Review of: "Advancements in the Detection and Treatment of Rare ALK Fusion Mutations in Hepatocellular Carcinoma: A Case Report and Literature Review"

Macario Martinez-Castill[1]

1 Instituto Politécnico Nacional

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

It would be convenient to include more information in the introduction about the role of ALK fusions in the pathogenesis of HCC, preferably or NSCLC, also in relation to the ALK inhibitors used for the treatment of cancer patients, particularly crizotinib.

In the section on case information, please refer in more detail to the NGS strategies used for the identification of ALK fusion and APC mutation because in the discussion the author proposed both DNA- and RNA-based NGS strategies as adequate options for molecular diagnosis. Additionally, it would be important to indicate how this information was used when defining the treatment algorithm. The diagnostic and evaluation criteria described in the case study should be supported with the inclusion of the corresponding references.

To access all the papers obtained after the bibliography search, please include the citations of the corresponding references, and I suggest emphasizing the advantages of ALK fusions identification by NGS over cost-effective and first-choice methods such as ALK IHC. Please discuss in more detail the literature- or clinical-based reasons for choosing crizotinib as the treatment option for the rare COX7A2L-ALK fusion identified in the HCC patient.

Finally, in the conclusion, it would be important to indicate, based on the literature, whether the detection of rare or low abundance ALK fusions by NGS might be a potential criterion to choose or change the option of ALK inhibitor for the treatment of HCC or NSCLC patients.