

Dear Editor-in-Chief,

Thank you for your detailed reviews and encouraging comments for the manuscript entitled, “Sclerosing Odontogenic Carcinoma of Maxilla: A Case Report and Literature Review” (Manuscript number: 83117).

Please see below, our point-to-point response (in blue) to comments provided by editor and each of the reviewers. Enclosed please find our revised copy of our manuscript. All the page number refers to the manuscript file with tracked changes marked in red.

We look forward to hearing from you in due time regarding our submission and to respond to any further questions or comments you may have.

Thank you very much for your consideration of our manuscript.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Dr Peng Xin, DDS, MD

Peking University School of Stomatology

Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

22 Zhongguancun South Avenue

Beijing 100081, People's Republic of China

Tel: +86 010 82195210

Fax: +86 010 62173402

E-mail address: pxpengxin@263.net

Reviewer #1 comment: Language could be improved

Author's response: Thank you for the comment. The language has been edited by the professional language editing company, Elixigen. The certificate is uploaded to the manuscript submission system.

Reviewer #2 comment: Rephrase the line in order – First 10% formalin, processing and embedded in paraffin block. (line 106)

Author's response: Thank you for the suggestion. We have rephrased the sentence to following:

Line 112 – 113: The resected specimens were fixed in 10% formalin, processed and embedded in paraffin blocks for histopathological examination.

Reviewer #2 comment: Rephrase as H& E stained sections show (line 107)

Author's response: Thank you for the comment. We have rephrased the sentence to following:

Line 113 – 114: Hematoxylin and eosin (H&E) stained sections showed small nests or cords of small neoplastic epithelial cells, immersed within a sclerotic stroma, with perivascular infiltration.

Reviewer #2 comment: complete the terminology (line 151)

Author's response: Thank you for the comment. We apologized for the technical error; we have completed the terminology to “epithelial cells” (line 164)

Reviewer #2 comment: change to neoplastic epithelial cell or any other term that is consistently used in the manuscript (line 167)

Author's response: Thank you for the comment. We have changed the terminology to “tumor cells”, which is consistently used in the manuscript. (line 180)

Reviewer #2 comment: please check the spelling (line 171)

Author's response: Thank you for the comment. We have edited the sentence into following:

Line 184 – 188: Although perineural invasion was often associated with poorer locoregional control and prognosis in squamous cell carcinoma, this appears to be distinctive histopathologic feature in most cases reported.

Reviewer #2 comment: rephrase the sentence (line 202)

Author's response: Thank you for the comment. We have rephrased the sentence to following:

Line 217 – 218: two patients underwent neck dissection in addition to tumor resection

Reviewer #2 comment: Rephrase like follow up for atleast 5 years (line 208)

Author's response: Thank you for the comment. We have rephrased the sentence to following:

