Author's response to reviews

Title: Pre-profiling factors influencing serum microRNA levels

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To the Editor in-Chief,

Thank you for re-reviewing our manuscript entitled “Pre-profiling factors influencing serum microRNA levels” (MS: 3341979551112863) for publication in BMC Clinical Pathology.

We are pleased to have the opportunity to incorporate the feedback we have been sent by the board member. A point-by-point response to each comment is presented below. Please find attached a revised manuscript that reflects the changes described below.

We look forward to seeing this work move forward with BMC Clinical Pathology.

Sincerely,

Cathie Garnis, PhD
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Dept. of Surgery (Div. of Otolaryngology)
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A. In the Discussion, the Authors should point out that they did not distinguish between microRNAs in the total blood and microRNAs circulating in microvesicles (such exosomes). This should be pointed out more clearly, given the increasing interest of all the scientific community to this important field.

We have added a statement in the discussion to highlight this point.

B. The full nomenclature of microRNAs (i.e. -5p vs -3p) should be reported also in the tables and whenever possible.

The nomenclature has been updated.

Additional editorial comments:
  1) We are concerned that table 7 contains information that could potentially allow patients to be identified. We would ask you to remove age and sex from this table to safeguard patient confidentiality.

Age and Sex have been removed from the table.