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SDI EDITORIAL COMMENTS FORM

EDITORIAL COMMENT'S on revised paper (if any)

Clarifications wanted

- 1. the selection criteria for controls a) whether the controls were anyway related to patients 1st or 2nd degree relatives. b) then how did you choose the controls female nursing staff or doctors or care givers having no blood relation with patients or indoor patients with no malignancy of comparable age group? please clarify.
- 2.I have added words or lines or needs correction or clarification in red ink and deleted few words please check and give your opinion.
- 3.figure 4 "correct spelling length"
- 4. Did the authors perform any correlation test for testing association.
- 5. line 344 ".... and this results was results were in line with the study done by Barczak W et al [20] who explained that by short or long ??? telomere length is significantly associated with lymph node metastases."
- 6. ". This could explain our results, also could also clarify the contradiction of other study by Ennour-Idrissi et al, who reported that no association was observed for telomere length with stage ,that might be explained by bad prognostic criteria was found in their early staged patients or because due to using different method of measurement of the telomere length [8,20]." ---- Try to rewrite this sentence. Try to keep your sentences short so that readers can find it easily interpret your conclusions.
- 7. One last comment cox regression analysis could have a better statistical test.

Authors' response to editor's comments

- 1- We choose control from female nurse and technicians who didn't have any cancer risk or family history of breast cancer.
- 2- We corrected the word as you did, we are sorry because we put a lot of redundant words and repeated sentences (thanks you Sir a lot for correction)
- 3- Corrected length in DFS and OS figure 4
- 4- We didn't do a correlation test. We performed only the test of association between the telomere length and the clincopathological parameters of the patients using independent T test between two mean variable and one way ANNOVA for variable having more than two means, as we test the association between qualitative variable (telomere length and other qualitative variable which is clinicopathological character.
- 5- Short telomere length sorry for missing important word.
- 6- we changed to

This could explain our results, also could also clarify the contradiction of other study by Ennour-Idrissi et al, who reported that no association was observed for short telomere length with advanced stage ,this contradiction might be explained by presence high incidences of bad prognostic criteria in their early staged patients or because using different method of measurement of the telomere length [8,20].

7- We didn't do the cox regression because we thought our statistical results are sufficient for this part of the work, because this paper is a part of big work, we are planning to publish second paper with more immunohistochemical markers and other results will be added to this work, we planned to do cox regression in the other paper as it is more complicated and cox regression will give better results.

Thanks again, best regards for your helpful comments

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