Author's response to reviews

**Title:** Ectopic ACTH secretion associated to a well-differentiated peritoneal mesothelioma. Case report.

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**Author's response to reviews:** see over
Dear Dr. Timothy Shipley, Executive editor of BMC Endocrine Disorders.

We are submitting a paper entitled “Ectopic ACTH secretion associated to a well-differentiated peritoneal mesothelioma: a Case report”, for your consideration. In this paper we present a case of ectopic ACTH secretion whose clinical course is different from the most cases reported. The patient’s clinical course was slowly progressive and the time between the first symptom and the diagnosis was almost 20 years. The tumors that most frequently cause ectopic ACTH secretion have an aggressive clinical course (as in pulmonary or thymic tumors). This patient was evaluated and the biochemical behavior of this case was similar to Cushing’s disease, with test results suggesting a pituitary tumor. There are two other cases mentioned in the literature regarding ectopic ACTH secretion due to a mesothelioma; in the first, immunochemistry was not performed and its diagnosis was post-mortem, and the second case was a pleural mesothelioma. This is the first peritoneal mesothelioma reported. Therefore, we are convinced the submitted manuscript is a very interesting contribution.

As suggested by one of the reviewers, we added the following points:

1) we have reported the levels of midnight serum cortisol;
2) we also added a brief comment on the usefulness of somatostatin receptor scintigraphy (SRS) in this type of tumors and the fact that we did not perform it as we had CT images that suggested an intra-abdominal mass, adding said images and
3) briefly commenting in the discussion the results of the histopathology of the patient.
4) As mentioned in the case presentation, the patient’s hypercortisolism has been controlled with ketoconazole, as in our country metyrapone is unavailable.

The present manuscript has not been published or submitted to any other journal.

Yours sincerely, the Authors