Reviewer's report

Title: Dermatofibrosarcoma of the breast: a case report

Version: 3 Date: 17 May 2011

Reviewer: Christoph Rageth

Which of the following following 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?: Yes

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

Is the anonymity of the patient protected?: Yes

Comments to authors:

The case is worth to be reported.

a) stylistic and grammatical suggestions:

instead of:

We present here the case of a swiss 75-year-old woman, who underwent twenty-one years ago a right mastectomy and axillary dissection followed by radiotherapy and breast reconstruction by prosthesis for invasive ductal carcinoma of the right breast, had a mass in her left breast.

suggestion:

We present here the case of a swiss 75-year-old woman, who twenty-one years ago underwent a right mastectomy and axillary dissection followed by
radiotherapy and breast reconstruction with prosthesis for invasive ductal carcinoma of the right breast and now presented with a mass in her left breast.

instead of:
We proceed to a quadrantectomy...

suggestion:
We proceeded to a quadrantectomy

instead of:
The postoperative recovery was rapidly favorable.

suggestion:
The postoperative recovery was favorable.

instead of:
This allows for additional safety margins of at least 5 cm

suggestion:
This allowed for additional safety margins of at least 5 cm

b) questions and comments:
question 1:
Ultrasound identifies the lesion in the dermis or subcutaneous tissue without visible connection to the skin and the use of Doppler shows hypervascularisation of the area[3].

question: The sonografic pictures shows a tumor within the skin. I don't understand, why there should be no connection to the skin.

question 2:
Please comment, why you did not make a core biopsy. It would have spared a second surgery and it can be performed under anticoagulation (see recent literature).

question 3:

question 4:
You write, that "Ultrasound-biopsy is essential"
I don't agree, that you need Ultrasound for the biopsy since you could see the tumor and make a core biopsy under visual control.

question 5:
You write, that "MRI is crucial"
I don't agree. You were able to detect the depth of infiltration with ultrasound.

question 6:
the sentence "The exact distance from the border of the tumor is not established." is unclear. Do you mean "the appropriate distance"?

question 7:
the sentence "Risk of recurrence is not clearly identified" is unclear.

Please distinguish between

please mention the technique of Moh (see above)

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Declaration of competing interests:

no to all