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Reviewer A

The purpose of this review article was to describe a rare variant of esophageal squamous cell carcinoma to improve diagnosis and treatment.

This review shared comprehensive and relevant information on this topic.

However, some improvements are needed before publication.

1. Methods:

Please add details about the databases and the keywords used, the inclusion and exclusion criteria of your literature review. **Added to the methodology section and supplement table (supplementary table)**

2. Results:

A table with all the articles on the subject of esophageal CC would be welcome.

I propose the following sub headings:

- Epidemiology of esophageal carcinoma cuniculatum
- Pathogenesis of esophageal carcinoma cuniculatum
- Clinical and endoscopical findings in patients with esophageal carcinoma cuniculatum
- Histological findings in esophageal carcinoma cuniculatum (that part include differential diagnosis)
- Treatment of esophageal carcinoma cuniculatum
- Evolution and prognosis of esophageal carcinoma cuniculatum

Headings were appropriately updated as suggested

Histological characteristics are first and foremost:

- The architecture : endophytic cystic with a rabbit burrow-like infiltration pattern.
- The carcinomatous cells : very well differentiated keratinizing squamous epithelium.

Please add such precisions at the beginning of "the histological findings part".

Moreover, replace figure 1A by a more zoomed-out image in which the deep wall of the esophagus is more recognizable.

More updates were added as suggested by reviewer 3. Please refer to histological findings in esophageal carcinoma cuniculatum (that part include differential diagnosis)

3. Conclusion:

Please add histological consideration to this part.

Reviewer B

The authors performed a literature review of esophageal carcinoma cuniculatum. The paper rather comprehensively discusses the major aspects of epidemiology, pathogenesis, differential diagnosis, treatment, and prognosis. Nevertheless, taking into consideration the rarity of the disease (~20 cases reported in the literature), and the fact that in 2019 Lai et al. performed a systematic review of esophageal carcinoma and reported their own cases (10.1016/j.prp.2019.152602.), in my opinion, the current article by Enofa et al. does not add anything new the field.

This is the most comprehensive and UpToDate review on esophageal CC. It differs significantly from review from Lai et al and contains more clinical and pathophysiological findings and includes treatment modalities used to date in patients with esophageal CC

Reviewer C

In the review titled “Esophageal carcinoma cuniculatum: a narrative review for understanding 1 this rare and commonly misdiagnosed variant of well-differentiated esophageal squamous cell carcinoma”, the authors gave an in-depth review of the rare esophageal carcinoma cuniculatum (CC). The article is generally well-written, and the topic is interesting. I have a few minor questions:

1. The authors stated mucosal biopsy for esophageal CC is challenging but still possible. Yet, Lai et al included 15 surgical resection cases. So, what are basic diagnostic algorithms leading to surgical section (which a huge/morbid decision)? Is it endoscopic impression of a mass lesion or radiology findings? Apparent histology would not show infiltrative pattern or high cytological features. I would recommend beef up this portion. We added more information to this section as suggested. Please see section on endoscopic findings in patients with esophageal CC.

2. Pathologists get grey hair faster by making rare diagnosis such as esophageal CC, all because it has critical implication for patient management and prognosis. We all know esophageal squamous cell carcinoma is an aggressive disease with dire morbidity and mortality. So I would like to see more discussion about prognosis, such as stage-by-stage comparison of esophageal CC with squamous cell carcinoma, if there are data available. Section on prognosis was made more comprehensive, unfortunately there is not so a lot of data on stage to stage comparison between ECC and Squamous cell carcinoma but from literature, we reported that esophageal CC could present with locally advanced disease, and rarely ever metastatic disease which overall could have a favorable prognosis when compared to its squamous cell cancer counterpart. Please, see section on evolution and prognosis of esophageal CC for more discussion on this.