Author’s response to reviews

**Title:** Levels of activated platelet-derived microvesicles in patients with soft tissue sarcoma correlate with an increased risk of venous thromboembolism

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**Author’s response to reviews:**

Revision of the manuscript „Levels of activated platelet-derived microvesicles in patients with soft tissue sarcoma correlate with an increased risk of venous thromboembolism“ (BCAN-D-16-01438R3)
Dear Editor,

We are grateful for being given the chance to revise our manuscript entitled “Levels of activated platelet-derived microvesicles in patients with soft tissue sarcoma correlate with an increased risk of venous thromboembolism”, which has been submitted to BMC Cancer under the manuscript number BCAN-D-16-01483R2.

We have addressed all the points raised by the editor and referees in the attached point-by-point response letter and hope that the manuscript in its revised version is now acceptable for publication in BMC Cancer.

Please find a response letter providing a detailed response to each reviewer/editorial point raised below.

I look forward to your response.

Editor Comments:

1. “Please include the list of abbreviations used in the manuscript before the Declarations section.”

As suggested, we included the list of abbreviations used in the manuscript before the Declarations section (List of abbreviations: line 12-17; page 14).

2. “The Availability of Data and Materials section refers to the raw data used in your study; presenting tables and figures is not sufficient to state that all data is contained within the manuscript and additional files. Please only use this statement if you have indeed provided all
raw data on which your study is based. We strongly encourage all authors to share their raw data, either by providing it in a supplementary file or depositing it in a public repository and providing the details on how to access it in this section. If you do not wish to share your data, please clearly state this in this section along with a justification. For more information and a list of suitable availability statements, please see our submission guidelines: https://www.biomedcentral.com/getpublished/editorial-policies#availability+of+data+and+materials“

We are thankful for this important remark. Since throughout the previous revision, we were asked to remove some of the supplementary files in order to maintain patient confidentiality, it is true that not all raw data on which our study is based is included in the manuscript.

However, to respect the patients’ rights to privacy and protect their identity, we decided against depositing the raw data in a public repository. Thus, we included the following statement in our revised manuscript:

“The datasets generated and analysed during the current study are not publicly available since they contain potentially identifying information.” (Declarations section, Subsection “Availability of data and materials”, line 2-3, page 15).

3. “We recommend that you adhere to the guidelines for authorship that are applicable in your research field or, in the absence of any guidelines, to the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) guidelines. Specifically, HB and GBS so not appear to meet these guidelines. Please see http://www.biomedcentral.com/getpublished/editorial-policies#authorship for more details.”

We agree with the editor that adherence to the guidelines for authorship need to be carefully checked. We apologize if the contributions of HB and GBS have not been clearly stated throughout the subsection “Authors’ contributions”. HB and GBS made substantial contributions to the conception of the study and took part in writing as well as in revising the manuscript critically for important intellectual content, thus meeting the ICMJE criteria for authorship. We included a more precise description of their contribution in the revised manuscript (Declarations section, Subsection “Authors’ contributions”, line 22-24, page 15).
4. “In the Funding section, please indicate the role of the funding body in the design of the study and collection, analysis, and interpretation of data and in writing the manuscript.”

The funding bodies have not participated in the design of the study; furthermore, they have not participated in the collection, analysis, and interpretation of data or in writing the manuscript. This important information was included in the revised manuscript (Declarations section, Subsection “Funding”, line 14-16, page 15).

We thank the editor for these valuable recommendations. We think that including the suggested additional points into the revised manuscript, we managed to substantially improve the manuscript. We hope that this has been done to the editor’s satisfaction.

Reviewer reports:

“If improvements to the English language within your manuscript have been requested, you should have your manuscript reviewed by someone who is fluent in English. If you would like professional help in revising this manuscript, you can use any reputable English language editing service. We can recommend our affiliates Nature Research Editing Service (http://bit.ly/NRES_BS) and American Journal Experts (http://bit.ly/AJE_BS) for help with English usage. Please note that use of an editing service is neither a requirement nor a guarantee of publication. Free assistance is available from our English language tutorial (https://www.springer.com/gb/authors-editors/authorandreviewertutorials/writinginenglish) and our Writing resources (http://www.biomedcentral.com/getpublished/writing-resources). These cover common mistakes that occur when writing in English.”

We are grateful for this important comment. Our manuscript was proofread by a native English speaker. This was included in the “Acknowledgments” section of the revised manuscript (Declarations section, Subsection “Acknowledgements”, line 1, page 16).
As suggested throughout the process of proofreading, we replaced “as well as” by “and” (Abstract: line 12, page 2; Results: line 3, page 8; Discussion: line 8, page 12). Moreover, the expression “microvesicle-subpopulations” was changed to “microvesicle subpopulations” (Abstract: line 5, page 2; Introduction: line 28, page 4 and line 2, page 5).

Furthermore, the opening sentence of the Conclusion “In our study, we found significantly higher levels of Annexin V-positive and endothelium-derived (CD62E-positive) microvesicles to circulate in the peripheral blood of patients with G3 soft tissue sarcoma compared to patients with G2 soft tissue sarcoma.” was replaced by “We found significantly higher levels of Annexin V-positive and endothelium-derived (CD62E-positive) microvesicles to be circulating in the peripheral blood of patients with G3 soft tissue sarcoma compared to patients with G2 soft tissue sarcoma.” (Abstract: line 28, page 2 – line 1-2, page 3; Conclusion: line 2-4, page 14).