Author's response to reviews

Title: Expression of Matrix Metalloproteinase-9 as an Independent Prognostic Factor for Recurrence in Patients with Resected Lung Adenocarcinoma

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Version: 2 Date: 11 September 2014

Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor-in-Chief:

I, along with my coauthors, would like to ask you to consider the attached manuscript entitled “Expression of Matrix Metalloproteinase-9 as an Independent Prognostic Factor for Recurrence in Patients with Resected Lung Adenocarcinoma” for publication in Journal of Cardiothoracic Surgery as an original article.

In this retrospective study, we investigated the prognostic value of tumor matrix metalloproteinase (MMP)-9 expression and other clinicopathologic factors in completely resected non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC). Tumor MMP-9 expression was associated with poor outcome in NSCLC adenocarcinoma patients, but not in patients with squamous cell carcinoma. In addition, MMP-9 expression was identified as an independent predictor of relapse for completely resected lung adenocarcinoma.

We believe that the findings of this study are relevant to the scope of your journal and will be of interest to its readership.

This manuscript has not been published or presented elsewhere in part or in entirety, and is not under consideration by another journal. All study participants provided informed consent, and the study design was approved by the appropriate ethics review boards. All the authors have approved the manuscript and agree with submission to your esteemed journal. There are no conflicts of interest to declare.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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