Author's response to reviews

Title: ER, PgR, Ki67, p27Kip1 and histological grade as predictors of pathological complete response in patients with HER2-positive breast cancer receiving neoadjuvant chemotherapy using taxanes followed by fluorouracil, epirubicin, and cyclophosphamide concomitant with trastuzumab

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Version: 2
Date: 14 August 2014

Author's response to reviews:

August 13, 2014

Professor Dafne Solera
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Dear Professor Dafne Solera

[Manuscript title]

ER, PgR, Ki67, p27Kip1 and histological grade as predictors of pathological complete response in patients with HER2-positive breast cancer receiving neoadjuvant chemotherapy using taxanes followed by fluorouracil, epirubicin, and cyclophosphamide concomitant with trastuzumab

[Author]

Sasagu Kurozumi

We are pleased to submit the above manuscript for consideration for publication as an Research Article in ‘BMC Cancer’.

In this study, we evaluated whether pCR after neoadjuvant chemotherapy (NAC)
with trastuzumab was related to status of several biological factors including p27Kip1, a cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor for HER2-positive breast cancer patients.

We also assessed the difference of prognosis of pCR and non-pCR patients groups, and between those with positive and negative lymph node metastasis after NAC with trastuzumab.

In our manuscript, we revealed that histological grade, ER status, PgR status and Ki67 Labeling Index are predictive factors of pCR in NAC with trastuzumab. In addition, we also clarified that low expression of p27Kip1 is predictive factor of pCR. Furthermore, pCR and pathologically negative nodes were predictive of better survivals.

We believe that the results obtained by this study should provide valuable information for readers of ‘BMC Cancer’. The manuscript has not been published elsewhere and is not being considered for publication in another journal.

All authors have read and approved submission of the manuscript.

We look forward to learning the results of peer review in due course.

Yours sincerely

Sasagu Kurozumi

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