Author's response to reviews

Title: PIPelle Prospective ENDOmetrial carcinoma (PIPENDO) study, pre-operative recognition of high risk endometrial carcinoma: a multicentre prospective cohort study

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Ms. Battad,

Thank you for considering the manuscript “PIpelle Prospective ENDOmetrial carcinoma (PIPENDO) study, pre-operative recognition of high risk endometrial carcinoma: a multicentre prospective cohort study”. We have read the comments with interest, and we have tried to adjust the manuscript accordingly.

Included you find an adjusted draft of the manuscript. We have marked out the adjustments that have been made in the revised manuscript.

Our reply to the comments is summarized below:

**Please include a power calculation to show how the study aims to contain sufficient people to get reliable results.**

We added a paragraph with the sample size calculation on page 10-11, line 219-231.

“Calculation of the sample size is based on the primary outcome variable of the study, which is high risk endometrial carcinoma. The smallest outcome group, in this case patients with high risk endometrial carcinoma, should be 10-20 times the amount of independent variables used. Independent variables in the analyses will be: age (dichotomous), grade (1, 2 and 3) and the best predictive immunohistochemical markers. For the sample size calculation we assume to include six immunohistochemical markers in the multivariate analysis. Grade count as two variables because we use it as a trichotomous variable, which makes the total variables nine.”
The amount of subjects in the smallest group therefore should lie between 90 and 180. However, as a rule of thumb, the amount of subjects should never be lower than 100.

With an expected high risk endometrial carcinoma rate of 25% at least 400 patients with endometrial carcinoma should be included to include at least 100 patients with high risk endometrial carcinoma.”

Please include a statement on funding in the acknowledgements section.
We added a sentence on page 12, line 270. “This study has not received external funding yet.”

Please include a statement on whether written informed consent will be obtained from patients.
We added two sentences on page 11, 238-241. “We did not obtain written informed consent from patients because we use data anonymously according to the “Code for Proper Use of Human Tissue”. Included patients were informed about tissue and data use for scientific purpose in general and made no drawbacks.”

We look forward to your decision on the manuscript.

On behalf of the other authors, yours sincerely,

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