

ANSWERING REVIEWERS

Query 1 : On the 4th page, the sixteenth line, it's not clear what the author meant by using "unresolved inflammation".

Clarification. This has been changed to 'chronic inflammation'.

Query 2: On the 3rd page, the first line, "Multivariate linear regression analysis confirmed the association with inflammation marker IL-6"

Clarification. This line has been changed to, 'Multivariate linear regression analysis confirmed the association of markers kynurenine and hTERT with inflammation marker IL-6, there was a concomitant significant decrease in their levels in a 3-mo follow-up.

Query 3: In the sixth line and the twentieth line of the fifth page, "suggest" should be "suggested".

Clarification: Changed to 'suggested' as per reviewer suggestion.

Query 4: The research sample should have clear exclusion and inclusion criteria

Clarification: Both criteria have been stated separately and clearly in Materials and Methods section. It reads as follows:

Inclusion: Patients with symptoms of recurrent seizures & headache, radiologically diagnosed and histopathologically confirmed as glioma grade II,III, or IV.

Exclusion criteria: Patients less than 18 years of age or patients histopathologically confirmed as glioma grade I.

Query 5: On the eighth page "the best value was for IL-6 ($r=0.5409$, $p<0.0001$)". What is the meaning of this sentence? No relevant data can be seen in the table behind the article

Clarification: The sentence has been changed to 'The association of plasma levels (pre-operative) of all markers yielded a positive correlation with the grade; however, the best value was observed for IL-6 ($r=0.64$, $p<0.0001$, Table 3)

Relevant data has been added in Table 3.

Query 6: In the eighth line of page 9, the article is described as Table 4, but the name of the table at the end of the article is Table no.3. Moreover, the value of hTERT is not seen in the table.

Clarification: The referred table # has been corrected as Table 4 in the article as well as the end of the article in the table section. The value of hTERT has been added in Table 4.

Query 7: There is no relevant table data for the paired t-test between the preoperative and 3-month postoperative levels during the follow-up mentioned on page 10.

Clarification: Relevant data for the paired t-test between the preoperative and 3-month postoperative levels during the follow-up has been included and referred as Table 5.

ANSWERING SCIENTIFIC EDITOR

Summary of the Peer-Review Report: This paper is written smoothly with clear thinking. The research sample should have clear exclusion and inclusion criteria. No relevant data can be seen in the table behind the article. The questions raised by the reviewers should be answered.

Ans: The research sample has now a separately written clear exclusion and inclusion criteria. There are 5 tables with relevant data behind the article (Existing Table 3 & 4 have been edited with additional data& Table 5 has been added as instructed for follow-up data.

5) Self-cited references: There are 5 self-cited references. The self-referencing rates should be less than 10%. Please keep the reasonable self-citations (i.e. those that are most closely related to the topic of the manuscript) and remove all other improper self-citations.

Ans: Self-cited references have been reduced to 4 out of 38 total references. These 4 are important as they are among the few systemic marker studies in glioma and are most closely related to the topic of the manuscript

Academic norms and rules:

(2) The “Author Contributions” section is missing.

Ans: The ‘Author contributions’ section has been added.

(3) The authors did not provide the approved grant application form(s). Please upload the approved grant application form(s) or funding agency copy of any approval document(s)

Ans: The approved grant application from the funding agency is being uploaded.

(4) The authors did not provide original pictures. Please provide the original figure documents. Please prepare and arrange the figures using PowerPoint to ensure that all graphs or arrows or text portions can be reprocessed by the editor

Ans. All the original figures have been arranged using PowerPoint to ensure that all graphs or arrows or text portions can be reprocessed by the editor

(5) The “Article Highlights” section is missing. Please add the “Article Highlights” section at the end of the main text

Ans: The ‘Article highlights’ section has been added.

(6) The authors need to fill out the STROBE checklist with page numbers.

Ans: The STROBE checklist with page numbers added, is being uploaded.