

Figure S1. Representative images of histopathologic slides for two oropharyngeal squamous cell carcinomas showing (A) p16 negative immunostaining, (B) p16 negative H&E staining, (C) p16 positive immunostaining, and (D) p16 positive H&E staining. Scale bars are placed at the lower left corner of each image and correspond to 200 μ m for x10 magnification. The histopathologic slides were courtesy of Dr Anna Bozzola, Institute of Pathology, ASST Spedali Civili, University of Brescia, Brescia, Italy. H&E, hematoxylin and eosin.

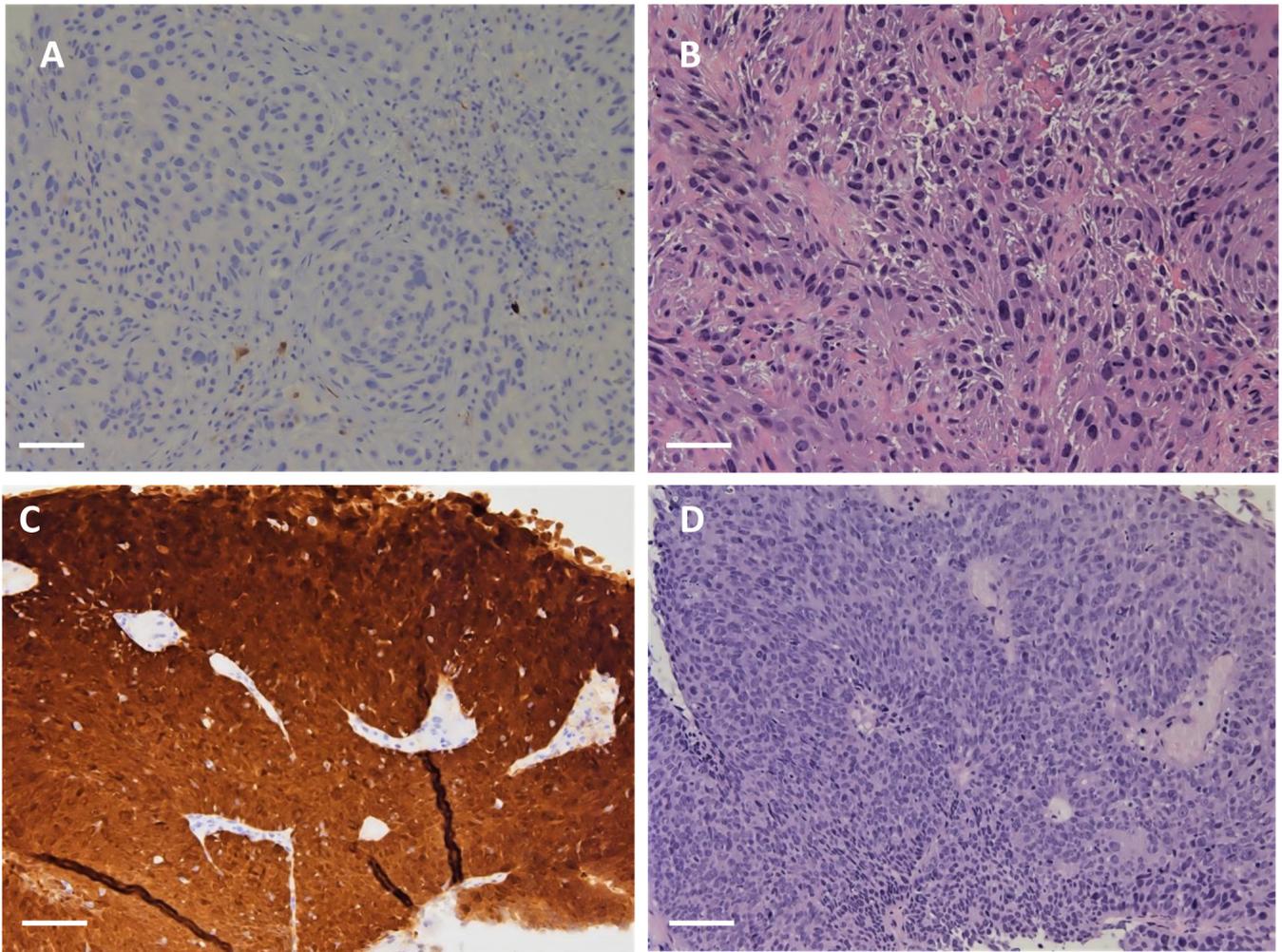


Figure S2. DNA methylation levels of *SEPT9* and *SHOX2* in plasma of patients with HNSCC with different treatment responses at the follow-up time points. Mean values of the (A) *SEPT9* and (B) *SHOX2* methylation levels in plasma collected at pre-treatment (T_0) and at the first (T_1) and second (T_2) follow-up time points of patients with HNSCC. The patients were divided on the basis of the treatment response as DF patients (dots in green) and patients with PD (dots in red). The histograms indicate the means; bars are the standard error of the mean; two-way ANOVA with Tukey's post hoc test was used to compare the methylation levels of selected genes among the different groups; * $P < 0.05$. *SEPT9*, septin 9; *SHOX2*, short stature homeobox 2; HNSCC, head and neck squamous cell carcinoma; DF, disease-free patients; PD, progressive disease.

