Reviewer's report

Title: Skin cancers among Albinos at a University teaching hospital in Northwestern Tanzania: A retrospective review of 64 cases

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Reviewer: Benoît Arveiler

Reviewer's report:

The manuscript describes the findings from a 10 years retrospective study of skin cancers in 64 albino patients from Tanzania. The study shows that squamous cell carcinoma is the most common histopathological type. Head and neck are the most frequent sites affected. The manuscript shows the need for early involvement in therapeutic actions, and highlights the socio-economical aspects that constrain efficient patients' caretaking in developing countries. It is very instructive in this respect. Altogether this is a very valuable manuscript. It constitutes one of the largest series of patients analysed for skin cancers.

Minor Essential Revisions:

1) The authors say there are two forms of oculocutaneous albinism (OCA1 and 2, due to TYR and P gene mutations respectively). There are actually four forms, with OCA3 due to TYRP1 mutations and OCA4 due to SLC45A2/MATP mutations. The authors should mention this and cite the appropriate references.

2) When referring to publications about the incidence of albinism in Africa, the authors should also cite Okoro et al (1975), which constitutes their ref. 13, as well as Lee ST, et al. Hum Mol Genet. 1994;3: 2047-51.


Minor issues not for publication

1) Journal name is missing in reference 2.
2) Follow up should be follow-up throughout the text.
3) last sentence of page 2: ... the remaining patients WERE lost to follow-up.
4) Page 3: sex linked should be sex-linked.
5) page 4: High levels ... all three (not all the three) ...and ARE (not it is) responsible ...
6) Page 4: resource-limited not resource limited.
7) Page 5: ... of this facility at our centre. As a result ... (start new sentence here).
8) Page 5: Information was collected using A preformed questionnaire.
9) Page 6: During the period under review, a total of 486 ... 
10) Page 7: the sentence "Distant metastasis ..." should be rebuildt because one does not understand how many cases of each type of metastases there are. 
11) There are several spaces missing throughout the text. Please carefully read the manuscript. 
12) Page 11: ... wide local excision was the most common surgical procedure (not procedures). 
13) Last sentence of page 11, finishing on page 12: "Failure to complete treatment ...this form of treatment" may/should be removed since it essentially repeats what was already said just before. 

**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.