Reviewer’s report

Title: Oral maxillofacial neoplasms in an East African population a 10 year retrospective study of 1863 cases.

Version: 1 Date: 7 February 2008

Reviewer: oladapo O olasoji

Reviewer’s report:

The data presented in the Results of the study will probably NOT be a true representation of the frequency and distribution of Oral maxillofacial neoplasms in the two populations or even in the two health institutions, because of the following;

1. Selective biopsy method being use in the 2 hospitals
2. More importantly the authors only reviewed the histopathology slides WITHOUT collecting data from patients’ case notes and other routine investigations for oral neoplasms such as radiographs.

Although these limitations were acknowledged by the authors, they are too important to be ignored: How many of the patients with Kaposi sarcoma were HIV positive? The lack of data to answer this question greatly flayed the interpretation of the data presented in the results and cannot justify the conclusions.

MAJOR COMPULSORY REVISIONS

I will suggest that either;

1. The authors modified the TITLE of the manuscript to reflect that it was an orofacial biopsies report. And the Journal considers the manuscript for review based on the modified title. OR

2. Data from patients’ case notes and radiographs be included to provide answers to issues raised above to justify the present TITLE of the manuscript.

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

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 interest.