Author's response to reviews

Title: Tertiary lymphoid structures are associated with higher tumor grade in primary operable breast cancer patients.

Authors:

Stine L Figenschau (stine.l.figenschau@uit.no)
Silje Fismen (silje.fismen@unn.no)
Kristin A Fenton (kristin.fenton@uit.no)
Christopher Fenton (christopher.fenton@uit.no)
Elin S Mortensen (elin.s.mortensen@uit.no)

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

Thank you for the response from the editor regarding our manuscript entitled: “Tertiary lymphoid structures are associated with higher tumor grade in primary operable breast cancer patients”. The manuscript has now been revised according to the editor’s comments as described below.

1. Kindly provide more information regarding the waiving of the need for informed consent. Furthermore, kindly include that in the method section.

Response: The following is included in the method section:
(Page 6, line 1-6)

This study was approved by the Regional Committees for Medical and Health Research Ethics (REC; Norway, 2010/1523). All analyses were performed on tissue specimen previously collected for diagnostic purposes. The study was considered of significant interest for society, the participant’s welfare and integrity was safeguarded and the material was anonymized. Since all these criteria were fulfilled, the Regional Ethics committee agreed to use the material for study purposes.

This is covered by the Norwegian Health Research Law, §15 regarding new or changed use of collected biological material. This law states that if a study is considered of significant interest for society and the participant’s welfare and integrity is safeguarded and the material is anonymized, it is allowed to use it for research purposes.
2. Please rename the Introduction section `Background` in the abstract and then main body of the manuscript.

Response:
Page 2, line 1
Page 3, line 6

We have renamed the Introduction section `Background` in the abstract and the main body of the manuscript.

We thank you again for assessing our manuscript and hope our responses addresses the editors concerns.

Sincerely,

Elin S. Mortensen
Professor
University of Tromsø

elin.s.mortensen@uit.no
+47 77 62 72 19