Author's response to reviews

Title: Relationship between circulating tumor cells and epithelial to mesenchymal transition in early breast cancer.

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Dear Dr. Solera,

We would like to submit our manuscript named “Relationship between circulating tumor cells and epithelial to mesenchymal transition in early breast cancer.” to your journal for a publication.

Circulating tumor cells (CTCs) play a crucial role in tumor dissemination. Epithelial to mesenchymal transition (EMT) is involved in cancer invasion and metastasis. This study aimed to assess correlation between CTCs and expression of EMT transcription factors in breast tumor tissue.

In this prospective study, we observed lack of correlation between CTCs and expression of EMT transcription factors in primary breast cancer cells or cancer associated stroma. Lack of correlation was observed for different subpopulation of CTCs as well. Our data suggest, that expression of EMT transcription factors in unselected tumor tissue didn’t play a major role in CTCs release, and it is possible, that other factors or signaling pathways are more closely associated with CTCs generation.

We believe that our results could lead to better understanding of tumor dissemination and the role of CTCs and EMT in metastatic cascade.

We believe that your journal meets the expectation we address here.

Thank you in advance.

Kind regards,

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