Reviewer's report

Title: BUSCHKE - LOEWENSTEIN tumor resection with simultaneous reconstruction of extensive tissue losses. Case report.

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Reviewer: wolfgang hartschuh

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In this report an impressive surgical procedure of the removal of a giant condyloma is given.

The authors claim on page 2, line 11, to describe a huge Buschke-Loewenstein tumor (BLT) with “widest excision in the literature”. They seem not to be familiar with the recent literature on this issue (see Spinu et al., Chirurgia (2014), 109: 445-450 or Gholam et al., Dermatology (2009), 218:56-59).

The authors are likely to be unsure about the estimation of the biological behaviour of BLT. Thus, on page one, line 3,4 it is stated that BLT “In most cases displays a benign cytology”. However, on page 4 it is written on lines 18-21 that “malignant transformation occurring in 40-60% of cases…” This has to be clarified.

On page 6, line 23 it is stated that postoperative histology “showed huge genital warts with characteristic of a BLT”. The morphology should be described more in detail. It is well accepted that there is no constant histological characteristic of BLT which rather exhibit a continuum between condyloma acuminatum and squamous cell carcinoma.

In “Conclusions” on pages 7-8 most statements are not sound, partly contradictory and not at all substantiated by citations of the literature. Not a single citation is given in this part! This part of the paper could be shortened on the half.

On line 7 it is written “in the context of possible BLT it is very important to exclude an underlying malignancy”. Does it mean a further malignancy like secondary tumors in extramammary Paget’s disease or a malignant transformation within the BLT? What is the clinical relevance of the detection of a malignant transformation within BLT? On page 4 it is written on lines 21/22 that “Foci of invasive cancer within giant condyloma specimens are of uncertain significance and do not seem to correlate with recurrence and prognosis”.

It is clear that in a huge tumor the detection of foci of malignant transformation might be difficult and warrant a complete work-up of the tumor. But why “sampling errors can also easily occur in an early stage” (line 10)? What is an early stage of BLT?

On page 7, line 21 change “wide perineal” in “wide perianal”.

On page 7, line 23 the authors write “excision is mandatory even in very small
condylomas to prevent BLT later development”. Two comments on this statement are necessary: first, the development of BLT within an condyloma acuminatum is a very rare event (see also page 2, line 2). Secondly, the excision of condylomata acuminata, which are intraepithelial, non-invasive neoplasias must be considered as overtreatment and is not recommended in international guidelines due to the risk of scar formation and possible anal stenosis in widespread perianal manifestation. Thus, superficial ablation techniques are to be preferred.

On line 25 it is stated that “these treatment options (chemo-and/or radiotherapy) seem to be more effective when applied prior surgery”, literature is missing. Why was this procedure not considered in the present report?

**Level of interest:** An article of insufficient interest to warrant publication in a scientific/medical journal

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

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests’