Author's response to reviews

Title: Immunohistochemical and other prognostic factors in B cell non Hodgkin lymphoma patients, Kampala, Uganda

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Dear Editor,

Thank you very much for your email concerning our manuscript MS: 2028440611291453. We very much appreciate the opportunity to clarify the issues.

Differences

There are several differences between this paper and our previous publication (pdf enclosed).

The main difference between the two papers is that the current paper reports on the outcome (survival) of patients with B cell non Hodgkin lymphoma. We also related outcome to immunohistochemical markers.

What is novel about this paper is that it is the first time that survival of Burkitt lymphoma has been linked to CD30. Secondly it has described the survival of Diffuse Large B Cell lymphoma in a sub Saharan African population and linked it with the cell of origin (in our study we have found that patients with activated germinal centre B- cell lymphoma had the best prognosis).

Other differences

There also differences in the methods. The difference in the methods lies in the fact that in this paper we retrieved patients’ case notes in order to obtain details of the patients disease stage, type of chemotherapy, number of courses received and survival (whether dead or alive) and time to death.

Cancer registry data was also used when the addresses of the patients fell within
Kyadondo County, the area covered by the Kampala Cancer Registry. One of us (LKT) and two research assistants followed up patients whose survival status was not clear. The follow up involved tracing patients to their homes (district, sub county, parish and village) in the different regions of Uganda.

Similarities:
In the current paper we used the same tissue microarray/sample group as in our previous paper. We made changes to our manuscript to clarify these points.
Thank you very much for your support.
Yours sincerely,
Lynnette K Tumwine