Author's response to reviews

Title: External validation of risk classification in patients with docetaxel-treated castration-resistant prostate cancer

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We thank editorial team for their comments and have revised the manuscript according to their critiques.

1. Requesting trial registration where clinical trials are described (TRN):

We notice that you are reporting a clinical trial but have not cited a trial registration number. This must be obtained before we can begin peer review of your manuscript.

We added the trial registration section at the last line of the Abstract and the following sentence “The clinical trial was registered in the University Hospital Medical Information Network Clinical Trials Registry (UMIN-CTR) UMIN000011969.” in the second sentence in the first paragraph of the Methods – patients and treatment section.

2. Please remove Tables from additional files and include these in the manuscript document to appear after the References.

According to your indication, we removed Tables from additional files and included these in the manuscript document to appear after the References.

3. Please can you revise the Background section of the Abstract to describe the context of the study, in addition to the study objectives.

We corrected the Background section of the Abstract as follows.

“Patients with castration-resistant prostate cancer (CRPC) have poor prognoses and docetaxel (DTX) is one of the few treatment options for them. The development of an accurate risk classification that can identify the CRPC patient
group in which DTX would be effective is urgently warranted. The Armstrong risk classification (ARC), which classifies CRPC patients into 3 groups, is a superior risk classification: however, the usefulness of ARC remains unclear and needs further external validation before clinical use. The objective of this study was to examine the clinical significance of the ARC by external validation using DTX-treated Japanese CRPC patients.”