Author's response to reviews

Title: Pre-radiotherapy plasma carotenoids and markers of oxidative stress are associated with survival in head and neck squamous cell carcinoma patients: a prospective study

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

We hereby submit the revised manuscript “Pre-radiotherapy plasma carotenoids and markers of oxidative stress are associated with survival in head and neck squamous cell carcinoma patients: a prospective study” by Amrit Kaur Sakhi, Kjell Magne Russnes, Magne Thoresen, Nasser E. Bastani, Anette Karlsen, Sigbjørn Smeland and Rune Blomhoff for publication in BioMed Central Cancer (BMC Cancer).

On the behalf of corresponding author, Prof. Rune Blomhoff

Yours sincerely,

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**Answers to Reviewers report**

**Reviewer: Matthias Kappler**

We are sorry for the misunderstanding of the question raised by the reviewer 2 in the first review regarding the adjusted Cox’s-regression analysis plots in Figure 1.

1. In the second reviewer reports, we have understood as if the reviewer 2 is accepting the Kaplan-Meier plots and wants that the p-values from the Kaplan-Meier plot should be written in the figure caption. We have changed the Cox’s-regression p-values in the figure caption to the p-values from the Kaplan-Meier plot.

2. One of the works in the fourth paragraph of chapter “Introduction” and in the sixth paragraph of chapter “Discussion” was referred as “Amrit Kaur Sakhi, unpublished data”. This work is finally accepted in journal “Nutrition and Cancer:
An International Journal” and is thus referred as “in press” in the revised manuscript.