Author's response to reviews

Title: Uncommon Presentation of Common Cancer - Extensive Skin Lesions of Esophageal Squamous Cell Carcinoma - A Case Report

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Michael Kidd,

Please find enclosed the revised version of our case report: Multiple Skin Metastases of Esophageal Squamous Cell Carcinoma. We thank all the reviewers for careful reading and good comments on our article.

First, we changed the first word of the title from “Multiple” to Extensive “ Skin Metastases of Esophageal Squamous Cell Carcinoma (please see the first page). We hereby want to underline the unusual metastases pattern in our patient like distribution and amount. Concerning Mr. Gursoy Dogan’s comment, we skipped the statement about the first case of cutaneous ESCC metastases in literature (please see the Abstract, page 2, lines 10-11). We stressed the rarity of such massive/extensive skin lesions of the ESCC which has not been published yet (please see Discussion, page 3, lines 30-31, Conclusion, page 4 lines 20-22). Regarding to Mr. Dogan, we integrated a report of Tharakaram S. (1988) who has presented five cases of cutaneous metastases of an ESCC in men. We deleted the 15th reference (Brady et al.) according to the common instructions for authors (please see Discussion, page 4, lines 13-15, Reference No.15).

Secondly, we shortened and focused the introduction, as Mr. J. Lindemann has proposed (please see the Introduction, page 2, lines 19-35).

Thirdly, concerning Mr. M. Mokun’s comment on the verification of the esophagus being the primary lesion of the skin metastasis shown in Figure 2: In the staging, there was no other tumor, especially no other squamous cell carcinoma found. Also the clinical follow up did not reveal any other malignancy which could cause squamous cell metastases (please see the section: A Case Presentation on page 3, lines 19-21).

I hope that you accept our revised case report for publication in Journal of Medical Case Reports and thank you very much for your cooperation.

With best regards,

Dr. Gabriela B. Iwanski

Hamburg, 25.02.2008