Reviewer’s report

Title: Metachronous solitary splenic metastasis arising from early gastric cancer: a case report and literature review

Version: 0 Date: 20 May 2017

Reviewer: Kohei Nakata

Reviewer's report:

The authors reported the fourth case of a solitary splenic metastasis arising from gastric cancer and the second case arising from early gastric cancer reported in the English literature.

As the authors mentioned solitary splenic metastasis from gastric cancer is very rare and it is worth reporting.

However, they should show more information to confirm the case as metastatic tumor.

1. How the authors decided the tumor is metastasis from gastric cancer, not primary malignant tumor of spleen. The authors should show the pictures of primary gastric cancer and compare the histological findings.

2. It may be difficult to differentiate between metastasis and primary malignant tumor of the spleen. However, at least, they should try to do immunohistochemical staining of both primary EGC and the tumor of the spleen, such as MUC staining.

3. In discussion, the authors showed the previous report of metastatic tumor of gastric cancer. They should introduce how the authors diagnosed as metastatic tumor, not primary tumor. Also the authors should how did not mention regarding how they decided the tumor is metastasis from gastric cancer.

4. The authors include the pathologist as authors, if not included.

5. Page 5, line 32; The authors showed no regional lymph node dissection, resulting in no residual carcinoma, lymph node metastasis, or lympho venous invasion. How about the pathological diagnosis of specimen after ESD.

6. How often the patient received CT examination after gastrectomy?
Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

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

No

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

No

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.

Not relevant to this manuscript

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

Acceptable

Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?
If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal