Reviewer’s report

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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Reviewer: Virve Koljonen

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

Has the case been reported coherently?: No

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?: Yes

Will the case report make a difference to clinical practice?: No

Is the anonymity of the patient protected?: Yes

Comments to authors:

I have now reviewed the article by Mesmoudi et al.; “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”

The authors present an interesting case of triple malignancy with a review of the case history and treatment. They also aimed to present a literature review. This article has clearly been written by authors’ whose first language is not English. The manuscript would have greatly benefited from the services of an English proof-reader to correct the very stilted style which made reading and understanding the manuscript tiring.
This is certainly an interesting case and I am sure that in the future this kind of problem will be more and more common. However, there are few issues in the manuscript itself which needs to be clarified.

Abstract:

Conclusion: The conclusion is not adequate since this is only a case report, and the authors did not seek to solve the etiology of multiple cancers.

Introduction:

This section is missing all the references. The authors should rewrite this section, make it longer and use references properly. It would be interesting to know what is the most common combination in multiple cancer patients e.g. skin+ breast or….. or important data in Table form comparison would be great.

Case presentation:

The first sentence is 72 (!) words long. The authors should re-write this sentence at present it is very laborious to read.

What is the medical history of the patient? Has she been on regular medication, e.g. cortisone?

“with an unknown familiar history of cancer” I understand that the patient is alive, you should interview the patient about the history.

What does “bleeding when traumatized” mean?

How large was the basal cell carcinoma?

Why did you choose the radiation therapy instead of surgery for the basal cell carcinoma?

Why was the liver ultrasound performed? Did she develop new symptoms?

immunohistochimestry should be immunohistochemistry

What kind of immunohistochemical pattern was used to diagnose the neuroencrine carcinoma metastases?

Did the pathologist double check the gynecological tumour sample again using neuroendocrine immunostainings?

Histological pictures of all the malignancies would be great as well as clinical pictures.

Discussion:

First paragraph should be expanded and re-written.

What is the association between neuroendocrine cancers and epidermal cancers? The Discussion- section should include discussion on this subject.
Quite recently, in 2008 Feng et al. showed that Merkel cell carcinoma, a neuroendocrine carcinoma of the skin, has also viral etiology (Feng, H., M. Shuda, et al. (2008). "Clonal integration of a polyomavirus in human Merkel cell carcinoma." Science 319(5866): 1096-100.) Although, it is not clear that the metatases are from Merkel cell carcinoma, I would like to see a discussion of the Merkel cell polyoma virus included in the Discussion-section.

References:
Most of the references are quite new which is good.

**Quality of written English:** Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

**Declaration of competing interests:**
I declare that I have no competing interests'