Reviewer’s report

Title: Brain metastases in patients with neuroendocrine neoplasms: risk factors and outcome

Version: 0 Date: 03 Dec 2018

Reviewer: Nicholas Fidelman

Reviewer's report:

The authors presented an interesting description of 56 patients with neuroendocrine neoplasms who have presented with brain metastases, which are a rare manifestation of NEN. Given the substantial experience of the authors, additional detail regarding presentation and treatment outcome of these patients would be helpful.

Please see specific comments below.

1. Page numbers were not included in the .pdf document.

2. Patients and Methods, first paragraph. Rather than using terms NETs and NECs, consider using neuroendocrine neoplasms (NENs). Please clarify whether the institutional database included all NENs and not just bronchial NETs and GEP NECs (which implies poorly differentiated WHO grade 3).

3. Patients and Methods. Please describe the hypothesis (if there was one) as well as study outcomes. Were all patients in the database included in the analysis? Were any patients excluded?

4. Results. What percentage of patients included in the database developed brain metastases? What lead to brain imaging and detection of BM in this cohort of patients?

5. Results. Sub-section on long-term survivors and patients with metachronous BM. Why were these two groups of patients evaluated separately? Please consider adding a table to help compare and contrast these two groups of patients. The text could be shortened to emphasize only the most important points.

6. Results. Please describe whether there were responses (and duration of responses) to brain radiation and temozolomide-based chemotherapy.
7. Discussion. Please describe limitations of the study.

8. Table 1. Please state Ki-67 index and not just tumor grade in the section on Ki-67 index.

**Are the methods appropriate and well described?**
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

**Does the work include the necessary controls?**
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

**Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?**
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

**Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?**
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

**Quality of written English**
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published
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