

Report for the thesis entitled Role of Telomeres /DNA repair in Solid Tumors

By Mrs. Kristyna Tomasova

Before the actual review, I would like to point out that I am not familiar with the way that your institutions handles Ph.D reviews, so I broadly followed what is done in mine.

The thesis of the candidate shows many original studies that have been published or are under revision in international peer reviewed journals. The candidate shows an excellent knowledge of the literature, that help in putting in the correct context her results. Below some comments that could in my opinion improve the quality of the thesis.

- 1) there is no mention of power calculations and considering that the sample size used are usually smallish this could improve the generalizability of the results.
- 2) Some of the experiments were done with frozen tissue, was there any calculation on the cellularity of the tumor taken in consideration?
- 3) It is not clear why three tumors where analyzed, why those three? The rationale for this choice should be better explained
- 4) Correction for multiple testing was not considered, this should be acknowledged in the studies.
- 5) The overall writing of the thesis is good, however in the introduction there are many typos, and several sentences are not phrased as they should in English.
- 6) The rationale of looking at changes in LTL in patients receiving chemotherapy is not clearly stated other than it was never done before.
- 7) There are many tests, many results, and many questions and answers, but I think that a real conclusion is missing.
- 8) Several words are written with the initial letter in capital letters, this is not correct in English. For example, the word thesis should not be written Thesis.

With best wishes,

Daniele Campa

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Vytvořeno: 12.06.2024 v 12:23:28 Čj.: UKLFP/183802/2024-4	Odbor VV
Č.dop.: Listů: 1 Příloh: 0 Druh: písemné	Zprac.



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