Author's response to reviews

Title: Anaplastic carcinoma of the pancreas producing granulocyte-colony stimulating factor: a case report

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear reviewers and editors

October 8, 2008

Thank you for your comments on my manuscript.

We would like to respond as follows:

Title: Anaplastic carcinoma of the pancreas producing granulocyte-colony stimulating factor: a case report

Version: 3 Date: 11 August 2008

Reviewer: Antonios Michalopoulos

Reviewer's report:

Discussion must be more detailed and focused to the presenting case.

Yes, as you pointed out, discussion was revised as follow:

The patient developed interstitial pneumonia and died 11 days after admission. Why he was taken interstitial pneumonia? The cases of interstitial pneumonia secondary to treatment with G-CSF were reported [13]. G-CSF stimulates neutrophiles and...
macrophages. Cytotoxic superoxide from neutrophiles and various growth factors from macrophages cause interstitial pneumonia [13]. Increased serum G-CSF level and interstitial pneumonia may be one of the reasons for poor prognosis in patients of G-CSF producing tumors as our case.

References cane be more broadened to include authors frome other countries also.

Yes, as you pointed out, references were added as follow;


10 Paal E, Thompson LD, Frommelt RA, Przygodzki RM, Heffess CS. A clinicopathologic and immunohistochemical study of 35 anaplastic


Too many authors for a case report.

Yes, as you pointed out, we selected 7 authors from 16.
Reviewer's report:

1. It is not clear the reason for which the patient was admitted.

2. It would be worth to specify the patient's clinical condition the last few months before admission.

Yes, as you pointed, we add the reason for which the patient was admitted and clinical condition for last few months. Case presentation was added as follow:

A 63-year-old man was admitted to our hospital with body weight loss (-6 kg during 3 months) and upper abdominal pain from 3 weeks.

3. Did his GP or anybody else understand anything before?

He had been not admitted to other clinic or hospital.

4. Did the authors meet another similar case before?

He was the first patients of anaplastic carcinoma of the pancreas producting granulocyte-colony stimulating factor in our hospital.
5. The G-CSF test is a common practice in their hospital?

A serum G-CSF test is not common in our hospital. However, if needed, we can know the report from the cooperate company that provides comprehensive laboratory testing services in Japan.