Author's response to reviews

Title: A phase-II trial of combined chemotherapy with S-1, oral leucovorin, and bevacizumab in heavily pre-treated patients with metastatic colorectal cancer

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Cover Letter

July 19, 2015
Dafne Solera, Executive Editor
BMC cancer
Floor 6, 236 Gray’s Inn Road, London
WC1X, United Kingdom

Dear Dr. Manoj Pandey

Re: “A phase-II trial of combined chemotherapy with S-1, oral leucovorin, and bevacizumab in heavily pre-treated patients with metastatic colorectal cancer” by Kazuhisa Yamaguchi, Hiroya Taniguchi, Azusa Komori, Yukiya Narita, Sohei Nitta, Motoo Nomura, Shigenori Kadowaki, Daisuke Takahari, Takashi Ura, Masashi Andoh, Kei Muro, Keita Mori and Yoshinori Igarashi; MS. No 1755515626154829.

Please find attached, the revised version of our paper. We are most grateful to you and the referee for the helpful comments on the original version of our manuscript. We have taken the comment into account.

We have addressed all the comments by reviewer Dr. Andrea Evangelista, as indicated on the attached pages, and we hope that our explanation and revisions are satisfactory.

We hope that the revised version of our paper is now suitable for publication in the BMC cancer and we look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

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We are grateful to reviewer Dr. Andrea Evangelista for the special comments and useful suggestions that have helped us to improve our paper.

**Minor Revisions**
The planned sample size was determined on the basis of a one-sided alpha error (5%). Thus, the confidence interval of the primary endpoint (DCR) should be provided according to the sample size specifications. The authors reported a two-sided 95% confidence interval (45%–81%) and declare that “this study met its primary endpoint” since “the lower limit of one-sided confidence interval of DCR (45%) was higher than the predefined null value (22%)”. On the basis of presented results, I did some calculations and the one-sided 95% confidence interval should be 48%-100%. Please correct this mistake in the "Results" section and modify in the same way the abstract.

**Answers**
Thank you for your suggestions. I modified the confidence interval to 48-100% in Results section (p10, line 19) and Abstract.