Author’s response to reviews

Title: How many samples are needed to infer truly clonal mutations from heterogenous tumours?

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Technical Comments:

1- Research involving human subjects (including human material or human data) that is reported in the manuscript must have been performed with the approval of an appropriate ethics committee. Research carried out on humans must be in compliance with the Helsinki Declaration (http://www.wma.net/en/30publications/10policies/b3/index.html). A statement to this effect must appear in the appropriate Declaration subsection of the manuscript, including the name of the body which gave approval, with a reference number where appropriate.

If the need for ethics approval were waived, then please clearly state this, including the name of the ethics committee that provided the exemption, together with the reasons for the waiver, or a reference to the relevant legislation.

2- 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 with details, 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.

Reply: Our research does not involve human subjects therefore we find this rule not applicable for our case. In the subsection ‘Ethics approval and consent to participate’ we have added the following statement: “This work does not involve human subjects, including human material or human data, therefore no approval or consent was required.”

3- In the Funding section of the Declarations 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. If no specific funding was received for this study, please clearly indicate this in the Funding section.

Reply: We have updated the Funding section with following sentence “The funding bodies did not have any role in the design of the study and collection, analysis, and interpretation of data or in writing the manuscript.”

4- Please consider the list of authors as it currently stands with reference to our guidelines regarding qualification for authorship (http://www.biomedcentral.com/submissions/editorial-policies#authorship).

Reply: Our list of authors stands with accordance to the guidelines regarding qualification for authorship.

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Ok, done.

6- At this stage, please upload your manuscript as a single, final, clean version that does not contain any tracked changes, comments, highlights, strikethrough or text in different colours. All relevant tables and figures should also be clean versions. Figures (and additional files) should remain uploaded as separate files. Should you wish to respond to these revision requests, please include the information in the designated input box only.

Reply: We have cleaned up our files prior to resubmission.