Author's response to reviews

Title: High resolution human leukocyte antigen (HLA) class I and class II allele typing in Mexican mestizo women with sporadic breast cancer: case-control study.

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Version: 2 Date: 1 December 2008

Author's response to reviews: see over
November 30, 2008.

Rikki Graham, PhD
Senior Assistant Editor
BMC-series journals

MS: 1899294259226733: High resolution human leukocyte antigen (HLA) class I and class II allele typing in Mexican mestizo women with sporadic breast cancer: case-control study.

Dear Doctor Graham:

Enclosed please find the electronic version of the above manuscript, which we would like to re-submit, we also include corrections and changes suggested by two referees that you previously assigned to review our original manuscript. We like to remind you that the manuscript is original and has not been previously published.

The manuscript documents HLA system alleles in Mexican mestizo females and the association to breast carcinoma. Next we answer point by point reviewers observations to our manuscript and in bold we add our answers to all of them.

Major Compulsory Revision: The P value listed in the Table 4 and 5 should be Corrected p value (Pc) which is obtained by multiplying the number of antigens or alleles at each locus.

ANSWER
We fully agree with this comment and the values of P corrected were added to tables 4 and 5 as well in the main text, pages 12 to 14.

- Major Compulsory Revisions
In Material and Method part the authors claimed that they did the correction for multiple tests with Bonferroni’s method, but they did not show it in the Results actually. And the tests for association between HLA haplotype and breast cancer was not there too although they claimed they did it.

ANSWER
We fully agree with this comment and the values of P corrected were added to the main text, pages 12 to 14.
We agree with the comment of HLA haplotype association tests, haplotypes were constructed but since they were highly heterogenic therefore associations or conclusion could not be performed or drawn, an explanation on this issue has been added to the main text on page 14.

- Minor Essential Revisions
The authors used PCR-SSO method to do the HLA typing.

page 9: “HLA-DQA1 and -DQB1 typing were performed by a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) procedure using Taq DNA polymerase (Promega, Madison, WI, USA) and hybridization with PCR sequence-specific oligonucleotide probes (PCR-SSOP).” It is very unclear to describe this method. It should be “HLA-DQA 1 and –DQB1 were amplified by PCR and hybridized to sequence specific oligonucleotide probes.

Answer

We agree, the change in this sentence has been performed according to the advice.

We hope you will find the contents of the manuscript to be of interest to your readers and suitable for publication in the corrected version and the reviewers pleased with the answers and changes we performed to the manuscript.

Regards,

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