Author's response to reviews

Title: Upper arm metastasis of an Oral Squamous Cell Carcinoma

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Erlangen, February 4, 2015
Submission to BMC Oral Health.

Dear Ms. Morawska,


This manuscript presents the first case of a soft-tissue metastasis of an OSCC in the upper arm region with simultaneous erosion of the humeral bone; given the fact that this diagnosis has been unprecedented, a wide spectrum of clinical entities were included in the differential diagnoses until the diagnosis was confirmed with a biopsy.

Due to the fact that only a biopsy could reveal the diagnosis and modern imaging tools were not very helpful in diagnosis finding as well as the untypical site of the metastasis, we therefore believe the findings are interesting to a wide audience in the surgical and dental community and we wonder if you consider the results to be potentially worth publishing in your journal.

Thank you in advance.

Yours sincerely,

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Disclosure Statement
The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

REVIEWER: MICHAEL BÜTTNER
Major Compulsory Revisions
- Authors: Limit the list of authors to a reasonable number for a case report.
According to ICMJE guidelines we think that the authors mentioned below fulfill authorship requirements.
MD, Matthias Christian Wurm *1; Professor, MD, DMD, Emeka Nkenke2; Professor, MD, DMD, Friedrich-Wilhelm Neukam1; DMD, Tobias Möst1; MD, DMD, Rainer Lutz1; MD, DMD, Falk Wehrhan1; MD, Kathrin Brunner3; MD, DMD, Konstantinos Theodorou Mitsimponas; MD, Philipp Schlechtweg4; MD, DMD, Cornelius von Wilmowsky1
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- Discussion: Line 124: stating that distant metastasis in OCSSs are rare is contradictory to the numbers given in the same sentence (5-25%). Check the reference, which is a retrospective study from 20 years ago. Maybe a better quotation would refer to a more recent tumor register/database. I removed the contradictio in adiecto. In fact a more recent study would be interesting. But most recent studies only deal with lymphogenous dissemination.

- Figures: Figure titles and legends should be provided in the main manuscript, not in the graphic file. Otherwise they would be redundant with the printed article. (I apologize if this is due to the editorial process preparing a pdf file for the reviewer).

Figure titles and legends are included in the main manuscript. The pink figure title is made automatically I guess.

- References: All references must be numbered in the text in square brackets. Citations in the reference list should include all named authors, up to the first 30 before adding 'et al.' Use the journal abbreviations following Index Medicus/MEDLINE.

Sorry for the inconvenience. I changed it to the right style.

Minor Essential Revisions:
- Key words: May I suggest to use keywords that are included in the MeSH database.

Thanks you for your suggestion. I changed several keywords.

- Discussion: Line 127: what do you mean by soft tissue metastasis in this sentence (skin tumors were already treated in the sentence before. The reference refers to bone marrow metastasis).

I am sorry, the reference was missing.

Discretionary Revisions
- Case report: Line 119-121: The references 6-8 are delicate to underline this statement (other settings)

You are right! But there are just a few studies - and even less basic research - underlining this statement.

- References: I suggest to drop reference 13. If you state that there are no similar reports then we assume that you checked the whole literature carefully, not relying on one single study.

That is right. But still, it is the biggest study so far.

REVIEWER: MARIUS BREDELL

Major Compulsory Revisions

Language editing still lacking
Thank you for pointing that out. 
The article has been revised