

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Clinical Cases

Manuscript NO: 45205

Title: Sustained complete response to erlotinib in squamous cell carcinoma of the head and neck: A case report

Reviewer's code: 03704412

Reviewer's country: United States

Science editor: Fang-Fang Ji

Date sent for review: 2018-12-20

Date reviewed: 2018-12-24

Review time: 17 Hours, 4 Days

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	Peer-Review:
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language	(High priority)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	<input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of	(General priority)	Peer-reviewer's expertise on the
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not	language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision	topic of the manuscript:
publish	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advanced
		<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> General
			<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This is a case report of a metastatic HNSCC subject, where a recurrent mass was regressed following treatment with Elotinib, a well established EGFR inhibitor. My comments are provided below. 1. The authors did not mention why Erlotinib was



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selected as a targeted treatment for this subject? Was the subject detected with high EGFR protein expression in the metastatic tissues (PDSCC as described), which could be due to presence of known or new EGFR mutation or amplification (more common in HNSCC) in the metastatic tissues? 2. Was the subject presented in this study harbored MAPKI E322K mutation as discussed by the authors (ref 17)? 3. Some histopathological images (H&E) of the metastatic mass and lymph nodes would be very useful for the readers. 4. What was the recurrence status of the subject after 2 years? What was the reason for his death? 5. Was the patient HPV-16 positive? Information on smoking, drinking, family history of cancer should be provided if available. 6. It is not clear what is meant by "complete response or remission" by the authors. Regression of the right neck mass does not necessary means complete disappearance or regression of all the metastases (loco-regional and distant), which remained undetected. Also, it is very unlikely that all the metastatic cells would be responsive to Erlotinib treatment. The authors should modify the statement accordingly.

INITIAL REVIEW OF THE MANUSCRIPT

Google Search:

- ☐ The same title
- ☐ Duplicate publication
- ☐ Plagiarism
- ☐ No

BPG Search:

- ☐ The same title
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[Y] No

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Clinical Cases

Manuscript NO: 45205

Title: Sustained complete response to erlotinib in squamous cell carcinoma of the head and neck: A case report

Reviewer's code: 00646287

Reviewer's country: India

Science editor: Fang-Fang Ji

Date sent for review: 2018-12-20

Date reviewed: 2018-12-27

Review time: 4 Hours, 7 Days

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	Peer-Review:
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language	(High priority)	<input type="checkbox"/> Anonymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	<input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
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		<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> General
			<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Comments manuscript 45205 The manuscript illustrates the effectiveness of an emerging therapy, however, it needs improvement as detailed below: Introduction Grammatical Error: "Overexpression of EGFR and its ligand has been reported in 80% to



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90%" -change "has" to "have" Grammatical Error: "has been reported to be predictors of worse survival"- change to "a predictor of" Case presentation Error: "was is situ melanoma"-change to "in-situ" "PET" - This is incomplete, write as 18F-FDG PET-CT "CT"- This is incomplete, write as "Contrast-enhanced CT (CECT)". Change to "CECT Neck" elsewhere in the manuscript also. 'Shortly after postoperative radiation" Prior to this, please add a line detailing the radiation given. Grammatical Error: "He had remained"- change "had" to "has" Discussion Several minor grammatical errors which need correction. The authors should attempt to tabulate the published reports/studies on Erlotinib in SCCHN. Figures and Legends The Figures and legends need improvement. A help of a radiologist maybe taken to describe the abnormalities in standard terminology, detailing nodal station, size and morphology. Also, further cropping of the image is required. In fact, the number of images can be increased with images labelled as subparts "a,b,c,etc" to show the different levels of nodes involved, and the subsequent follow-up.

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[Y] No