Reviewer's report

Title: Skin Metastases of Esophageal Squamous Cell Carcinoma- a case report

Version: 5 Date: 25 January 2008

Reviewer: Gursoy Dogan

I am familiar with the literature and believe that this case meets one of the 7 criteria for evaluation in the journal: Unexpected or unusual presentations of a disease

Has the case been reported coherently?: Yes

Is the case report authentic?: Yes

Is this case worth reporting?: Yes

Is the case report persuasive?: Yes

Does the case report have explanatory value?: Yes

Does the case report have diagnostic value?: Yes

Will the case report make a difference to clinical practice?: No

Comments to authors:

A cutaneous metastasis may present the first evidence of malignancy or may occur late in the disease. The authors present an overall interesting case of a esophageal squamous cell carcinoma (ESCC), which metastasized to the skin. Metastasis from ESCC to the skin is exceedingly rare. Tharakaram described five cases of skin metastases from esophageal cancer. The histology of all was a well-differentiated squamous cell carcinoma. (Tharakaram S. Metastases to the skin. Int J Dermatol 1988;27(4):240-242). In a more recent study, that included 4020 patients with metastatic carcinoma, three patients with skin metastases from esophageal cancer have been reported (squamous cell carcinoma, 1; adenocarcinoma, 1; undifferentiated, 1). (Lookingbill DP, et al. J Am Acad Dermatol 1993;29:228-36) In conclusion, cutaneous metastases from squamous cell carcinoma of the esophagus is extremely rare but the report is not the first case.

What next?: Revise and resubmit

Quality of written English: Acceptable