Author's response to reviews

Title: Treatment of pruritus in a palliative patient with low dose paroxetine: a case report

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Author’s response to reviews:

Reviewer 1:

“Does the introduction explain the relevance of the case to the medical literature? Partly. Some more recent literature could be included to underline the relevance of the case to medical literature.”

Thank you for your comment. I have revised the introduction to emphasize the optimal treatment for pruritus in palliative patients secondary to malignancy is currently unclear.

Reviewer 2:

“The etiopathogenesis of the pruritus has not been explained.”

Thank you for your comment. I have not discussed the etiopathogenesis of pruritus because this is still not fully understand. I mentioned this in the introduction.

“The contention that this is the first time that Paroxetine has been used for refractory/ intractable pruritus is contentious.”

Thank you for your comment. In the discussion section, I feel I have indicated paroxetine has been used for pruritus previously. The reason this case study is unique is that paroxetine was fully effective at a dose of 5 mg per day.

"A step ladder for the management of pruritus, the definition of intractable and refractory pruritus needs to be included in the list of references. The Palliative Care formulary fifth edition offers more robust and incisive evidence on the management of pruritus.?”

Thank you very much for the helpful reference provided. I have reviewed the management approach listed in the Palliative Care Formulary. It provides different recommendations compared to other studies. I have revised the introduction section of this case to further emphasize there is no clear approach to pharmaceutical therapy in cases of palliative pruritus secondary to malignancy. In addition, I have referenced the Palliative Care Formulary as one of the management approaches for pruritus.
I thank the reviewers for their helpful suggestions and comments that I believe have further strengthened my manuscript.

I hope this addresses all the reviewer comments. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.