Author’s response to reviews

Title: HER2 overexpression and correlation with other significant clinicopathologic parameters in Ivorian breast cancer women

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Author’s response to reviews:

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Dear Editor

I am writing to submit our revised manuscript entitled, ‘’HER2 overexpression and correlation with other significant clinicopathologic parameters in Ivorian breast cancer women'' (CPAT-D-18-00042) for consideration for publication in BMC Clinical Pathology.

We provide a point-by-point response to the specific comments of the editor as follows:

Point 1: We note that the current submission contains some textual overlap with other previously published works, in particular: "Immunohistochemical determination of estrogen and progesterone receptors in breast cancer: relationship with clinicopathologic factors in 302 patients in Ivory Coast" (2017) BMC Cancer https://doi.org/10.1186/s12885-017-3105-z
Overlap exists on page 3 lines 9-54. While we understand that you may wish to express some of the same ideas contained in these publications, please be aware that we cannot condone the use of text from previously published work. Please re-phrase these sections to minimise overlap.

Answer: We changed the subheading "immunohistochemistry analysis" and "immunostaining assessment" under Methods section to "immunohistochemistry and scoring" on page 3 lines 8-9. In addition, we re-rephrased the subheadings "Patients section" and "Immunohistochemistry and scoring section" from page 3 lines 44-58 to page 4 lines 4-27.

Point 2: Please include in the title page the email addresses of all authors.
Answer: We added the email addresses of all authors in the title page under "corresponding author" on page 1 lines 27-40.

Point 3: Please include a Declarations heading above your Declarations, after the Conclusions.
Answer: We included a Declarations heading above my Declarations following the Conclusions and List of abbreviations on page 10 lines 33-34.

Point 4: Please include a ‘Consent for publication’ section under your Declarations. If your manuscript does not contain any individual person’s identifiable data or information, please state “Not applicable” under this section.

Answer: We included a 'Consent for publication' section under my Declarations on page 10 lines 42-47.

Point 5: Please note, the "Availability of Data and Materials" declaration refers to the raw data used in your study. The statement currently provided is not correct in the case of your manuscript.

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.

Answer: We provided the right statement on "Availability of Data and Materials" declaration as
follows: The datasets used and/or analysed during the current study are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request on page 10 lines 51-54.

Point 6: Currently, the contributions of authors BD do not automatically qualify them for authorship. Please provide clarification on their contributions, or remove their names from the list of authors and place them in the “Acknowledgements” section instead. Please note that any changes in the list of authors requires the completion of the “Change in authorship” form. An 'author’ is generally considered to be someone... of funding, collection of data, writing of the manuscript or general supervision of the research group - alone - does not usually justify authorship.

Answer: We clarified the contribution of Brahima Doukoure (BD), Associate Professor of Pathology, as follows: BD was involved in immunohistochemical and histological analyses and revised the manuscript critically for important intellectual content under Author's contributions section on page 11 lines 19-22.

Point 7: At this stage, please upload your manuscript as a single, final, clean version that does not contain any tracked changes, comments, highlights, strikethroughs or text in different colours. All relevant tables/figures/additional files should also be clean versions. Figures (and additional files) should remain uploaded as separate files.

Answer: We uploaded a clean version of our manuscript into your editorial journal system. This manuscript describes original work and is not under consideration by any other journal. All authors approved the manuscript and its submission to BMC Clinical Pathology.

Sincerely,

Nguiessan Alphonse Aman