Author’s response to reviews

Title: Trastuzumab without chemotherapy in the adjuvant treatment of breast cancer: subgroup results from a large observational study

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Mrs Rice,

thank you for your kind letter from August 14th. We completed and re-formatted the text and figures according to your requests.
Here's our point by point response:

1 - Please provide email address details for all authors on the title page of the manuscript.

The email addresses were added for each author on the title page.

2 - Please revise the Declarations subsection - Ethics approval and consent to participate - of your manuscript to include the details on the body that decided this study fulfilled the criteria of a non-interventional study.

3 - For all research involving human subjects, informed consent to participate in the study should be obtained from participants (or their parent or guardian in the case of children under 16) and a statement to this effect should appear in the ‘Ethics approval and consent to participate’ section of the Declarations including whether the consent was written. When reporting on such studies, individual patient data should not be made available unless consent for publication has also been obtained.

If the need for informed consent has been waived by an IRB or is deemed unnecessary according to national regulations, please clearly state this, including the name of the Board or a reference to the relevant legislation in the ‘Ethics approval and consent to participate’ section of the Declarations.

The “Ethics approval and consent to participate” section was expanded to include the necessary details on issues 2 and 3.
4 - Statement on non-financial conflict of interest should be provided for all the authors in the manuscript.

The term “financial relationships” was substituted by the more general term “competing interests” (according to what we found in a recently published BMC Cancer article).

5 - Although author name 'Thomas Göhler' is present in title page as well as in editorial submission system, initials of the same author are not mentioned in Author Contributions section in the manuscript.

TG was added to the Author Contribution session.

6 - Figures should be provided as separate files, and each figure of a manuscript should be submitted as a single file. Please ensure that figures and tables are formatted and uploaded to the file inventory in line with the guidelines described here: https://bmccancer.biomedcentral.com/submission-guidelines/preparing-your-manuscript#preparing+figures

The two multi-panel figures were added as two separate Powerpoint files.

Best regards

Axel Hinke