

23rd August 2013

Dear Editor

Thank you for your kind consideration of our case report.

Below are our answers to the reviewers comments. We hope you find our responses favourable

Yours sincerely

Sebastian Zeki

Reviewed by 00058340

This is very interesting and important case report presenting the first documented case of squamous carcinoma occurring after radiofrequency ablation and investigating its clonal relationship to the Barrett's related high grade dysplasia. Moreover, it provides important information and references pertaining to potential common progenitor cells for squamous and columnar epithelium.

Minor comment The readers will benefit from more detailed figure legend, specifically expanded description of Fig 1b and 2 b and c.

We thank the reviewer for these kind comments. The figure has been amended as suggested

Reviewed by 00227577

The study reported a case of esophageal squamous cell carcinoma in a BE patient after radio-frequency ablation, as evidenced by histology and DNA mutation. It is a neat study, however, it would be more informative if the same sort of data collected before the treatment were included for a comparison.

We thank the reviewer. The sequencing data was collected before and after treatment so we were able to compare this. As this is a case report we did not do a more extensive longitudinal study but we agree such longitudinal studies are likely to be very informative particularly regarding clonal dynamics

Reviewed by 00504544

Dear author, I have carefully reviewed the above mentioned paper which describes the first case of squamous cell carcinoma arising in a patients after RFA of Barrett's esophagus. The case report is well documented, presents an important clinical observation and tries to explain the most corcening issues, as the rapid appearance of the tumor after and endoscopic revision, or the clonal origin of the tumor cells.

We thank the reviewer for this summary and we agree that the rapid development of such a tumour is a cause for concern

Reviewed by 00052339

This case report is an interesting case to consider carcinogenesis of squamous cell carcinoma of esophagus. I would like to know whether the squamous cell carcinoma is arising from the intestinal metaplasia spreading from 35~38cm of the esophagus. In another words, the adjacent lesion of the squamous cell carcinoma did contain the intestinal metaplasia or not. Please confirm and mention about this point.

The intestinal metaplasia was documented as being present in two separate areas and was not continuous; it was noted at an endoscopy prior to the discovery of the squamous cell cancer and was not seen at the time the cancer had developed. We have made this clearer in the text.