Reviewer’s report

Title: Metatarsal metastasis from clear cell renal cell carcinoma: a case report and literature review.

Version: 0 Date: 23 Oct 2019

Reviewer: Timothy Lyon

Reviewer's report:

In this article authors present a case report of a metastasis of renal cell carcinoma (RCC) to the first metatarsal of the right foot. The is quite rare and per the literature review presented there appears to be fewer than 10 previously reported cases of this in RCC, and therefore I think the case has some educational merit. However I have several concerns about the manuscript in its present form.

1. The conclusion of both the abstract and the manuscript does not adequately summarize the key components of the case and I would suggest major revision. Rather than generally call for a thorough history and physical exam in all patients, I think the take-home point of the manuscript should be that clinicians should have a high index of suspicion for potential metastasis in patients with a history of RCC and local pain or swelling of the foot, and the conclusion should be rewritten to reflect this.

2. Tables 1-3 focus primarily on non-RCC histologies that have metastasized to the foot, such as lung cancer etc. While a broad review of like this may be suitable for an orthopedic journal, for a urological journal such as BMC urology, I would suggest the focus of the literature review be on previous cases of RCC metastatic to the foot. Therefore I think all 3 of these tables can be removed. The discussion could be updated to summarize the timing and presenting symptoms of all previous cases of RCC metastasis to the foot, with a focus on trying to identify common themes that may help future clinicians recognize this entity.

3. Is the subtype of RCC known (eg. Clear cell)? If so, please report this.

4. Did the patient have any functional limitations after amputation? Was there any thought given to radiotherapy for local control? Is there any previous evidence reporting the use of radiotherapy or percutaneous ablation for symptomatic bone lesions of the foot? If so, please include in the discussion.

5. The entire manuscript would benefit from revision by a native English speaker. For example, some typos noted in the abstract are listed below, and similar issues are noted throughout the document.
a. Line 23: It is not correct to say that bone metastases occur in most cancer cases, should be revised to say it is 'not uncommon' or 'is known to occur in some patients with cancer'

b. Line 30: metastasis to the metatarsal bone, not of

c. Line 32: add a space between suffered and intermittent

d. Line 34: Capitalize "The"

e. Line 40: remove the word "the" prior to open biopsy

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