Reviewer's report

Title: Small cell neuroendocrine carcinoma of the breast, a treatment between breast and lung: a case report

Version: 3 Date: 20 September 2008

Reviewer: Hiroshi Ogawa

Which of the following follows best describes what type of case report this is?: Unexpected or unusual presentations of a disease

Has the case been reported coherently?: Yes

Is the case report authentic?: Yes

Is the case report ethical?: Yes

Is there any missing information that you think must be added before publication?: 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?: No

Will the case report make a difference to clinical practice?: Yes

Is the anonymity of the patient protected?: Yes

Comments to authors:

- General comments

This is a case report of very rare small cell / oat cell carcinoma of the breast that represents primary lesion treated with surgical resection and chemotherapy, and with good prognosis.

- Revisions necessary for publication

1. According to World Health Organization (WHO) classification of tumors, small cell / oat cell carcinoma of the breast is under the category of neuroendocrine tumors (please see "Tumours of the breast, Neuroendocrine tumours: In Tavassoli FA, Devilee P eds, World Health Organization Classification of Tumours, Pathology and Genetics of Tumours of the Breast and Female Genital..."
Organs, IARC press, Lyon, pp32-34, 2003”). As the expression of the tumor, "small cell / oat cell carcinoma" or "neuroendocrine tumor (small cell / oat cell carcinoma)" is more precisely.

2. In the physical examination, please state the elasticity of the breast tumor (soft, hard, etc.), and whether the tumor was suspicious of malignancy or not.

3. Direct biopsy without mammography and/or ultrasonography isn't a clinical standard. If they were performed, please clarify the findings of them.

4. It is necessary to clarify the presence or absence of ductal carcinoma in situ component in the resected specimen because some researchers say the ductal carcinoma in situ component is the only absolute proof of the primary nature of the breast cancer. If the Figure 1 indicates ductal carcinoma in situ component, please state so.


6. In the reference No.2, a hyphen is needed between "Small" and "cell", although the vanishing of the hyphen might be caused by the conversion to the PDF format. And this report is only on the page 888.

7. In the reference No.6, "Histopathology 2001; 38: 227-278" is wrong, "Pathol Int 2000; 50: 914-918" is correct.

8. In the figure legend, please clarify the staining technique, for example, H&E.

9. Please utilize electric caliber or scale on the Figure 1 to show measurements, or at least, state the magnification in the figure legend.

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.