Cover Letter for Revision

Damian Garcia-Olmo, MD, PhD
Editors-in-Chief
World Journal of Gastroenterology

Dear Dr. Garcia-Olmo,
We would like to thank you very much for considering publication of manuscript entitled “DCLK1 as an independent prognostic factor in patients with resected pancreatic carcinoma" for publication in the World Journal of Gastroenterology as an original article.
We would also like to thank the reviewers for putting in the time and effort to provide us with very valuable and detailed comments.

We have revised our manuscript accordingly and feel that the reviewers’ comments have helped us to improve the manuscript considerably.

Yours sincerely,

Kohei Nishio M.D.

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Title: DCLK1 as an independent prognostic factor in patients with resected pancreatic carcinoma
Author: Kohei Nishio, Kenjiro Kimura, Ryosuke Amano, Bunzo Nakata, Sadaaki Yamazoe, Go Ohira, Kotaro Miura, Naoki Kametani, Hiroaki Tanaka, Kazuya Muguruma, Kosei Hirakawa and Masaichi Ohira
Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*
ESPS Manuscript NO:34162

I’m sorry that I miss describing one member’s name ‘Go Ohira’ in the author. I added ‘Go Ohira’ at 1 page, line11, at 1 page, line14 and highlighted his name in red. I would appreciate it if you could add his name in the author. As such, I added his name in scientific research process.
And, we couldn’t find DOI number and PMID in reference 13 and 14. Therefore, we have uploaded first page of reference 13 and 14.

Response to Editors:

Cover Letter for Revision

1. Please provide language certificate letter by professional English language editing companies.
Response: The language of the paper has been polished by one of the professional English language editing companies mentioned in 'The Revision Policies of BPG for Article'. The language certificate has been uploaded.

2. Please provide one report: Scientific Research Process
Response: I have uploaded Scientific Research Process.

3. In order to attract readers to read your full-text article, we request that the author make an audio file describing your final core tip.
Response: I have uploaded an audio file describing my final core tip.

4. Please correct all references number like this.
Response: I have revised all references number and highlighted the number in red.

5. Please check that there are no repeated references.
Response: I have added PubMed citation numbers and DOI citation. Furthermore, I have uploaded the first page of the paper without PMID and DOI.

6. Please provide the decomposable figure of Figures, whose parts are movable and editable.
Response: I have uploaded the original pictures as PPT in Figure1 and Figure 2.

The points revised according to the comments provided by the reviewers were showed as follows. Each answer is showed every comments of each reviewer.

Reviewer No 00069601

1. *Several disease (tumor) and patient factors are analyzed. However, the treatment factor is lacking for the survival analysis. How many patients have received adjuvant chemotherapy and radiotherapy? What was the regimen? Does the adjuvant therapy affects the survival?*

Answer: Of the 136 patients, 96 patients underwent adjuvant chemotherapy. 1 patient received 5FU, 28 patients received tegafur-uracil, 46 patients received Gemcitabine and 21 patients received S-1. Furthermore, the adjuvant therapy doesn't affect the survival. I added this at the page 12, line 7-9 in the RESULTS and highlighted the sentences in red. And I added this in Table1 and highlighted the sentences in red.

2. *I suggest to analyze the failure patterns (or progression-free survival) and correlate it with DCLK1 expression if data are available. I wonder whether the DCLK1 expression with DCLK1 expression increase the possibility of distant metastasis ore local recurrence of both, ore only the death?*

Answer: Thank you for your suggestion. I examined them.
DCLK1-positive patients had significantly shorter RFS than DCLK1-negative patients (P=0.0005). Furthermore, DCLK1-positive patients relapsed more significantly, compared to DCLK1-negative patients did (p=0.0438). But, on recurrent pattern, there is no difference.
I add this at page 12, line 18-24 and at page 13, line1-5 in the RESULTS and highlighted the sentences in red.

3. Some minor points (1) Explanations of some abbreviations are missing,

Answer: I'm sorry. I revised all abbreviations and highlighted them in red.

3. Some minor points (2) The different expression of staging methods (AJCC? UICC?) causes confusion.

Answer: I used AJCC.
I highlighted them in red and revised them at page 9, line 8-9, and page 11, line 6 in MATERIALS AND METHODS and Table 1.

3. Some minor points (3) The term 'R factor' is not familiar to me. Please use another term, such as Resection margin status or Residual tumor classification.

Answer: I change 'R factor' to 'Resection margin status'. I revised them at page 11, line 7 in MATERIALS AND METHODS, at 13 page, line22 in RESULTS and in Table1,3. And I highlighted the sentences in red.

3. Some minor points (4) Conclusion: properities poperites 4. A little English language editing seems to be required.

Answer: The language of the paper has been polished by one of the professional English language editing companies mentioned in 'The Revision Policies of BPG for Article'. AND, we changed stem cell properites into stemness.

Reviewer No 03257825

2. *It could be more interesting if the recent finding of pancreatic cancer initiation by DCLK1 positive pancreatic progenitor cells is included in the discussion.*

Answer: we agree with the reviewer. We added references 27, which were highlighted in red. We added the sentences at 17 page, line12-16 in DISCUSSION.