We appreciate the interesting points raised by Motoharu Shibusawa and Tesuya Tanimoto regarding CD38 expression levels and response to daratumumab. Although further investigation might be of academic interest, this endeavour would warrant a full investigation across clinical trials of daratumumab rather than a simple examination of CD38 expression in the COLUMBA study.1 Daratumumab has shown efficacy as a monotherapy and as combination therapy in a number of clinical trials across diverse patient populations, for both the intravenous and subcutaneous formulations.2–5 This wealth of data supports the use of daratumumab for the treatment of all patients with multiple myeloma.

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