Author’s response to reviews

Title: Hibernoma: a rare case of adipocytic tumor in head and neck.

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Professor,

I’m sending the revised manuscript entitled: “Hibernoma: a rare case of adipocytic tumor in head and neck.” (by Lechien JR et al.) which is submitted for publication in BMC Ear Nose and Throat. You will find all recommended changes below in red bold.

We first want to thank the reviewer for their relevant and interesting comments. We considered all of them to improve the manuscript.

Reviewer reports:
Mainak Dutta (Reviewer 1): The authors have worked hard to create this revised version of the manuscript. It is in a better shape, however there are still some areas which need to be addressed.

1. Since there was a strong suspicion of liposarcoma from the clinico-radiologic perspective, was an FNAB or a tru-cut biopsy considered at any point of time? It seems carrying out such investigations would have been more logical to arrive at a provisional diagnosis prior to embarking upon surgical excision. Need specific and appropriate explanation here.

We realized FNAB but the result was non-contributory.
We added this information: p. 3, case presentation, line 13: “The fine needle aspiration biopsy was made but non-contributory.”

2. Table 1 is still inadequate. Where are the references (7, 8) among those that were consulted to prepare the table? Those references were mentioned in the second sentence of Discussion, citing the three patients with hibernoma in the posterior triangle of neck. The literature review therefore needs to be re-checked.
Indeed, we forgot these references in the table legend. Effectively, we used references 8 and 9 for the table.
We added these references in the table legend: “Table 1 legend: C+= contrast +; F= female; M= male; y= year. Many case presentations allowed the realization of this table [2,3,6,7,8,12,13].”.

3. The original language of the article should be mentioned within third brackets in the Reference section, not within the text itself. Example: Merkel H. Über ein Pseudolipon der Mamma. Beitr Path Anat Allge Path 1906; 39:152-7. [article in German]

Ok. We modified this in the text and in the references.

Furthermore, there are issues with proper formatting of the references yet. The author instructions must be followed, or the references should be written in uniform Vancouver style. For example, ref. 2 has a comma after the journal name, while ref. 3 has a stop. These and similar other inconsistencies must be sorted out carefully.
No need for PMID; and no need for doi number if the article is simultaneously published in print.

We corrected all references.

4. The sequences of the MRI should be mentioned. This is a must, because without them, the interpretations of the MR images are impossible. For example, proper sequence for D in Fig. 1 would help to establish that it is a vascular lesion, which otherwise is not evident.

We added the sequence:

p. 3, case presentation, line 12: “According to the clinical features and the MRI characteristics (especially T1 sequence), we highly suspected liposarcoma of the neck.”

p. 9, figure 1:
Figure 1 legend: The MRI (T1) revealed a 38mm along the axis mass of the posterior cervical triangle with septa>2mm (A), nodular structures (B), muscular invasion (C), and a high vascularization (D).

5. The staining and magnification details of the histology photomicrograph are missing.

We added these information in the figure legend:

p. 10, figure 2: “Figure 2 legend: The histopathological findings (10x; hematoxylin & eosin) showed mature fat cells (A), abundant eosinophilic cells (B) with small cytoplasmic vacuoles and regular, small, round nuclei (C). The tissue was characterized by a high vascularization (D).”

Dr. Jerome R. Lechien, MD, PhD, MS.