

Answering Reviewers

Q: An interesting case report on tongue metastasis of pulmonary sarcomatoid carcinoma. Minor suggestion: To establish a metastasis link, it could be useful to see whether any similar mutations detected in the tongue metastatic site. e.g. MET exon 14 and PIK3CA.:

A: I brought up this issue with our pathologist and oncologist. We completely agree with the reviewer's suggestion. In this molecular era, the best way to determine the relationship between 2 tumors is to analyze the molecular signatures of both tumors. Unfortunately, molecular testing on tumor is indicated in our institution only for therapeutic purposes and not for research. When we receive a request from the clinicians, we have to send out the block to outside labs for molecular testing in many instances, which would generate a bill for the patient. Therefore, it is difficult for us to justify performing molecular study on the metastasis in the tongue. However, based on the clinical course and the similar histologic features of the carcinoma in the lung and the tongue, we are confident that the tumor in the tongue represents a metastasis from the pulmonary sarcomatoid carcinoma, particularly in the absence of any other primary tumors and a squamous cell carcinoma in situ in the tongue.