

March 14, 2014

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 9024-review.doc).

**Title: Expression of hepatoma-derived growth factor is correlated with lymph node metastasis and prognosis in uterine cervical cancer**

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**Name of Journal:** *World Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology*

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 9024

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

1 The format has been updated.

2 Revisions have been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer:

(1) As the reviewer noted, no deaths were observed among patients with HDGF level 0/1. Fourteen out of 56 patients with HDGF level 2 expression died, whereas no deaths were observed among the 30 patients with HDGF level 0/1 expression. The distribution of patients was biased, but the present result clearly indicates that HDGF expression is a useful marker to detect patients with CC who have a favorable prognosis. Indeed, multivariate analysis revealed that HDGF expression was an independent prognostic factor of CC. This finding is now discussed.

(2) The HDGF positivity rates were as follows: For the nucleus, 0 %, 4 patients; 10 %, 2; 20 %, 5; 30 %, 1; 40 %, 5; 50 %, 1; 60 %, 2; 70 %, 3; 80 %, 29; 90 %, 18; 100 %, 18. For the cytoplasm, 0 %, 6 patients; 10 %, 4; 20 %, 4; 30 %, 2; 40 %, 3; 50 %, 3; 60 %, 2; 70 %, 2; 80 %, 8; 90 %, 35; 100 %, 19. Statistical significance was analyzed at multiple cutoff levels, including <50%, <80%, <90%, and <100%. The prognostic significance was the greatest when the cutoff level was set at 80%. This categorization was therefore employed. This result is now discussed.

3 The references and typesetting were corrected.

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology*.

Sincerely yours,

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