Author's response to reviews

Title: Type-selective muscular degeneration promotes infiltrative growth of intramuscular lipoma

Authors:

Kanji Mori (kanchi@belle.shiga-med.ac.jp)
Tokuhiro Chano (chano@belle.shiga-med.ac.jp)
Keiji Matsumoto (kmatsumoto@belle.shiga-med.ac.jp)
Michihito Ishizawa (ishizawa@belle.shiga-med.ac.jp)
Yoshitaka Matsusue (matsusue@belle.shiga-med.ac.jp)
Hidetoshi Okabe (okabe@belle.shiga-med.ac.jp)

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Matt Hodgkinson
Assistant Editor
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Dear Professor

Please find enclosed our revised manuscript entitled "Type-selective Muscular Degeneration Promotes Infiltrative Growth of Intramuscular Lipoma (1608431939282500)". We would like to submit for publication in BMC Journals. Our study results suggest that type-selective muscular degeneration may modulate the infiltrating growth characteristic of intramuscular lipoma. The authors represent that this article is original, that it is not under consideration by another journal, and that this material has not been previously published in The Journal. Each of the authors has read and approved the final manuscript. The electronic files of our manuscript and illustrations have been prepared (software: Microsoft Word 2003, and Adobe Photoshop 5.0 for Windows). When our manuscript is acceptable for publication, please use them. Further communication should be addressed to me, if necessary.

We appreciate your kind review of this work.

Sincerely,

Hidetoshi Okabe MD
Department of Clinical Laboratory Medicine
Shiga University of Medical Science
Seta, Otsu, Shiga, 520-2192, Japan.
Phone: +81-77-548-2600
Fax: +81-77-548-2407
E-mail; Okabe@belle.shiga-med.ac.jp

Encl.
For reviewer: Tommaso Lombardi

Thank you very much for your kind review for our manuscript.

Following your comment, we evaluated staining pattern in two cases of trauma as the control. (Figs 4)

Following your comment, we reinforced the concept that we could evaluate ultramicroscopic analysis for only 1 case in the Discussion.

Following your comments, we have changed "affect" into "effect" in the abstract section 5th line as well as page 3, line 6.

For reviewer: Bruce Smoller

Thank you very much for your kind review for our manuscript.

Following your comments, we demonstrated the staining pattern of the muscle that was the cases of trauma as normal control. (Figs 4)

As you said, it is difficult to make clear the difference of staining patterns between well-circumscribed and infiltrative lipomas. We evaluated seventeen lesions containing muscle tissues in this study. It is impossible to compare the staining pattern of these two conditions, because well-circumscribed case was only 2 cases among them and subtle amounts of muscle tissues weren't enough to evaluate in such cases.

As we mentioned in the "Discussion", although an intramuscular lipoma itself may cause the surrounding muscle atrophy due to compressive growth, such a case of muscle atrophy will likely be presented without muscle types-selectivity. From the results of our study, we believe that type-selective muscle atrophy could contribute to the modulation for the infiltrating growing pattern of an intramuscular lipoma.

As for the pathological differences between well-circumscribed and infiltrative lesions, it is not sure that there are any differences or not, however we should consider the possibility that there are any contributing factors, such as muscular atrophy, especially in the cases of infiltrating lipomas.

For reviewer: Masanori Ban

Thank you very much for your kind review for our manuscript.

As you said, it is not sure that muscular degeneration precedes the infiltrative growth of lipoma cells, however we also consider and mentioned about this point in the "Discussion" section (page 10, line 15). Interestingly, the degenerative findings are ultrastructurally revealed in the surrounding muscle fibers of the lesion.

Following your comments, we described our manuscript in brief as possible as we can.

As you suggested, we should exchange the figure 1 to the more representative cases of infiltrating lipomas, and have performed it in this revised version.

As for Figure 3, the positive expression of cathepsin-D was confirmed around the lipoma, where the
infiltrative growth was not so severe. The authors consider that this fact suggests one of the
evidences that the degeneration may precede and modulate the infiltrative growth.