Author’s response to reviews

Title: Early onset neutropenia: a useful predictor of chemosensitivity and favorable prognosis in patients with serous ovarian cancer

Authors:
Yijing He (25887219@qq.com)
Ting Li (240983318@qq.com)
Jue Liu (lj3457@163.com)
Qiong Ou (joanqionger@sina.com)
Junlin Zhou (zjl18627660255@163.com)

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Editor and Reviewers:

Thank you for your letter and for the reviewers’ comments concerning our manuscript entitled “Early onset neutropenia: a useful predictor of chemosensitivity and favorable prognosis in patients with serous ovarian cancer” (ID: BCAN-D-19-01073). Those comments are all valuable and very helpful for revising and improving our paper, as well as the important guiding significance to our researches. We have studied comments carefully and have made correction which we hope meet with approval. The responds to the reviewer’s comments and the main corrections in the paper are as flowing:

Responds to the reviewer’s comments:

Reviewer #1:

1. Response to comment: (One advise is to discuss this point more deeply in the discussion including also more recent pieces of evidence (i.e Gynecol Oncol. 2019 Jul;154(1):83-88. doi: 10.1016/j.ygyno.2019.04.012. Epub 2019 Apr 24).)

Response: We are very sorry for our negligence of discussing this point more deeply in the discussion including also more recent pieces of evidence. We have re-written this part according to the Reviewer’s suggestion. Special thanks to you for your good comments and suggestions.
Reviewer #2:

1. Response to comment: (Correlation between time of development of neutropenia with the present regime seems tangible but with newer regimes I am not sure if this conclusion will be appropriate.)

Response: The findings of our research suggest that early onset CIN may be used to predict chemosensitivity and favorable prognosis in SOC patients receiving carboplatin plus paclitaxel adjuvant chemotherapy post cytoreductive surgery. However, there are several limitations concerning the present research. Firstly, it was retrospective in design, with a limited sample size. Secondly, the patients enrolled in the study belong to same ethnicity and received a single chemotherapy regimen, carboplatin plus paclitaxel. In the future, a large-scale multicentric study would be essential to fully elucidate the association of timing of CIN onset and effective chemotherapy.

2. Response to comment: (Also we use G-CSF in anticipation of preventing neutropenia, I did not find mention of how the authors addressed this confounder. This should be explained in the paper.)

Response: We are very sorry for the Reviewer’s misunderstanding that there is no mention of preventive use of G-CSF. In fact, we have explained that the use of G-CSF for prophylaxis was prohibited, unless ANC reached below 0.5×10⁹/L. (It can be viewed in Methods section, Assessment of neutropenia, line 9-10, page 3).

Special thanks to you for your good comments and suggestions.

List of Major Changes:

1. Title page, Line 9-10, page 1, the email addresses of all authors were added.

2. Abstract section, Conclusions, Line35, page 1, the statements of “Early onset neutropenia can be” were corrected as “Early onset neutropenia may be”.

3. Methods section, Line 20, page 2, the heading “Materials and Methods” was renamed “Methods”.

4. Discussion section (the last paragraph), Line 36, page 5, the statements of “it is evident that early onset CIN can be a factor” was corrected as “it is evident that early onset CIN may be a factor”.

5. Conclusion section, Line 1, page 6, the statements of “The findings of the research suggest that early onset CIN can be used” was corrected as “The findings of the research suggest that early onset CIN may be used”.
6. Declarations section, Line 11-35, page 6, the heading "Declarations" was added.

7. Declarations section, Authors contributions, Line 30-32, page 6, the authors' full names were corrected as authors' initials.


9. Line 12-13, page 8, the Figure legend was moved after References.

Once again, thank you very much for your comments and suggestions. If you have any question about this paper, please don’t hesitate to let me know.

Yours sincerely,

Junlin Zhou

Phone: +86-18627660255
E-mail: zjl18627660255@163.com