Author's response to reviews

Title: The prognostic role of preoperative serum albumin levels in glioblastoma patients

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Version: 5  Date: 2 February 2015

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

(Manuscript number: MS: 1558305274141560)

We would like to thank you for giving us the opportunity to revise our manuscript. We have carefully taken reviewer’s comments into consideration in preparing our revision, which resulted in a paper that is clearer and more rigorous. Supplementary experiments have been added in the new paper. Below is our point-by-point response to reviewer’s comments.

Response to Reviewer Aaron Mammoser:

Thanks for your careful review. We have revised our paper according to your comments.

1. According to the reviewer’s suggestion, the number of patients who received steroids prior to serum albumin measurement has been indicated in the revised paper. In this series of cases, 52 (24.3%) cases used dexamethasone prior to the serum albumin measurement for only one day with a total dose of 5-10 mg. The remaining cases received no steroids before the measurement. The serum albumin levels were similar for patients with and without dexamethasone use (35±5.0 vs 35.8±6.0 g/L, \(P=0.443\); Figure 4A), consistent with previous data that a short time and small dose of steroid therapy is unlikely to affect the serum albumin level\(^1\).

2. As suggested by the reviewer, we performed immunohistochemistry
(IHC) to detect IDH1-R132H mutation. IDH1-R132H mutation accounts for approximately 90% of all IDH mutations and can be satisfactorily demonstrated by IHC, although other mutations can only be identified by sequencing \[^{2-4}\]. In this series of cases, IHC identified IDH1-R132H mutation in 14 (6.5%) tumors (Figure 4B). Consistently, previous studies show that, about 5-10% of individuals with adult glioblastoma carry an IDH mutation \[^{4}\]. And we found that, although both IDH1-R132H mutation and serum albumin levels are associated with prognosis, they did not correlate with each other and the prognostic effect of serum albumin levels was not significantly modified by IDH1-R132H mutation (Table 1-2).

3. As suggested by the reviewer, the statement “serum albumin is a prognostic factor” has been replaced by “the serum albumin level is associated with prognosis” in abstract conclusion and discussion.

Thanks for the careful review and we are looking forward to your reply.

Best wishes.

Anhua Wu

References


