Reviewer's report

Title: Acute gastric dilatation due to a superior mesenteric artery syndrome: an autopsy case

Version: 1 Date: 6 July 2013

Reviewer: Sanjay Marwah

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The author has reported an interesting case of acute gastric dilatation due to a superior mesenteric artery syndrome. However, the explanation of cause of death doesn't match with the case findings.

Major Compulsory Revisions
1. First paragraph of case presentation mentions that “the patient was found dead lying on her back with large amount of dark brown vomit on the floor around her”. This description suggests choking due to aspiration of large amount of vomitus that could be a possible cause of death in this case. However autopsy findings of the lungs including trachea-bronchial tree are not mentioned.

2. Second paragraph of case presentation mentions that “left proximal part of greater curvature was gray colored and necrotic (Fig. 1)”. However, the greater curvature appears normal in the photograph. The author should include closer view of greater curvature, cut section of stomach and histopathological findings showing transmural gastric necrosis to prove this point.

3. Second paragraph of conclusion mentions that “We suspected that past intrinsic peritonitis may have been the cause of the pathological changes”. The author has highlighted it as first case report of SMA syndrome due to intrinsic peritonitis. However, neither there is any term like “intrinsic peritonitis” in the literature nor any cross reference has been provided in the text for this term.

Minor Essential Revisions
1. The heading of conclusion should be replaced as discussion.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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'