Reviewer’s report

Title: Lymphoepithelial carcinoma: a case report of a rare tumor of the larynx

Version: 1 Date: 04 Aug 2017

Reviewer: Henrik Hellquist

Reviewer's report:

1) Typos; Abstract in Conclusion; agressive. Line 52 delete the dot before tonsillar, line 30 agressive, line 33 conterpart References: # 8 lymphoepitheliomal, #9 lymphoeliomas

2) Suggestions Abstract, 2nd and 3rd sentence to merge It is extremely rare in the larynx and should be distinguished from squamous cell. Case presentation, first sentence; An 81-year-old Morrocan man, smoker for 40 years, presented with a one year history of dysphonia, dyspnea and dysphagia. Discussion, line 36 change within bracket to (male/female ratio 3:1) Conclusion Delete sentence 3 and change the last sentence to e.g. A correct diagnosis and a close collaboration between the pathologist and clinicians is mandatory for an optimal treatment strategy.

Changes: Introduction line 28 delete references 2 and 3 and keep # 5 but change in reference list #5 to the 2017 WHO classification, not the old 2005 that currently is in the reference list

3) IMPORTANT: More information needed: As lymphoepithelial carcinoma is an undifferentiated malignancy, there are several potential differential diagnoses not discussed at all in the manuscript. Firstly what keratin antibody was used, but also the authors need to exclude other malignancies and primarily neuroendocrine markers have to be applied, as well as myogenic marker(s), melanoma markers, LCA and possibly also CD99/NKX2.2. Several non-carcinoma malignancies can show positivity for keratin and therefore the possibility of other undifferentiated tumours has to be excluded, particularly as this tumour is a rarity in the larynx. Further, the authors state Discussion, line 43: There was also a cervical lymphadenopathy. Please give evidence - imaging or microscopic?

4) References. Inconsistency: ref # 6 there are 6 authors et al, whilst ref #9 only has 3 authors et al

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes
Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

No

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

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