Peer Review File:

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To Reviewer A

This case report shared a rare case of plexiform schwannoma of the right foot. Ultrasound and MRI were used to help differential diagnosis before confirmation by pathology. Surgery was carried out and achieved favorable outcome without recurrence within 9 months. Overall, this case is in line with ACR which could potentially get published. However, revisions need to make concerning its lack of highlights and in-depth discussion.

Major concerns

Comment 1: Though it's entitled 'a case report and literature review', authors did not actually show broad and deep literature review. There's no any discussion of previous similar cases (plexiform schwannoma on the foot). It's easy to find similar cases. For example, PMID 31824642 and PMID 24556484 etc. To carry out a literature review, though this case report focused on MRI and ultrasound, it's not convincing or informative enough.

I recommend authors do literature review which contains discussion and comparison between all similar foot plexiform schwannoma cases. For your reference, a table would be very clear and informative. The table could list items like 1) its place (plantar aspect of the foot or other places?) 2) age of the patient (according to what I've got, this might be the oldest case, 66-year-old. Similar cases: 38-year-old, 11-year-old); 3) size (in this case, it's 7.1*2.1*2cm, much bigger than other cases: 5.5*4.0 etc.); 4) diagnosis methods and useful information peers could take away; 5) intervention (surgery); 6) prognosis (no recurrence? For how low?) 7) other items authors want to highlight.

Reply 1: Thank you for your kind advice. We have conducted a comprehensive literature search on PubMed using the following search terms were used separately or in combination: plexiform schwannoma of lower extremity, peripheral nerve sheath tumor of lower extremity. And the literature found is summarized in a table.

Changes in the text: A table including the advised information has been added as required (see Page 4, line 74, 75 and Page 13, line 223).

Comment 2: If authors plan to concentrate on MRI and ultrasound, then in this literature review, diagnosis methods beyond these two need to be included too. And this comparison in the table should be accordingly highlighted.

Reply 2: More diagnosis methods has been included and analyzed.

Changes in the text: A table analyzing different radiological methods for diagnosis of plexiform schwannoma has been added (see Page 7, line 131-133 and Page 14, line 225).

Concerns regarding the CARE GUIDELINE CHECKLIST

Comment 3: Checklist 2: please add 'case report' as one of keywords too.

Reply 3: We have added the keyword as required.

Changes in the text: The 'case report' has been add as one of keywords (see Page 2, line 27).

Comment 4: Checklist 3a: I do fail to find WHAT is UNIQUE of this case in abstract. This is different from rareness.

Reply 4: Plexiform schwannoma is a relatively rare soft tissue tumor, and the prevalence age is 20-50 years old. Most of the literature reported existing case reports are relatively few tumors. Our study reported a 66-year-old patient with a tumor size greater than 7 cm. This is the unique of this case report.

Changes in the text: The unique has been added in the abstract (see Page 1, line 13-15)

Comment 5: Checklist 3d: take-away lesson is not convincing/informative enough. Please further highlight this in detail.

Reply 5: In this case report, our initial diagnosis was gout, which was later considered as angiomas by ultrasound. The subsequent MRI manifestations did not meet the diagnosis of hemangioma. The final pathological diagnosis was plexiform schwannoma. According to this case report, although plexiform schwannoma is relatively rare and occurs mostly in young people. plexiform schwannoma should be concerned when patients are the elderly.

Changes in the text: We have modified our text as advised (see Page 2, line 21-25)

Comment 6: Checklist 4: similarly to checklist 3a, WHY this case is UNIQUE is not clear.

Reply 6: Plexiform schwannoma is a relatively rare soft tissue tumor, and the prevalence age is 20-50 years old. Most of the literature reported existing case reports are relatively few tumors. Our study reported a 66-year-old patient with a tumor size greater than 7 cm. This is the unique of this case report.

Changes in the text: The unique has been added in the abstract (see Page 1, line 13-15) and the text (see Page 5, line 82-85)

Comment 7: Checklist 7: please draw a timeline. Make sure the figure stands alone, clearly and logically outlining what were done and what were found.

Reply 7: The timeline has been added as Figure 4.

Changes in the text: The timeline has been added as Figure 4 (see Page 4, line 74).

Comment 8: Checklist 11a: please use one separate paragraph to list in order both the strengths and limitations of this case.

Reply 8: We have added both the strengths and limitations of this case as required.

Changes in the text: The advised information has been added in the text (see Page 7 and Page 8, line 143-148)

Comment 9: Checklist 13: please provide the formed consent.

Reply 9: The formed consent has been uploaded as supplementary file named Patient Consent.