Reviewer’s report

Title: Duodenal carcinoma at the ligament of Treitz. A molecular and clinical perspective.

Version: 1 Date: 14 June 2010

Reviewer: Patrick G Brady

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Minor Essential Revisions:
1. In the background, it should be mentioned that familial adenomatosis polyposis (FAP) is associated with carcinoma of the duodenum. Although this is most common in the second portion of the duodenum, it can also occur in the third and fourth portions of the duodenum. Gardner’s syndrome is mentioned in the last sentence of page 3 as a hereditary syndrome that increases the risk of small bowel neoplasm. Gardner’s syndrome is a variant of FAP.
2. On page 14 mutations in the APC gene are discussed. Duodenal carcinoma is the second most common carcinoma in FAP. Thus the comments regarding the low rate of APC mutations in duodenal adenocarcinoma refer primarily to sporadic adenocarcinomas and not those associated with FAP and its variants.
3. Patients with duodenal adenomas and carcinomas have increased risk of colonic neoplasms. The case presentation illustrates this since the patient had several colonic adenomas. Current recommendations call for colonoscopy in all patients with duodenal adenomas and carcinomas. This needs to be pointed out in the discussion.
4. Celiac disease is another disorder associated with an increased risk of small bowel, including duodenal, carcinoma. This should be noted in the background section.
5. On page 10, double balloon enteroscopy is discussed. Single balloon enteroscopy is not mentioned. Since single balloon enteroscopy is an alternative to double balloon enteroscopy with comparable success rates and yields, it should be mentioned in the discussion. The term “balloon assisted enteroscopy” can be applied to both techniques.

Discretionary Revisions:
Either figure 1 or figure 2 can be used, but both are not necessary.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.
Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.