Author's response to reviews

Title: Ruptured hepatic metastases of cutaneous melanoma during treatment with vemurafenib: an autopsy case report

Authors:

Takuto Nosaka (nosat@u-fukui.ac.jp)
Katsushi Hiramatsu (hiramatz@u-fukui.ac.jp)
Tomoyuki Nemoto (nemotot@u-fukui.ac.jp)
Yasushi Saito (benzou@u-fukui.ac.jp)
Yoshihiko Ozaki (yozaki@u-fukui.ac.jp)
Kazuto Takahashi (tkazuto@u-fukui.ac.jp)
Tatsushi Naito (naitot@u-fukui.ac.jp)
Kazuya Ofuji (kzzyy@u-fukui.ac.jp)
Hidetaka Matsuda (hidem@u-fukui.ac.jp)
Masahiro Ohtani (mohtani@u-fukui.ac.jp)
Hiroyuki Suto (hrykstu@u-fukui.ac.jp)
Yoshiaki Imamura (suki@u-fukui.ac.jp)
Yasunari Nakamoto (nakamoto-med2@med.u-fukui.ac.jp)

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To the Editors:

I, along with my coauthors, would like to ask you to consider the attached manuscript entitled “Ruptured hepatic metastases of cutaneous melanoma during treatment with vemurafenib: an autopsy case report” for publication in *BMC Gastroenterology* as a case report.

Spontaneous rupture of hepatic metastases is rare compared to primary hepatic tumors, and vemurafenib has been reported to be extremely effective for treating metastatic melanoma in patients who harbor a *BRAF V600E* mutation. Herein, we report on a rare case of ruptured hepatic metastases of malignant melanoma during treatment with vemurafenib. In our case, postmortem examination and immunohistochemical analysis indicated reactivation of the mitogen-activated protein kinase pathway in the metastatic tumor, suggesting secondary resistance to vemurafenib as the possible underlying mechanism.

We believe that the findings of this study are relevant to the scope of your journal and will be of interest to its readership.

This manuscript has not been published or presented elsewhere in part or in entirety, and is not under consideration by another journal. The study participant provided informed consent, and the study design was exempt from ethics review board approval. All the authors have approved the manuscript and agree with submission to your esteemed journal. There are no conflicts of interest to declare.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Yasunari Nakamoto, MD, PhD
Second Department of Internal Medicine
Faculty of Medical Sciences
University of Fukui
23-3 Matsuoka Shimoaizuki
Eiheiji-cho, Yoshida-gun
Fukui 910-1193, Japan
Tel: +81 776 61 8351
Fax: +81 776 61 8110
E-mail: nakamoto-med2@med.u-fukui.ac.jp