Author's response to reviews

Title: Risk factors for biochemical recurrence after Robotic Assisted Radical Prostatectomy: a single surgeon experience

Authors:

Ryuta Tanimoto (tanimo10@gmail.com)
Yomi Fashola (yomine05@gmail.com)
Kymora B Scotland (scotland.kb@gmail.com)
Leonard G Gomella (Leonard.Gomella@jefferson.edu)
Edouard J Trabuls (Edouard.Trabuls@jefferson.edu)
Costas D Lallas (Costas.Lallas@jefferson.edu)

Version: 2
Date: 17 December 2014

Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Dr. Karam

On behalf of all the authors, I would like to ask you to consider our manuscript entitled “Risk factors for biochemical recurrence after Robotic Assisted Radical Prostatectomy: a single surgeon experience” for publication in BMC Urology as a research article.

The purpose of this retrospective study was to assess the prognostic significance of positive surgical margin and other pathological factors on biochemical recurrence (BCR) in patients after RARP. In order to account for surgeon variability, we have limited the cases under review to those performed by a single surgeon and have classified them by operative periods. We confirmed positive surgical margin was one of the independent predictors of BCR. We feel that findings from this study will be of special interest to the readers of BMC Urology.

The proposal for this project was approved by the Thomas Jefferson University Hospital Institutional Review Board (approval reference: 02.9000), the Office of Human Research Division of Human Subjects Protection (1015 Chestnut Suite 1100, Philadelphia, PA), which provided an exemption such that written consent from every patient was not required. Patient specific information was de-identified as per the requirements of the IRB. This manuscript has not been published and is not under consideration for publication elsewhere. All the authors have read the manuscript and have approved this submission. Financial support for this study was not provided.

The revised version has been modified accordingly as below.

1. Line numbering:
   I put page numbers correctly and removed the insert page breaks from my manuscript.

2. Name of Ethics Committee:
   Name of Ethics Committee is the Office of Human Research Division of Human Subjects Protection (1015 Chestnut Suite 1100, Philadelphia, PA) and the reference number is 02.9000.

3. Acknowledgements:
   We don’t have any sources of funding for this research or outsourcing language editors who revised this manuscript.

4. Consent:
   Again, the proposal for this project was approved by the Thomas Jefferson University Hospital Institutional Review Board (approval reference: 02.9000), the Office of Human Research Division of Human Subjects Protection (1015 Chestnut Suite 1100, Philadelphia, PA), which provided an exemption such that written consent from every patient was not required. Patient specific information was de-identified as per the requirements of the IRB. The text in methods has been corrected accordingly.
5. Tables:
I placed tables in the main manuscript file.

Thank you for considering our work and really hope that this manuscript will be acceptable for publication in BMC Urology.

Best regards,

Ryuta Tanimoto, M.D., Ph.D.
Department of Urology
Thomas Jefferson University