Author's response to reviews

Title: Clinical significance of OCT4 and SOX2 protein expression in cervical cancer

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Author's response to reviews: see over
We have provided a point-by-point description of the changes below and have highlighted them in red in the revised version of the manuscript.

Response to Editorial Request

1.) Requesting consent statement: Please state in the Methods section whether written informed consent for participation in the study was obtained from participants or, where participants are children, a parent or guardian.

We have revised the Method section as follows:

[On page 5-6, Material & method, Line 90-109]

Methods

Patient selection
A total of 450 patients with cervical cancer and cervical intraepithelial neoplasia (CIN) were collected from patients who enrolled at Gangnam Severance Hospital, Yonsei University College of Medicine in Seoul, Korea and the Korea Gynecologic Cancer Bank through Bio & Medical Technology Development Program of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Korea between 1996 and 2010. One hundred sixty-one paraffin-embedded specimens of cervical cancer, 289 CIN, and 305 matched normal tissues were included in the study. Medical records were obtained to review patient data including age, cancer stage, tumor differentiation, cell type, tumor size, lymphovascular space invasion (LVSI) and lymph node (LN) metastasis. Cervical cancer was staged according to the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO) stage and histologically classified and graded according to World Health Organization (WHO) grade. Patients with surgical indications underwent radical hysterectomy with pelvic and aortic lymph node dissection. Concurrent chemoradiation therapy was added in cases with risk factors such as LN metastasis, parametrial invasion and positive resection margin. Inoperable patients underwent radiation or chemoradiation therapy. Tissue samples and medical records were obtained with informed consent of all patients and approval of the local research ethics committee (approval no. 3-2010-0030; Seoul, South Korea). This study was additionally approved by the Office of Human Subjects Research at the National Institute of Health.

2.) Please include email address of all authors in the manuscript.

Email addressed of all authors already listed on page 2 as follows:

[On page 2, Line 26-30]

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BWK: kimbowook@gmail.com; HC: hanbyoul@yuhs.ac
3.) Please include a statement in the manuscript to describe the ethics approval for the retrieval of medical records for this study.

Please see our response regarding comment number 1

4.) Please rename Material and Methods to `Methods`.

Please see our response regarding comment number 1. Material and Methods renamed to Methods.