Reviewer's report

Title: Kaposi's sarcoma of the hand mimicking squamous cell carcinoma without evidence of HIV infection

Version: 2 Date: 29 January 2008

Reviewer: Alireza Khatami

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?: Yes

Comments to authors:

Dear Dr. Kosmidis,

I reviewed your manuscript with a great interest. There are few comments that I imagine can improve your manuscript.

A. General comments (including some suggested language corrections):

I. Title: The title has been appeared on the PDF document of the manuscript as: "Kaposi's sarcoma of the hand mimicking squamous cell carcinoma without evidence of HIV infection: Report of a rare case and short review of the literature-a case report". I suggest that the statement: "Report of a rare case and short review of the literature" be omitted.

II. Degrees of some of the authors such as Kalliopi Vasiliadou and Eleni Berovgali have not been mentioned on the manuscript document.

III. Abstract: (1) Some words/sentences need some changes: for example at the line 3 of the background, "appearance can occur but are extremely rare" cases have been reported". On the first line of the third paragraph,
"immunoistochemical" should be change to "immunohistochemical". Also, on the line 4 of the third paragraph "radiological" is better to be changed to "imaging". (2) On the third line of the third paragraph, before PCR, the complete name of this abbreviation (i.e. polymerase chain reaction) is to be mentioned.

IV. Introduction: (1) The word "very" from the sixth line of the first paragraph is unnecessary. (2) On the first line of the second paragraph, statement: "is a rare neoplasm presenting" can be changed to "presents". (3) On the line 4 of the second paragraph "southern and eastern ..." can be changed "Southern and Eastern ...".

V. Case presentation: (1) The size of the lesion should be mentioned. (2) On the line 5 of the first paragraph, the sentence: "The lesion presented characteristics clinically resembling ..." is better to be replaced with: "Clinically, the lesion resembled...". (3) On the first line of the second paragraph, "Istologic" is to be changed to "Histologic".

VI. Discussion: (1) On the first line of the second paragraph of the first page of this section, the statement: "Kaposi's sarcoma is a lesion possessing..." is to be changed to "KS lesions have...". (2) On the line three of the same paragraph "Its emergence ..." can be changed to "Emergence of KS ...". (3) Consequently, on the line 4 of the same paragraph, "in that" should be changed to "because". (4) On the line 3 of the third paragraph of the same page, it is not necessary to repeat the whole statement "Human herpes virus type 8", because it has been mentioned before. Mentioning the abbreviation "HHV-8" is enough. (5) On the line 7 of the first paragraph of the second page of the discussion section, "Kaposi's disease" is better to be replaced with "KS". (6) On the line 8 of the same paragraph, full name of the abbreviations "vMIP,vIL8R and vIL6" should be provided before each abbreviation.

VII. Conclusion: On the first line of the first paragraph, "Kaposi's sarcoma" is to be changed to "KS".

VIII. References: Format of the references should be re-checked. Some of they need minor changes. (e.g. References 2 and 7)

B. Revisions necessary for publication:

I. References for the first two paragraphs of the discussion sections should be provided.

II. It is expected that the contribution of the "patient's origin" to the mislead, be explained, remembering that according to authors statement at the "Introduction" the classic type of KS has a higher incidence in some countries like Greece.

III. On the line 4 of the first paragraph of the second page of the discussion, it has been mentioned that "the role of excisional biopsy..., are emphasized. It is expected that the reason for emphasizing on performance of an excisional biopsy (as mentioned in the manuscript) instead of an incisional biopsy be clarified and supported by proper references.
IV. The third paragraph of the same page needs reference.

V. I would like to suggest that more recent references are used to provide an up to date discussion.

Best regards,

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What next?: Revise and resubmit

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published