Line 223: follow up for at least 5 years

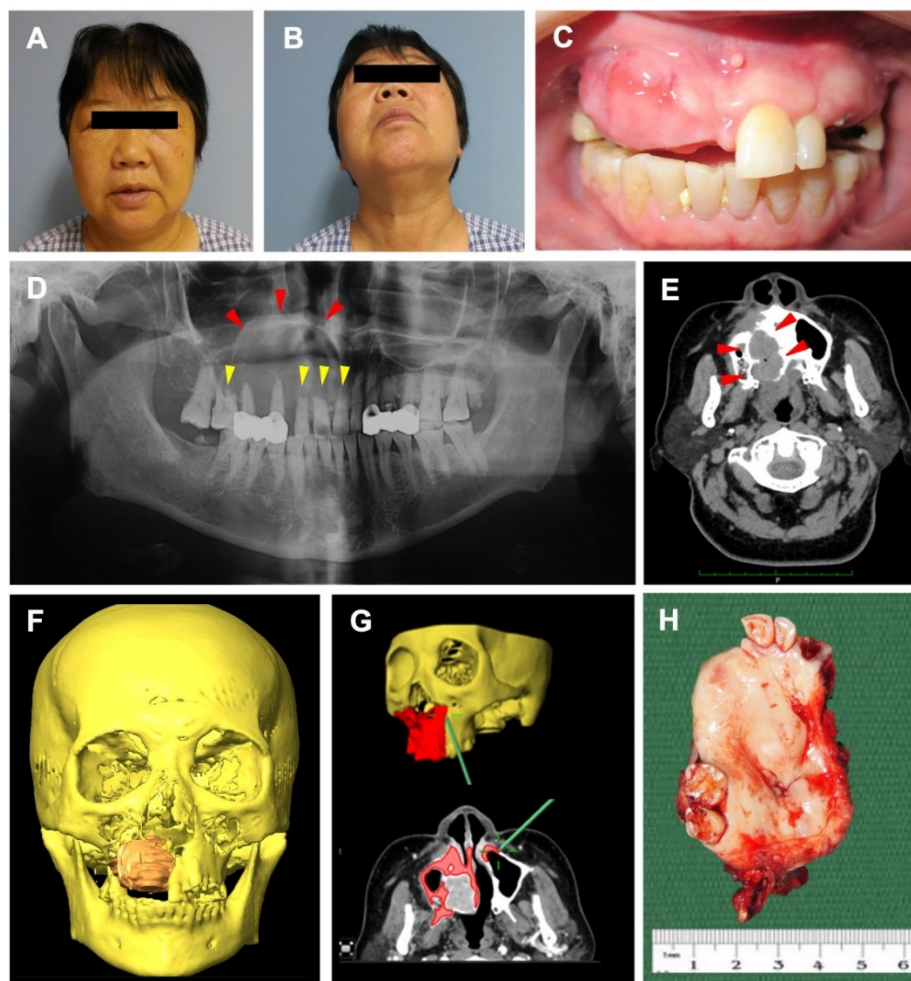
Reviewer #3 comments: Keywords should be in alphabetical order

Author's response: Thank you for the comment. We have edited the order of the keywords in alphabetical order.

Line 23 – 24: Keywords: Case report; Head and neck neoplasms; Odontogenic tumor; Sclerosing odontogenic carcinoma.

Reviewer #3 comments: Describe in detail (with clinical pictures) the extraoral and intraoral swelling in the maxillary region.

Author's response: Thank you for the comment. We have added the clinical pictures and detailed description in the case report and the figure legends.



Line 86 – 94: Clinically, the patient presented with diffuse right facial swelling without overlying skin changes. The swelling was diffuse and firm, causing obliteration of the right nasolabial fold. Mouth opening was not restricted and there was no palpable cervical lymphadenopathy. There were no neurosensory changes to the right infraorbital region. (Figure 1A and 1B) Intra-oral examination showed an irregular mass at the anterior maxilla extending from tooth 11 to 15 region, but without obliteration of the buccal sulcus. The swelling was firm and non-tender upon palpation, with non-ulcerated overlying mucosa. The adjacent teeth showed no marked increase in mobility and there was no fluid discharge noted upon palpation (Figure 1C).

Reviewer #3 comments: CARE checklist is not followed properly.

Author's response: Thank you for the comment. We have edited the manuscript according to the CARE checklist; however, we were unable to fulfill all topics mentioned (topic 9b, 9c and 9d) as they might not be relevant to this case report. For topic 11c, we suggested standard oral oncology follow-up for at least 5 years should be implemented and we have updated the CARE checklist accordingly.

Reviewer #3 comments: Arrange the references in Table 1 in sequence

Author's response: Thank you for the comment. We have rearranged the references in Table 1 according to the year of publication in ascending order.

Reviewer #3 comments: Insert the reference no. in Table 1.

Author's response: Thank you for the comment. We have added the reference number in Table 1 accordingly.

Reviewer #3 comments: Mention the search engines used for the literature search. Also, mention the keywords employed for search strategy.

Author's response: Thank you for the comment. We have added this description in the Case Report section, at line 133 – 137.

Line 133 – 137: The PubMed database was used to search for relevant articles, using the following medical subject heading (MeSH) terms: “sclerosing odontogenic carcinoma”, “sclerotic odontogenic carcinoma”, and “odontogenic sclerotic carcinoma”. The reference lists of the selected full-text articles were reviewed to check for additional articles that were not found in the database.

Reviewer #3 comments: et al should be used after 6 authors

Author's response: Thank you for the detailed review. We have edited the manuscript accordingly.

Reviewer #3 comments: Manuscript may be run on Grammarly for grammatical errors.

Author's response: Thank you for the comment. We have performed a thorough grammar check on Grammarly, and it has also been edited by the professional language company, Elixigen.