Author’s response to reviews

Title: Highly proliferative anal neuroendocrine carcinoma: Molecular and clinical features of a rare, recurrent case in complete remission

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Dr Hardingham,

Please find enclosed our re-revised case report BMGE-D-20-00297 entitled ”Highly proliferative anal neuroendocrine carcinoma: Molecular and clinical features of a rare, recurrent case in complete remission” by Carl Christofer Juhlin, Henrik Falhammar, Magnus Kjellman, Jan Åhlén, Staffan Welin and Jan Calissendorff.

We were pleased to see that both original reviewers did not raise additional comments following our latest edits. Since then, a third referee has been recruited – and we have now revised the manuscript according to the suggestions made by this reviewer as well. As recommended by the editor, we did not mark up these minor changes with color highlights. Our detailed responses are listed below:

Reviewer reports:

Reviewer 3: Juhlin C. et al. reported a rare cured case of anal NEC after multiple surgical resections and several rounds of chemotherapy with genetic and protein expression analyses. The revised manuscript provided a lot of clinically informative ideas in addition to interesting findings.
Minor points

1. “PIK3CA may be worth listed as a keyword.”

   Reply: Thank you for this suggestion. We have now added PIK3CA as a keyword in the re-revised version of the manuscript (page 3, row 48).

2. “The authors described that platinum-derived drugs are recommended for the treatment of neuroendocrine cancer by the Swedish national guidelines; I rather recommend citations of the ESMO (Pavel M, et al. Ann Oncol 2020) and/or other popular guidelines as well, as the readers of this journal work worldwide.”

   Reply: We thank the referee for the suggestion to add more citations to our statement regarding gold-standard chemotherapy in NEC. The revised version now contains a citation to the ESMO article above (as reference #27), and the reference list has been updated accordingly (page 11, rows 215-216 and page 17, rows 360-362 respectively).

   We hope that the Editor and reviewers find the above-suggested changes are in line with their intentions and will find our manuscript of sufficient quality to warrant publication.

   Best regards,

   Christofer Juhlin, MD, PhD (on behalf of all the authors)