Author's response to reviews

Title: Giant Cutaneous Horn in an African Woman: A Case Report

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Author's response to reviews:

Michael Kidd
Editor-in-Chief:
The JMCR,

Dear Sir,

Thank you for considering the paper, 'Giant Cutaneous Horn in an African Woman: A Case Report' for possible publication in your esteemed journal.

I appreciate the comments by the reviewers, but must confess some confusion about some of the comments.

A few concerns are noted from comments by one of the reviewers, Dr. Naldi.

1. The statement that in Europe people presenting with a cutaneous horn are "treated with superstitious awe, and many enterprising showmen made careers out of exhibiting them for money" does not reflect the current situation.

The statement in my paper reads thus, 'In Europe, these individuals were treated with superstitious awe, and many enterprising showmen made careers out of exhibiting them for money [1].' This quotation is from Bodenson’s treatise, Bondeson J. Everard Home, John Hunter, and Cutaneous Horns. Am J Dermatopathol. 2001, 23:362¿369.

Therefore, I have not misrepresented any fact.

2. Yu and colleagues (Yu RCH, Pryce DW, Macfarlane AW, Stewart TW. A histopathological study of 643 cutaneous horns. Br J Dermatol.1991, 124:449-452) contributed an excellent record of the histopathology of cutaneous horns, and reference is made of this paper (3). There is therefore no need of repeating all the details of this record. Admittedly, the term 'cutaneous horn' is descriptive, but a definite attempt at an accurate definition is made. The causative, underlying pathologies/entities are implied in the text by reference to the paper by Yu and colleagues. The peculiarity of this case is in the fact that no previous mention of cutaneous horns developing in the background of a burn scar, and certainly not in an African.

3. Finally, the very general statement that the 'language needs some corrections' is difficult to tackle, without specifics.
Unfortunately, reading this reviewers comments suggests that either the entire paper was not read, or that the material was not understood.

Therefore, I would respectfully resubmit the paper unchanged.

Kindly let me know what I really need to change, to make it acceptable.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

Peter Muli Nthumba