Author’s response to reviews


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Dear Editor

I thank you for considering our submission for publication in your esteemed journal, BioMed Central Urology.

I thank Dr Dan Theodorescu, Department of Urology, University of Virginia Health Sciences Centre, Charlottesville, USA and Dr Yoichi Mizutani, Department of Urology, Kyoto Prefectural University, Kyoto, Japan, for their valuable comments.

We agree with Dr Theodorescu that other biopsy approaches should have been considered if TUR was not possible. We admit that an endoscopic biopsy should have been taken, perhaps after a few days, to make the diagnosis of cancer instead of performing suprapubic cystostomy. We regret for what happened and sadly, we can not turn the clock back.

We mentioned in the revised manuscript that (1) poor visibility during TUR was due to bleeding; (2) the bladder was fixed and therefore radical cystectomy was not possible; (3) The oncologist did not consider the patient suitable for radiotherapy or chemotherapy; (4) the patient had a progressive downhill course and expired about five months after bladder cancer was diagnosed.

We concur with the comments made by Dr Yoichi Mizutani that western blotting could have been done for G-CSF. Unfortunately, we did not preserve any tissue at very low temperature after freezing the fresh sample in liquid nitrogen. At present, we have only formalin-fixed, paraffin-embedded tissue sample. We profoundly regret our inability to carry out western blotting with the available specimen. We learn a lesson from this case that while taking biopsies, we should preserve fresh specimens at minus 80 degrees Celsius for possible molecular biological studies at a future date. Of course, we should obtain prior permission from the patient and the hospital Ethics Committee for storage of human tissue samples.
As advised by Dr Mizutani, we omitted figures 1, 3 and 5 in the revised manuscript.

We earnestly hope that the revised manuscript will meet with the approval of your goodself and the reviewers.

I thank you and the reviewers for valuable support and guidance.

Yours sincerely
Dr S Vaidyanathan