Reviewer's report

Title: Development of metachronous rectal cancers in a young man with dyskeratosis congenita: A case report

Version: 0 Date: 29 Oct 2018

Reviewer: Narothama Reddy Aeddula

Reviewer's report:

1. Do you believe the case report is authentic?

Yes

2. Do you have any ethical concerns? Please consider if local Institutional Review Board approval or ethical approval was obtained (if appropriate) and if the patient (or their parent or guardian in the case of children under 18) gave written, informed consent to publish this case and any accompanying images. A statement to this effect should appear in the manuscript.

Comments: I have no ethical concerns.

3. Does the Introduction explain the relevance of the case to the medical literature?

Yes

4. Does the article report the following information? Where information is missing, please specify.

   a. The relevant patient information, including:
      - De-identified demographic information (age, gender, ethnicity) - Yes
      - Main symptoms of the patient - Yes
      - Medical, family and psychosocial history - Mostly
      - Relevant past interventions and their outcomes - Yes.
b. The relevant physical examination findings

Yes

c. Important dates and times in this case (if appropriate, organized as a timeline via a figure or table); if specific dates could lead to patient identification, consider including time relevant to initial presentation, i.e., initial presentation at \( T = 0 \), follow up at \( T = 1 \) month.

d. Diagnostic assessments, including:
   - Diagnostic methods - yes
   - Challenges (e.g., financial, language/cultural) - N0
   - Reasoning and prognostic characteristics (e.g., staging), where applicable - Yes

e. Types and mechanism of intervention: Yes

f. A summary of the clinical course of all follow-up visits: Yes

Comments:

5. Is the interpretation (discussion and conclusion) well balanced and supported by the case presented?

Comments: Yes

6. Is the anonymity of the patient protected? Please consider any identifying information in images such as facial features or nametags, whether the patient is named etc. If not, please detail below.

Yes

7. Is the Abstract representative of the case presented?

Comments: Yes
8. Does the case represent a useful contribution to the medical literature?

Comments: Absolutely.

9. Additional comments for the author(s)?

Watanabe et al. reported a single case of metachronous rectal cancer in a 21-year-old young man with dyskeratosis congenita and reviewed the literature on the subject. The case is of clinical interest and adds new findings to the existing literature.

Its overall very well written and authors did an excellent job in writing up the case.

I have following minor suggestions to the authors,

1. Background: Page 5.

- Please describe the Dyskeratosis congenita (DC) more elaborately including some historical background and provide references if needed. Provide clinical features of the DC (Major vs. Minor) and its transmission and almost exclusive occurrence in males.

- Please provide details on the previously reported cases of rectal cancer in DC. Including any epidemiological data if available.
2. Case presentation: Page 6

- Please provide any pathological slides on the tumor which resected at age 18.

- Please mention if the patient had any relevant social history. If negative, say so.

It's important to know if the patient had any carcinogenic habits or practices such as smoking, alcohol, or unprotected sun exposure.

- If possible, please define what Microsatellite instability is and then report its results.

**Level of interest**

Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English**

Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published
Declarat
[116x709]ion of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

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No