Author's response to reviews

Title: Matrix-metalloproteinases-1, -2, -3, -9, their inhibitors TIMP-1, -2, and the MMP1/TIMP1-complex in blood plasma as markers for transitional cell carcinoma of the bladder

Authors:

Andrea Staack (andrea.staack@charite.de)
Steffen Badendieck (badendieck@12move.de)
Dietmar Schnorr (dietmar.schnorr@charite.de)
Stefan Loening (stefan.loening@charite.de)
Klaus Jung (klaus.jung@charite.de)

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Author's response to reviews: see over
RE: Re-submission* of original work manuscript

„Matrix-metalloproteinases-1, -2, -3, -9, their inhibitors TIMP-1, -2, and the MMP1/TIMP1-complex in blood plasma as markers for transitional cell carcinoma of the bladder”

Andrea Staack, Steffen Badendieck, Dietmar Schnorr, Stefan A. Loening, Klaus Jung

Dear Professors,

I would like to submit the enclosed manuscript for consideration to be published in BMC Urology. This manuscript is not under consideration for publication by another journal.

The main importance of this work is to study the impact of MMPs and TIMPs in blood plasma for an early detection of bladder cancer. So far studies for investigation of MMPs have been only performed in urine and blood serum. In our opinion analyzes of MMPs and TIMPs in blood plasma have a higher analytical value since we know that unspecific MMPs are released into blood serum during the clotting cascade.

This investigation revealed that MMP2 functions as a statistically significant marker in blood plasma in patients with transitional cell carcinoma of the bladder, with increased diagnostic value in combination with MMP9, TIMP1, and TIMP2.

This study has an impact to find better bladder tumor markers for early bladder tumour detection and evaluation of the prognosis.

All named authors have agreed to the submission.

*In the re-submitted version of our manuscript we have explained which consent was obtained and added the name of our local research ethics committee and the date of
the approval in the methods section. We stated that the research was carried out on humans in compliance with the Helsinki Declaration.

We would very much appreciate your consideration for publication in your Journal.

Sincerely,

Dr. med. Andrea Staack