Author's response to reviews

Title: The expression of type 1 plasminogen activator inhibitor (PAI-1) in clear cell renal cell carcinoma (CCRCC) and its impact on angiogenesis, progression and patient survival after radical nephrectomy

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

Could you please consider the above-mentioned paper (research study) for publication in BMC urology?

This is a retrospective, population-based observational study of patients undergoing radical nephrectomy for renal cell carcinoma between 1985 and 1994.

Approval to use the biological material for research purposes was granted in 2004 by the local authority at Karlstad Central Hospital in Sweden according to Swedish regulations. In Norway the appropriate Norwegian authority, Norwegian Social Science Data Services recognized this approval. The study was carried out in accordance with standards of World Medical Association Declaration of Helsinki as revised in 2008.

The purpose of this study was to investigate the possible role of PAI-1 in angiogenesis, progression and cancer specific survival in surgically treated patients with renal cell carcinoma. To our knowledge this is the largest patient series with the longest follow up examining PAI-1 in the common subtype of renal cell carcinoma. We found a significant correlation between PAI-1 expression, microvessel density, tumour stage, and nuclear grade and an inverse correlation between PAI-1 and thrombospondin-1 (TSP-1). PAI-1 was adversely related to survival.

The prognostic importance of this predictive molecular marker demonstrated in our study should be of interest for surgical urologists, pathologists and researches working in this field.

Sincerely Yours

D. Zubac, MD