Author's response to reviews

Title: Neutrophil/Lymphocyte Ratio has no predictive or prognostic value in breast cancer patients undergoing preoperative systemic therapy

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Dear Editor-in-Chief,

Please find enclosed a manuscript entitled “N/L Ratio has no predictive or prognostic value in breast cancer patients undergoing preoperative systemic therapy” by Christoph Suppan, Vesna Bjelic-Radisic, Marlen La Garde, Andrea Groselj-Strele, Katharina Eberhardt, Hellmut Samonigg, Hans Loibner, Nadia Dandachi and Marija Balic which we would like to publish in BMC Cancer.

In the present study we evaluated the predictive and prognostic value of Neutrophil-to-Lymphocyte-Ratio in early stage breast cancer patients undergoing preoperative systemic treatment. Prognostic value of Neutrophil-to-Lymphocyte Ration was demonstrated in several cancers, however, there are very few data in early stage breast cancer. Mostly its significance was demonstrated at later stage cancers.

Although NLR may have clinical utility in predicting survival in different cancers, our retrospective study failed to show its impact on response to treatment or overall survival in breast cancer patients undergoing preoperative systemic therapy. This may be for several potential reasons, including cohort of patients with all three intrinsic subtypes, luminal cancers, Her2 positive cancers and triple negative breast cancers. We show here that NLR ratio does not represent a robust predictive or prognostic factor in this patient cohort and think that this represents important information which may be of importance for publication in BMC Cancer.

The manuscript is solely the work of the authors stated. Neither the submitted paper nor any similar paper, in whole or in part has been submitted, published or is in press in any other scientific journal. The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest. All authors have read and approved all versions of the manuscript, its content, and its submission to BMC Cancer.

Sincerely yours,

Christoph Suppan

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