Reviewer's report

Title: Gingival metastasis from primary hepatocellular carcinoma: a case report and literature review of 30 cases

Version: 1 Date: 16 Jun 2019

Reviewer: Jumpei Kashima

Reviewer's report:

Major comments:

1. The authors corrected the terms "80 and 15 months survival" to "overall and truncated survival" in the Abstract part. This correction is acceptable. However, the conclusion, "Treatments for primary liver cancer or metastatic gingival tumors could improve overall survival or truncated survival respectively" still seems too strong. These treatments may improve the survivals of the patients, but there must be biases between two patient groups (treated vs. untreated). For example, more patients with poorer performance status, like the author's case, would be included in the untreated population. Patients' backgrounds cannot be ignored when discussing the treatment effectiveness. This aspect should be noted in the discussion part and the conclusion should be weakened.

2. Page10, line 17: "Notably, possible reasons for the rarity of gingival metastasis may be that a proportion of cases are either exclusive in major literature database like PubMed or Web of Science [21, 31], or reported in non-English language [3, 17-33], or even unreported at all." The meaning of the sentence is unclear. It seems to mean "Gingival metastasis is rare BECAUSE the number of the reports in the major databases is limited." It would be logically wrong. Please clarify.

Minor comment:

1. Some typos and grammatical errors are still remaining. For example, page 3, line 31: "...cheery-sized exophytic..." should be "cherry-sized", page 5, line 36: "...published in East Asian..." should be "in East Asia", and page 7, line 50: "...was definitely diagnosis ..." should be "...was definitely diagnosed...". Is the manuscript really entirely polished? Please re-check the whole manuscript.

2. In Abstract section, the authors corrected the sentence to "This article reports an 87-years-old FEMALE with gingival metastasis from HCC" (line 9). I suppose the presented patient is male (cf. line 20 in the Abstract: "An 87-year-old MAN"). Which is correct?
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?  
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Unable to assess

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