

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-53941

Date: 19/09/2025

Title: Bone Marrow Biopsy Reveals Occult Invasive Lobular Carcinoma Without Hypermetabolic Breast Lesion on FDG PET/CT

Recommendation:

- Accept as it is
- ✓ Accept after minor revision.....
- Accept after major revision
- Do not accept (*Reasons below*)

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		✓		
Techn. Quality		✓		
Clarity		✓		
Significance	✓			

Reviewer Name: Dr. S. K. Nath

Date: 19/09/2025

Reviewer's Comment for Publication:

This manuscript presents a valuable and rare case of occult ILC metastasis manifesting primarily as bone marrow infiltration without evident primary lesions on FDG PET/CT. The case emphasizes the crucial role of biopsy and immunohistochemistry in diagnosing such stealthy cancers. Addressing the weaknesses—particularly expanding on literature context, providing more detailed imaging descriptions, and including long-term follow-up—will enhance the manuscript's quality and impact.

Reviewer's Comment / Report

Strengths:

- Unique Case Presentation:** The report highlights a rare scenario of metastatic invasive lobular carcinoma (ILC) with occult primary and no hypermetabolic lesion on FDG PET/CT, emphasizing the diagnostic challenges faced in such cases.
- Clinical Relevance:** The case underlines the importance of considering solid tumors in the differential diagnosis of unexplained cytopenias and bone marrow abnormalities, which can significantly impact clinical management.
- Comprehensive Diagnostic Approach:** The authors effectively demonstrate the value of bone marrow biopsy, complemented by immunohistochemistry, in establishing a diagnosis when imaging is inconclusive.
- Well-Structured Case Narrative:** The case presentation is detailed, providing clear insights into clinical features, diagnostic steps, and treatment responses.

Weaknesses:

- Limited Literature Context:** The discussion lacks a thorough comparison with similar cases reported in existing literature, which could strengthen the clinical significance of this report.
- Imaging Details:** While the paper mentions imaging findings, more detailed descriptions of the imaging modalities (e.g., specific MRI or mammography findings) would be beneficial.
- Follow-up Data:** The report provides initial treatment response but does not elaborate on long-term outcomes or follow-up data, which would add depth to the case's impact.
- Minor Language and Formatting Issues:**
 - Some sentences have grammatical errors or awkward phrasing (e.g., "flying under the radar" could be rephrased for formal tone).
 - Inconsistent formatting of references and in-text citations.
 - There are minor typographical errors that should be corrected for clarity.

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Recommended Modifications:

1. **Literature Review:** Incorporate a brief review of similar cases from recent literature to contextualize the rarity and diagnostic challenges of occult ILC metastasis.
2. **Imaging Description:** Expand on specific findings from mammography, MRI, or other imaging modalities to better illustrate the diagnostic dilemma.
3. **Follow-up Data:** Include longer-term follow-up, treatment outcomes, and patient prognosis if available.
4. **Language and Grammar:** Carefully proofread the manuscript to correct grammatical errors and typos. For instance:
 - Replace colloquial expressions like "flying under the radar" with formal language such as "elusive on conventional imaging."
 - Ensure consistent and proper citation format.
5. **Formatting:** Standardize header styles, references, and figure legends for uniformity.