

I congratulate the authors for implementing the suggestions in their manuscript. I believe the manuscript is now concise and prepared for publishing.

- A) This should take the authors only a few minutes to correct:
- At the end of the second paragraph in discussion: »However, other experimental studies indicated that local surgery could substantially reduce overall tumor burden and improved immunologic response to cancer by inducing immune suppression and restoring immunocompetence [22-23].«
 - Please see the comment in the first review again. This statement is still incorrect. I would suggest writing something like: "However, other experimental studies in the murine model indicated that substantially reducing the overall tumor burden with local surgery leads to improved survival. This could be explained by the primary tumor's suppression of the immune response and its removal leading to restored immunocompetence."
 - Figure 4c: Replace "Solitary bone metastasis" with "bone-only metastases".
 - Table 4: Replace "Solitary bone metastasis" with "bone-only metastases", in two places.
- B) This might as well be my misunderstanding of the presented data. I only ask the authors to recheck the numbers before publishing to be sure everything is in order.
- According to figure 1 there were **13034** cases before propensity score matching and **4538** after (**2269** in each of the breast-surgery and no-surgery group). However, the numbers in the presented tables don't add up.
 - Table 2.** Highlighted is the example, but all the numbers in the table should be rechecked.
 - The *n* numbers should be the same for BCSS and OS as these were analysed in the same group of patients.
 - These numbers do not add up. For example, the sum of the two highlighted numbers is **7433** below BCSS and **7949** below OS, but there should be **13034** cases according to figure 1.

Table 2: Multivariate Cox proportional hazard model for breast cancer-specific survival (BCSS) and overall survival (OS) in all patients with stage IV breast cancer.

Variables	BCSS			OS		
	n	HR (95% CI)	P ^a	n	HR (95% CI)	P ^a
Age (years)						
20-49	1472	Reference		1532	Reference	
50-79	5961	1.282 (1.209-1.359)	<0.001	6417	1.318 (1.245-1.396)	<0.001
Race						
White	5396	Reference		5765	Reference	
Black	1480	1.212 (1.143-1.285)	<0.001	1607	1.241 (1.173-1.312)	<0.001
Others	548	0.966 (0.885-1.055)	0.444	568	0.941 (0.863-1.026)	0.166
Unknown	9	0.255 (0.133-0.491)	<0.001	9	0.237 (0.123-0.456)	<0.001
T stage						
T1+T2	2870	Reference		3079	Reference	
T3+T4	4563	1.230 (1.181-1.280)	<0.001	4870	1.234 (1.178-1.292)	<0.001

ii. **Table 3.** Highlighted is the example, but all the numbers in the table should be rechecked.

1. The *n* numbers should be the same for BCSS and OS as these were analysed in the same group of patients.
2. These numbers do not add up. For example, the sum of the two highlighted numbers is **2438** below BCSS and **2603** below OS, but there should be **4538** cases according to figure 1.

Table 3: Multivariate Cox proportional hazard model for breast cancer-specific survival (BCSS) and overall survival (OS) in 1:1 matched propensity score matching analysis with stage IV breast cancer.

Variables	BCSS			OS		
	n	HR (95% CI)	<i>P</i> ^a	n	HR (95% CI)	<i>P</i> ^a
Age (years)						
20-49	597	Reference		616	Reference	
50-79	1841	1.203 (1.095-1.303)	<0.001	1987	1.257 (1.145-1.379)	<0.001
Race						
White	1724	Reference		1836	Reference	
Black	530	1.252 (1.134-1.382)	<0.001	573	1.286 (1.169-1.415)	<0.001
Others	183	0.887 (0.761-1.035)	0.127	193	0.879 (0.751-1.021)	0.092
Unknown	1	0.179 (0.025-1.272)	0.085	1	0.167 (0.024-1.189)	0.074
T stage						
T1+T2	975	Reference		1043	Reference	

iii. **Table 5.** Highlighted is the example, but all the numbers in the table should be rechecked. According to the manuscript there should be **2269** patients in the breast-surgery group after propensity score matching.

1. The *n* numbers should be the same for BCSS and OS as these were analysed in the same group of patients.
2. These numbers do not add up. For example, the sum of the two highlighted numbers is **1086** below BCSS and **1171** below OS, but there should be **2269** cases.

Table 5: Multivariate analyses for breast cancer-specific survival (BCSS) and overall survival (OS) in stage IV breast cancer patients with breast surgery in the 1:1 matched groups.

Variables	BCSS			OS		
	n	HR (95% CI)	<i>P</i> ^a	n	HR (95% CI)	<i>P</i> ^a
Age (years)						
20-49	270	Reference		279	Reference	
50-79	816	1.171 (1.017-1.348)	0.028	892	1.240 (1.081-1.423)	0.002
Race						
White	754	Reference		807	Reference	
Black	244	1.294 (1.115-1.501)	<0.001	271	1.372 (1.191-1.581)	<0.001
T stage						
T1+T2	407	Reference		443	Reference	