Author’s response to reviews

Title: Occult Lung Malignancy Presenting With Finger Pain: A Case Report

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Dear Sir or Madam,

First of all, I would like to thank the reviewers for their helpful comments. I have attempted to take these all into consideration. I have re-written sections of the report pertaining to rates of lung cancer. The first sentence of the introduction formerly read “Lung cancer remains the most common malignancy causing death in the developed world”. As Dr. Smith pointed out, this is no longer true as prostate cancer is most common for men, with lung causing most deaths and breast cancer is most common in terms of incidence and deaths for women. I have changed this section to a couple of paragraphs detailing cancer rankings for incidence and mortality for men and women on a global scale. It now states “The American Cancer Society estimates that lung cancer remains the most common malignancy in males and fourth most common in females worldwide. These global estimates also place lung malignancy as the most common cause of cancer death in males and second most common in females”. Secondly, Dr. Smith stated It would be useful to include immunohistochemistry markers from the finger biopsy to confirm that the origin of the metastasis was from the lung”. I agree wholeheartedly with this and am almost certain that the tissue was TTF-1 positive but have not been able to confirm this. I am afraid that I did not record this detail at the time of collecting my information for the case report. In ensuring subject anonymity, I unfortunately no longer have the patient’s details. As it was a couple of years ago and I have moved from the site the patient presented at, I have not been able to clarify immunohistochemistry. I hope this proves a minor point and the fact that the pathologist reported the tissue as most likely of lung origin. I would welcome any further recommendations.

Yours

Matthew Embley