

29201-Answering reviewers

As reviewers pointed, we excluded some SMTs with negative value of Doubling Time. Negative value of Doubling Time means that the tumor volume reduces. It is not possible. We concluded it occurred to the slow growth SMTs due to the measurement error. We are able to calculate the negative value, but it doesn't work as Doubling Time.

We excluded these SMTs (1 leiomyoma and two schwannomas) with the negative value of Doubling Time.

If we include these SMTs in this study, the Doubling Time of leiomyoma and schwannoma will become longer.

It doesn't affect our result compared GIST and leiomyoma+schwannoma, therefore we excluded these cases.

As reviewers pointed, it could give misunderstanding to readers about causing the bias of the results. So we'd like to delete the phrase "For some SMTs with slow growth rate the doubling time was a negative value owing to the presence of measurement. These lesions were excluded from the study." in the Measurement methods section.

We really appreciate the reviewer's precious important advice.