesenchymal transition (EMT). Indeed, Snail1 is an important down-regulator of E-cadherin as reviewed in a recent article by Klymkowsky and Savagner (1). However, also other EMT related transcription factors, such as Snail2, Twist, SIP1/Zeb and E47, may regulate E-cadherin and these factors may display functional redundancy (1). Moreover, no statistical correlation has been found between E-cadherin and Snail1 expression in ovarian or endometrioid cancer according to recent reports (2,3).

Reviewer Michael Quinn:

The lack of association with grade of tumor and Stage of disease would suggest that Snail 1 expression in fact is not important in the development/progression of the disease and needs comment in the discussion

While it is true that we didn’t find any association between Snail1 staining and tumour grade or stage we however observed Snail1 expression in borderline tumours. Thus, it might be possible that Snail1 functions already in early steps of ovarian tumour development. On the other hand, we had relatively small material and short follow-up time as discussed in the manuscript. To further clarify this matter we modified the text on page 10, second paragraph, and underlined the changes.
Editor:

Please also ensure that revised manuscript conforms to the journal style.

The revised paper conforms to the journal style.

We are looking forward to hear about your response soon,

Kind regards,

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