Anti-Cytokeratin CAM5.2 Monoclonal Antibody Reacted with Both Cytokeratin 7 and 8, but not Cytokeratin 18. Comment on: Hepatocellular Carcinoma Metastatic to the Gingiva as a First Manifestation of Hepatocellular Carcinoma. J Maxillofac Oral Surg (JMOSI), Published on Line: 25 February 2011; DOI: 10.1007/s12663-011-0187-z

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To the Editors

We read with great interest the contribution by Dr. Terada T regarding the study, entitled “Hepatocellular carcinoma metastatic to the gingiva as a first manifestation of hepatocellular carcinoma” [1]. The author presented a good case report, and implemented a comprehensive discussion. However, there was a typo in the “Abstract” section that CAM5.2 was misspelled “CAM6.2”. Additionally, this article contains a wrong identification in the second paragraph of the “Case Report” section that I believe, may misguide the readers. Dr. Terada T may have inadvertently annotated that “CAM5.2 reacted with both cytokeratin 8 and 18”.

We would like to explain that the anti-cytokeratin CAM 5.2, clone CAM 5.2, is marketed by Becton–Dickinson Biosciences (Franklin Lakes, NJ). This clone primarily recognizes both human cytokeratin proteins 7 and 8, whereas it is lesser specific to cytokeratin 7. Both peptides

are found in most epithelial cells, with the exception of stratified squamous epithelium [2].

As a result, it is clarified that anti-cytokeratin CAM5.2 monoclonal antibody is a marker for cytokeratin 7 and 8 but not for cytokeratin 18. This letter can help us elucidate the critical points that CK8/18 is not equivalent to CAM5.2; as well as anticytokeratin CAM5.2 should not be mistaken for monoclonal antibody CK8/18 [2, 3]. However, this finding does not detract from the study results and impressions that hepatocyte paraffin-1 (HepPar-1) (OCH1E5, Dako) is a relatively specific marker of hepatocytes and hepatocellular carcinoma. Hepatocellular carcinoma can manifest as small gingival tumors, and careful hematoxylin-eosin stain and immunoreactive HepPar-1 are useful in the diagnosis of hepatocellular carcinoma in extrahepatic metastatic sites [1].

Conflict of Interests None.

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