Author's response to reviews

Title: Ki-67 is a Strong Prognostic Marker of Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer When Tissue Heterogeneity is considered.

Authors:

Kazuhiro Tabata (t-kaz@nagasaki-u.ac.jp)
Tomonori Tanaka (tanaka.t.tomonori@gmail.com)
Tomayoshi Hayashi (toma@nagasaki-u.ac.jp)
Takashi Hori (thpath@med.u-toyama.ac.jp)
Sayuri Nunomura (snuno@nagasaki-u.ac.jp)
Suguru Yonezawa (syoneza@m2.kufm.kagoshima-u.ac.jp)
Junya Fukuoka (fukuokaj@nagasaki-u.ac.jp)

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

We would like to submit our manuscript entitled “Ki-67 is a Strong Prognostic Marker of Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer When Tissue Heterogeneity is considered.” for consideration as an Original Article in BMC Clinical Pathology.

In this manuscript, we have reported Ki-67 expression of non-small cell lung cancer is strong prognostic marker. Some reports showed the correlation of Ki-67 labeling index with the prognosis of lung cancer, but several studies revealed that Ki-67 often fails to be an independent prognostic factor in multivariate analyses. Our data indicates that the degree of Ki-67 positive ratio correlates with poor prognosis in non-small cell lung cancer, adenocarcinoma, and squamous cell carcinoma, both in univariate and multivariate analysis. And Ki-67 heterogeneity also shows significance with poor prognosis in univariate analysis. In brief, Ki-67 is a strong prognostic marker for non-small cell lung cancer when the degree of highest staining frequency or heterogeneity is considered.

We believe that this manuscript is a timely topic for the wide readers who are interested in lung cancer. Currently, the context of Ki-67 expression and tumor heterogeneity is one of the most interesting yet unclear areas.

Below, I have listed the names, institutions and email addresses of all contributing authors and potential of COI.

We thank you for your time and consideration of this manuscript and hope you would find this as acceptable.

Sincerely,

Junya Fukuoka, MD. PhD.
Department of Pathology, Nagasaki University.
1-12-4 Sakamoto, Nagasaki 852-8523, Japan
Tel: (81) 95-819-7562 / Fax: 95-819-7564
Email: fukuokaj@med.u-toyama.ac.jp

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Corresponding Author and Request of Reprint:
Junya Fukuoka, MD., PhD.
Department of Pathology,
Nagasaki University Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, Nagasaki, Japan.
Tel: +81-95-819-7562 / Fax: +81-95-819-7564
Department of Pathology,
Nagasaki University Hospital, Nagasaki, Japan
Email: fukuokaj@nagasaki-u.ac.jp

List of all authors:
Kazuhiro Tabata, M.D.
Assistant professor,
Department of pathology,
Nagasaki University Hospital, Nagasaki, Japan
+81-95-819-7562 / Fax: +81-95-819-7564
Department of Pathology,
Nagasaki University Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, Nagasaki, Japan.
Email: t-kaz@nagasaki-u.ac.jp

Tomonori Tanaka, M.D.
Department of Pathology,
Nagasaki University Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences
Email: tanaka.t.tomonori@gmail.com
Department of Pathology,
Nagasaki University Hospital

Tomayoshi Hayashi, M.D., Ph.D.
Associate professor,
Department of pathology,
Nagasaki University Hospital, Nagasaki, Japan
Email: toma@nagasaki-u.ac.jp

Takashi Hori, M.S
Assistant professor,
Department of Pathology
Toyama University Hospital, Toyama, Japan
2630 Sugitani, Toyama, Japan 930-0194
Email: thpath@med.u-toyama.ac.jp

Sayuri Nunomura, M.S
Department of Pathology,
Nagasaki University Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences
Email: snumo@nagasaki-u.ac.jp
Department of Pathology,
Nagasaki University Hospital

Suguru Yonezawa, M.D., Ph.D.
Department of Human Pathology, Field of Oncology, Kagoshima University Graduate School of Medical and Dental Sciences, Kagoshima, Japan
8-35-1, Sakuragaoka, Kagoshima, Japan 890-8544
+81-99-275-5270 / Fax: +81-99-265-7235
Email: syoneza@m2.kufm.kagoshima-u.ac.jp

Junya Fukuoka, M.D., Ph.D.
Professor and chair
Department of pathology,
Nagasaki University Hospital
Department of Pathology,
Nagasaki University Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, Nagasaki, Japan

Competing interests:
Dr. Fukuoka is a representative of a venture company, Pathology Institute Corporation, founded inside Toyama University, and holds stock in the company. Mr. Hori is a director of the same company and also holds stock in the company.

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No other authors have potential conflicts of interest related to the present work.