Reviewer's report

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

Version: 5 Date: 15 May 2010

Reviewer: Benjamin Piura

Reviewer's report:

Generally, the authors have addressed my queries. Nevertheless, I still have some comments that require minor essential revisions:

1). Discussion section: reference numbers should be added to the sentences:
"PV is rarely associated with SLE; the association has been reported in the literature in only 3 females and 1 male [references ??]."

"As in three of the previously reported cases of PV associated with SLE [references ??], SLE presented before PV in our patient. However, in contrast to the other cases [references ??], PV persisted in our patient after the worsening of the SLE".

2). Discussion section: The patient had her first vulvar biopsy in February 2007, which confirmed Pemphigus Vulgaris. A second biopsy, taken one month later (March 2007) already demonstrated CIN 3 + early stromal invasion (<1 mm). Thus, the authors should change the sentence "The most unusual feature of our patient was the rapid progression of VIN 3 to early invasive squamous cell carcinoma (SCC) arising from PV of the vulva" to "The most unusual feature of our patient was the rapid development of VIN 3 and early invasive squamous cell carcinoma (SCC) arising from PV of the vulva".


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

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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.