



February 15, 2019

World Journal of Clinical Oncology Editorial Office

Hiten RH Patel

Editors in Chief

Dear Dr Patel,

Thank you very much for considering our manuscript for publication in your journal. We have fully revised our manuscript, "Clear Cell Sarcoma in unusual sites mimicking metastatic Melanoma." authored by Ifeyinwa Obiorah and Metin Ozdemirli, addressing all of the comments and suggestions of the expert reviewer. We thank the reviewer and the editorial team for reviewing our manuscript, for their valuable comments and constructive suggestions which have enhanced the readability of our manuscript. We have made the necessary corrections and revisions required by the reviewer. We hope that the revised manuscript will be acceptable for the publication in your journal

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Obiorah'.

Ifeyinwa E obiorah

RESPONSE TO THE REVIEWERS

Reviewer #1: The two cases were interesting. This is a good case report and it has reference significance for clinical practice.

Response: we thank the reviewer for the kind comments and we are glad that the reviewer finds the cases interesting and relevant to clinical practice.

Reviewer #2: The paper of Obiorah IE and Ozdemirli M reports two rare cases of clear cell sarcoma mimicking metastatic melanoma and highlight the importance of FISH for the differential diagnosis and successive management. Main comments are:

- 1. In the manuscript there are many abbreviations which need to be written as full text at the first mention.**

Response: we thank the reviewer for the corrections and revisions; we have extensively reviewed the manuscript and corrected all abbreviations at first mention to full text

- 2. Authors state that “Surgery is the mainstay of treatment for clear cell sarcoma, with chemotherapy and radiation having little effect”. On these bases, it may be argued that the reason of the death of the first patient and the survival of the second were due to the complete surgical excision more than a lack of diagnosis. A discussion about this relevant topic is mandatory.**

Response; we have included additional discussion on the surgical benefit of early detection and complete surgical resection and related it to both our cases. We also added additional treatment the patient received since we wrote the manuscript. The patient received adjuvant radiotherapy (page 9) so we have discussed the treatment and included a most recent publication on the treatment of clear cell sarcoma. 34% of patients with clear cell sarcoma also receive radiotherapy but this is usually done in conjunction with surgery and the effect of radiation alone is hard to assess because the data is not available. Secondly 84 % of patients who undergo surgery experience local recurrences therefore these tumors tend to recur. We discussed all of this in relation to both our cases. We

have revised the manuscript to reflect this as well as the treatment of both patients. This discussion can be found on pages 12-13.

3. It has not been mentioned whether the second patient had post-surgical consequences on motor and sensory function in consideration of the tumor site.

Response: Apart from lower back pain and mild weakness post surgery, the post-operative course was unremarkable. The patient started physical therapy and 6 months later (last clinical follow up available), the patient is doing well with no neurological deficits. This has been described in detail on page 9.

4. How long was the survival of the correctly diagnosed patient and what is his life expectancy?

Response: At the time the manuscript was written, the patient was status post 2 months. Upon request, we have included additional information of the second patient (correctly diagnosed) up to the last clinical visit which is 6 months. Due to limited cases of clear cell sarcoma of the thoracic spine it is hard to predict survival in these patients. However we included a recent and possibly the largest scale review of 489 patients with clear cell sarcoma and based on that, his estimated 5 year survival is about 70%. We have included this on page 13.