

Dear editor,

After a thorough review of the manuscript and after adding the peer-reviewers' and editor's suggestions, I am sending the final edited version. The manuscript was also submitted to language revision and received a language-editing certificate from a professional English language-editing company (AJE). Please find highlighted in the file these main changes:

- I have provided a table disclosing the advantages and disadvantages of each HER2 testing method as it was suggested (Table 1).
- I have edited the format of numbering citations.
- I have sent the Figure 1 (algorithm) in ppt. (as a separate file)
- I have also subtly polished some parts of the text according to AJE suggestions.

Thank you for considering this edited manuscript for publication.

Sincerely,

Lucas Faria Abrahao-Machado.

I am sending the revised manuscript according to the editor-in-chief comments (see attachment 24371- review 1703). Please note that all the new changes are highlighted in the edited manuscript and listed here:

- 1) I included 2 new references suggested by the editor-in-chief;
- 2) I briefly explained the intramural heterogeneity and addressed the *H. pylori* issue as the editor-in-chief also suggested (3 new references were included);
- 3) To answer the editor-in-chief's question about the source of the pictures: All the microphotographs of this paper were taken by me. There is no other source.
- 4) Figure 1 and 2 legends were properly edited.
- 5) I also adjusted the other figures legends (I would like to use chiefly **HER2**, abbreviated, instead of **Human epidermal growth factor receptor 2**)
- 6) I also added again the picture 4D (it was missing in the file that I received back).