Author's response to reviews

Title: Oxidative stress level is not associated with survival in terminally ill cancer patients: a preliminary study

Authors:

Chang Hwan Yeom (lymphych@hanmail.net)
Youn Seon Choi (younseon@korea.ac.kr)
Hong Yup Ahn (ahn@dongquk.edu)
Su Hey Lee (ilohyang@hanmail.net)
In Cheol Hwang (spfe0211@gmail.com)

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Comment #1: The authors should consider clarifying the conclusion by stating that... "In this study OS was not associated with survival and the prognostic role of OS for survival requires further study".
[Answer] Following your comment, we revised the conclusions in Abstract and Discussion, as follows;

Abstract section (page 2)
In this study, OS was not associated with survival of terminally ill cancer patients and its prognostic role requires further study.

Discussion section (page 7)
Our study demonstrates that OS status was not associated with survival of cancer patients at the very end of life. Further studies are needed in order to elucidate the relationship between survival and OS.

Comment #2: The author may consider adding references to the statement in the Introduction section (P2, last para), "Patients with malignant tumors have higher oxidative stress (OS) by tumor growth itself and/or increased systemic inflammatory response".
[Answer] We added two relevant references, as follows;

Introduction section (page 2)
Patients with malignant tumors have higher oxidative stress (OS) by tumor growth itself and/or increased systemic inflammatory response [3, 4].


Comment #3: Please clarify on Page 3 (Methods), and Fig 1, whether the authors assessed competency, cognition or incapacity (fig1). If so, whether it was physician assessed or using a validated instrument.
[Answer] Thanks for this comment. We clarified this point in Method and Figure 1 (using the superscript), as followings;

Method section (page 3)
In addition, physicians determined eligibility for participation based on their capacity to communicate and to understand the aim of the study.

Figure legends (page 11)
Figure 1 – Flowchart of patient recruitment
* physician-assessed

Comment #4: Page 6, para. 3, Should the sentence read .... "In the current study, we failed to suggest prognostic significance of serum vitamin C or OS on survival" instead of "In the current study; we failed to examine the prognostic significance of serum vitamin C or OS on survival". Please clarify.
[Answer] Thanks for this comment. We revised it, as followings;

Discussion section (page 6)
In the current study, we failed to suggest prognostic significance of serum vitamin C or OS on survival.