Author’s response to reviews

Title: Granular cell tumors of the tongue: fibroma or schwannoma

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Author’s response to reviews:

Reviewer #1: Thank you for submitting this well written and presented paper on granular cell tumours of the tongue, often mis-diagnosed clinically, as fibromas

Your introduction, description of the methodology of your study, results and discussion are very good. References all in order. Tables and Figs good

Response:

We thank the reviewer for the positive comments.

* Line 200 Declarations should be Declarations

Response:

Thank you for your comment. We have corrected the spelling (line 176).

* Table 1 is comprehensive and nicely summarizes your paragraph on immunohistological stains, so the paragraph could be omitted. Just leave the heading and make reference to the Table

Response:

Thank you for your comment. We consolidated the data into Tables 1 and 3.
* In your discussion, you are somewhat vague about malignant transformation. To what sort of malignant lesion would these tumours transform? Clearly, pseudoepitheliomatous hyperplasia was noted. As you know, this histological finding is sometimes confused with squamous cell carcinoma. Perhaps you should make further comment.

Response:

Thank you for your comment. We have added the information in the Discussions section (line 120-122):

Although malignant changes (histologic evidence of vesicular nucleus with a prominent nucleolus, a high mitotic activity, a high nucleus-to-cytoplasm ratio, and pleomorphism) are relatively rare, …

* Finally, I think this is a good opportunity to raise awareness of this peculiar lesion. The title could be modified to bring it to the attention of a wider clinical audience, perhaps by adding something along the lines of a question:

Immunohistological characteristics of granular cell tumors in the tongue - fibroma or schwannoma. Please give this some thought.

Response:

Thank you for your comments. We have made changes to title.

Title: Granular cell tumors of the tongue: fibroma or schwannoma

Please make the necessary changes so that we can proceed rapidly to publication.

Reviewer #2: The authors examined specimen in details and showed the enough information to be concluded that GNT developed from Schwann cell. Although the conclusion might be biased because of small number of samples, it is worth while publishing to be validated later by other researchers.

Response:

We thank the reviewer for the positive comments.