

February, 04, 2014

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 8548-review.doc).

**Title: Squamous cell carcinoma of the oral cavity and circulating tumour cells**

**Author:** Johannes Wikner, Alexander Gröbe, Klaus Pantel and Sabine Riethdorf

**Name of Journal:** World Journal of Clinical Oncology

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 8548-review

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

**1. Format has been updated as requested. Obvious changes have been highlighted.**

**2. Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer**

**Reviewer 1:**

This manuscript describes a very good review about "Circulating tumor cells in patients with squamous cell carcinoma of the oral cavity - Challenges and chances". It is a comprehensive review that addresses the current problem of the squamous cell carcinoma of the oral cavity, for a better understanding and possible therapeutic approach. The authors have broad experience in this field and have published many papers about these entities. In sum, this is a competent review addressing a subject of interest and potential value for the scientific community, and it should be useful for interdisciplinary correlative studies.

**Reply to reviewer 1:**

No corrections are required.

**Reviewer 2:**

The review manuscript was written by a group of experts in the fields of oral squamous cell carcinoma (OSCC) and CTC (circulating tumor cell)/DTC (disseminating tumor cell) of OSCC and other cancer types. In the manuscript, the authors provide an updated summary of the technological progress and clinical relevance of CTC/DTC detection on the prognostication of solid tumors in general, and OSCC in particular. They also express their insightful comments on the significance of the data in the literature, and future development, such as the need to detect CTC/DTC in epithelial-mesenchymal transition. Altogether, the manuscript represents an excellent review, which will interest readers working in or near this area of research.

1. One significant drawback of the manuscript is the rather poor level of the English, which can hardly do justice to the good quality of the scientific content of the manuscript. A thorough revision of the English of the manuscript is called for.

2. Besides, a table or figure showing the timeline of the method development in the section of "detection and characterization of CTC" would also greatly improve the readability of the review article.

**Reply to Reviewer 2:**

1. Language evaluation was performed by AJE and confirmed by the accompanied certificate:

American Journal Experts (AJE) Editorial Certificate 74EC-D6AC-7454-81F2-D154

2. We agree with the reviewer that displaying the timeline for the method section

would improve readability of the article. To demonstrate this timeline we decided to introduce the publication years of the most important articles in this research field in the table.

**Reviewer 3:**

The authors performed a detailed and well-researched review of the use of CTCs and DTCs in squamous cell cancer of the oral cavity. My only major comment is that there are multiple errors throughout the manuscript related to grammar, syntax, and word choice and sentence construction. As it currently stands, the manuscript can be difficult to understand. It will thus need to be edited by a native English speaker familiar with the subject and/or with proof-reading of scientific manuscripts.

**Reply to Reviewer 3:**

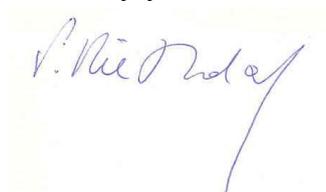
As non-native speakers we addressed the problem of language evaluation by corrections performed by AJE (see certificate).

**Certificate Verification Key:**

**American Journal Experts (AJE) Editorial Certificate 74EC-D6AC-7454-81F2-D154**

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the World Journal of Clinical Oncology.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Riethdorf', is written on a light yellow rectangular background.

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