Author's response to reviews

Title: "Adenoid cystic carcinoma intermingled with ductal carcinoma of the breast: A case report and review of the literature

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REVIEWER’S REMARKS

1. Was this ACC c-kit positive?

2. It should be clarified in the discussion that it’s the nonACC component that is driving the systemic adjuvant chemotherapy as the majority of breast ACC tumors are indolent and do not metastasize to lymph nodes or systemically.

3. Was there a pathology review to confirm ACC?

4. Numerous grammatical corrections are needed (example- line five of introduction should read "more common" rather than commoner.....

5. Suggest rewording and shortening the title

6. Also the references should include review by Rosen et al.
POINT TO POINT ANSWERS

1. The tumour was not tested for c-kit positivity. It has been published that “immunohistochemical evaluation for c-kit might aid in accurately classifying carcinomas with histologic features overlapping adenoid cystic carcinoma and low grade infiltrating ductal carcinomas” (Crisi et al, Am J Clin Pathol 2005;124:733-739).

   However, since in our case:

   A) There was no doubt about the diagnosis right from the beginning, despite the rarity of the presentation
   B) A following histologic review confirmed the initial diagnosis
   C) The neighbouring ductal carcinoma had no overlapping features with the ACC (it was not low grade)
   D) The treatment would not change on the basis on the c-kit positivity

   this test was deemed unnecessary.

2. Page 6, line 60 and page 7 line 1, text has been accordingly changed.

3. A detailed pathology review was carried out to confirm the diagnosis; moreover the case was discussed in the multidisciplinary meeting of the unit where a group of pathologist had the opportunity to review the case as well

4. The text was reviewed and several grammatical changes were done

5. Title shortened to: “Adenoid cystic carcinoma intermingled with infiltrating not otherwise specified ductal carcinoma of the breast: A case report and review of the literature”

6. The publication by PP Rosen in the form of a letter to the editor refers to a previously published article by Tazawa et al in the Breast Cancer Vol 6, No 3 Jul 1999, p211-215. The latter describes a type of squamous cell carcinoma which originated from the skin of the breast and not the breast tissue itself; besides the adenoid growth pattern was due to acantholytic changes of the tumor cell nests and did not comprise a de novo growth pattern of the tumour. Therefore the described case was judged to be
different from the cancers reviewed in the present manuscript and the article was not included in the literature.