Author's response to reviews

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

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May, 14 2004

Dear Professor

Please find enclosed our re-revised manuscript entitled "Type-selective Muscular Degeneration Promotes Infiltrative Growth of Intramuscular Lipoma (1608431939282500)“. We would like to re-resubmit 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,

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Encl.
For reviewer: Masanori Ban

Thank you very much for your kind re-reviews for our manuscript.

1. Following your comments, we described more in detail in "Abstract" section.

2. Following your comments, we mentioned the cases revealing muscle atrophy in the "Background" section.

3. Following your comments, we omitted the names of antibodies and refined the description in the "Background" section.

4. As we described in both text and Table 1, among 22 cases, we immunohistochemically analyzed 17 cases (15 cases of infiltrating lipomas and 2 cases of well-circumscribed lipomas) containing muscle tissues in their specimens. Following your comments, we described about 17 cases that we analyzed in this study more clearly in "Methods" section.

5. Following your comments, we described the reaction of each antibody in "Methods" section.

6. Following your comments, we omitted the explanation about superficial lipomas in the "Discussion" section.

7, 8. Following your comments, we referred the literatures.

9. Regretfully, we cannot find the cases progressing systemic neurogenic or myogenic disorders in our series of this study. However, such cases will progress very slowly, and we may need several decades to find such cases in the future follow-up.

10. Until now, it has never focused to the surrounding muscle pathology of the growing mass lesions. Then, we could not find any published reports supporting this condition, and we believe that this point is one of the novelities of our study.

11. Following your comments, we discussed about the possibility that the longstanding feature of the infiltrating lipomas may cause muscular disuse atrophy.