Author’s response to reviews

Title: Medullary Thyroid Carcinoma with double negative calcitonin and CEA: A case report and update of literature review

Authors:

Claudio Gambardella (claudiog86@hotmail.it)
Chiara Offi (chiara.o@live.com)
Guglielmo Clarizia (clarizia.guglielmo@libero.it)
Roberto Maria Romano (robertomaria.romano@gmail.com)
Immacolata Cozzolino (coimma73@gmail.com)
Marco Montella (montella.marco19@gmail.com)
Rosa Maria Di Crescenzo (crescenzo-rose.dicrescenzo@libero.it)
Massimo Mascolo (massimo.mascolo@unina.it)
Angelo Cangiano (angicangi@gmanil.com)
Sergio Di Martino (sergiodm@libero.it)
Giancarlo Candela (giancarlo.candela@unicampania.it)
Giovanni Docimo (giovanni.docimo@unicampania.it)

Version: 2 Date: 15 Jul 2019

Author’s response to reviews:

Vasilis Chortis (Reviewer 3): This is an interesting case of a recurrent medullary carcinoma with negative calcitonin and CEA both at baseline and recurrence. The authors include a comprehensive literature review, summarised in Table 1. Although this is a case worthy of publication and the authors have addressed the concerns raised by reviewers previously, the manuscript still requires extensive editing as the language is often confusing. I have included some examples below:

Page 4 line 22: what does 'MTC at definitive' mean?
Page 5 line 7: what is a retrosternal develop? I take it this must mean retrosternal extension

Page 9 line 4: 'mandatory and diriment' - this does not make sense to me, please rephrase

Thanks to the Reviewer for the precious comments and suggestions. An extensive language proofreading was carried out by an English native speaker.

I also note that, although most 'CT' abbreviations have been switched to 'calcitonin' as per reviewer suggestion, this has not been consistently applied throughout the manuscript, and the remaining random 'CT' terms are very confusing to the reader. This is also the case in Table 1.

All CT abbreviations in the text and in the Table 1 were switched to “calcitonin”

Finally, although Table 1 is a nice review of previous literature, it is not clear whether the last 5 columns refer to the baseline tumour or to recurrences. I suspect the former is true, but then it would make sense to have these columns before the 'recurrence' column.

The columns order of table 1 were reformatted according to the reviewer suggestion

Georgios Boutzios, Ph.D (Reviewer 4): The authors have presented an interesting case of recurrent MTC with double negative calcitonin and CEA. Nevertheless, the manuscript is not suitable for publication unless extensively edited.

Thanks to the Reviewer for the precious comments and suggestions. An extensive language proofreading was carried out by an English native speaker.