Reviewer's report

Title: Early invasive vulvar squamous cell carcinoma arising in a woman with vulvar pemphigus vulgaris and systemic lupus erythematosus

Version: 3 Date: 27 February 2010

Reviewer: Benjamin Piura

Reviewer's report:

Case presentation section. Is the patient had a Pap smear of her cervix?
Case presentation section. The authors should indicate precisely (in mm) the extent of the SCC vertical invasion of the stoma.
Case presentation section. "Corticosteroids improved the immunological PV but not the clinical PV". The authors should provide some details about the immunological improvement of the PV in this patient.
Case presentation section. Please provide more details about the systemic chemotherapy given to the patient (dosages of cytotoxic drugs per sqm, intervals between cycles of chemotherapy, etc.).
Case presentation section. The patient did not die, most probably, from her early SCC of the vulva. The author should specify the reason of the patient's death? E.g., renal failure, cardiac arrest, septicemia, etc. Is a post mortem examination was performed? If not, what was the reason?

Discussion section. I would expect the authors to discuss in their Discussion section a little bit more about the association between chronic inflammation and cancer. The following articles can help the authors with their discussion on the association between infection/inflammation and cancer:


Figures. Figure 2 is actually composed of two photos of bad quality that were taken, most probably, with use of the fiber optic of the laparoscopic camera. Although the legend to this figure says, "lesion was extended to perineal and groin area", it is very difficult to distinguish these areas in the photos. Figure 4 seems to be superfluous and somehow seems to repeat Figure 2. Figure 4, like Figure 2, was taken, most probably, with use of the fiber optic of the laparoscopic camera. In order to improve the identification of the anatomic areas in Figure 2 and Figure 4, I would suggest that the authors should add, build in, within the photos, captions indicating the anatomical areas (clitoris, labium minor, labium major, vaginal orifice, perineum, anus, groin, etc).

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests