Author's response to reviews

Title: Triple malignancy in a single patient including a cervical carcinoma, a basal cell carcinoma of the skin and a neuroendocrine carcinoma from an unknown primary site: a case report and comprehensive review of the literature.

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Author's response to reviews:

June 12th, 2011

Subject: Submission of the revised version of the manuscript and response to the referees.

Dear Editor,

Thank you for your consideration of our manuscript and request for a revised version. Please find attached a revised version of our manuscript; you will find highlighted the changes that we have made. Otherwise, we added 4 figures to be attached with the text to better present the case that we reported.

Below are our responses to the Reviewer’s comments.

Referee 1:

• We changed the conclusion in the abstract section as requested.
• We made the introduction longer with references and reported the most frequent combinations in multiple primary cancers.
• We reformed the first sentences in the first paragraph of the case presentation to make it easier to read.
• The patient is an alphabet and it was hard to interview her, she didn’t know if there was a history of cancer in her family, and to avoid confusion we removed the sentences concerning the familial history from the manuscript.
• Before the cancer history, the patient had not any medical history and wasn’t under any particular treatment.
• We reformulated the expression “bleeding when traumatized”.
• The basal cell carcinoma was 2 cm large, we précised this in the revised version of the manuscript.
• The patient was told that surgery is the most pertinent treatment for her skin tumor, but she refused the surgery, for cultural aspects, and consequently we opted for radiation therapy.

• The patient presented a rapid worsening of the performance status, and when the clinical examination showed no abnormalities, we performed a systematic ultrasound of the abdomen and pelvis revealing the liver metastases. (look at the revised version of the manuscript)

• The immunohistochemical pattern that we used consisted of Chromograning and CD56 staining.

• Unfortunately the tumors specimens of the skin and the cervix cancers weren’t available at the moment of the diagnosis of the liver lesions, samples weren’t checked again.

• We only dispose of the clinical and histological pictures from the liver lesions that we added to the manuscript.

• We reformulated the first paragraph of the Discussion section to better introduce the points to be discussed.

• We added a discussion about the association of neuroendocrine and epidermal cancer of the skin with the subject concerning the viral etiology.

• The revised manuscript has benefited from the service of a proof-reader, and we tried to correct the style as recommended.

Referee 2:

• Clinical and histological pictures were added to the revised section of the manuscript.

Sincerely,
Mohamed Mesmoudi.

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