Reviewer’s report

Title: Intradural metastasis to the cauda equina found as the initial presentation of breast cancer: a case report

Version: 0 Date: 06 Apr 2019

Reviewer: Muhammad Hussam Alothman

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: All of the requirements were presented in the paper.

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)
      - Main symptoms of the patient
      - Medical, family and psychosocial history
      - Relevant past interventions and their outcomes

   b. The relevant physical examination findings
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
   - Challenges (e.g., financial, language/cultural)
   - Reasoning and prognostic characteristics (e.g., staging), where applicable

e. Types and mechanism of intervention

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

Comments:
The case was presented in a good manner, but there is a vague point:
The Authors stated "The patient died 9 months postoperatively from the brain metastasis." the brain metastasis was small on the given MRI, so why didn't you resect the brain metastasis? and how that small metastasis resulted in death?

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

Comments: It was well-organized and perfect.

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, but "case report" should be added to the key words. Furthermore, it is better if the keywords were used according to their MeSH formulas.

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

Comments: This case illustrates a rare presentation of breast cancer and is worth publication.

9. Additional comments for the author(s)?

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:
Acceptable

Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

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Were you mentored through this peer review?

No