WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF OUR MANUSCRIPT FOR PUBLICATION IN HEAD & NECK ONCOLOGY. CONCERNING COMMENTS MADE BY THE REFEREES, THE NECESSARY CLARIFICATIONS WERE MADE AS FOLLOWS:

1) AT ABSTRACT SECTION, THE TERM DISCUSSION IS INCORRECT BECAUSE THE AUTHORS DESCRIBE THE RESULTS;
Response: The word “Discussion” was changed by the word “Results” as recommended by the reviewer;

2) HUMAN PODOPLANIN IS CORRELATED WITH POOR PROGNOSIS IN PATIENTS WITH HEAD AND NECK CANCER AND THE CYTOPLASMIC TAIL OF THE PODOPLANIN CAN BIND TO EZRIN, A PROTEIN THAT HAVE BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH METASTASIS AND LOWER SURVIVAL RATE IN PATIENTS WITH ORAL CANCER. HOWEVER, IT IS NOT MENTIONED THE CLINICAL STAGE OF THE TUMOR. IT WOULD BE INTERESTING TO COMPARE THE EXPRESSION OF PROTEINS FROM EARLY CLINICAL (T1, T2) AND ADVANCED (T3, T4) STAGE SAMPLES;
Response: We would like to thank the idea of relating the influence on prognosis with clinical stage of the tumors, but unfortunately in most of manuscript the authors used tumors of all grades (T1, T2, T3 and T4) without separating the clinical staging in the results. Nowadays, we are developing a new work in this line of research and we intent to compare early and advanced tumors;

3) TABLES AND FIGURES SHOULD BE LISTED IN RESULTS INSTEAD OF MENTIONING IN THE DISCUSSION;
Response: All tables and figures were cited in the Results section. According to the recommendation, we removed the “Figure 1d” “Table 2” (Page 9) and “Figure 1c” “Figure 1a” (Page 10) in the discussion section;

4) THE DISCUSSION SHOULD DISCUSS THE RESULTS INSTEAD OF TO REPEATING RESULTS.
Response: The results were confronted with the scientific literature in the Discussion section. At some points of this chapter the results were repeated to make reading easier and dynamic, without returning to the results section all the time.

We hope that our comments were enough to elucidate the referee's questions. We will be pleased to give further information if necessary

Yours sincerely,
Denise Tostes Oliveira (corresponding author)
On behalf of the co-authors