Reviewer's report

Title: Common variable immunodeficiency syndrome with right aortic arch; a case report

Version: Date: 25 November 2003

Reviewer: Irwin Best

Reviewer's report:

General
Conclusion: ... “can be associated with cardiovascular anomalies.” The authors have not fully explored this link in their discussion. Therefore, the association presented might be specious.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)
Abstract. Consider revising the abstract:
Common variable immunodeficiency syndrome mostly affects adults. It is characterized by low production of all the major classes of immunoglobulins. The incidence is 1/???000000 with equal gender distribution. We report a case…right aortic arch. An association of right-sided arch and common variable immunodeficiency syndrome has not been previously reported

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
Discussion:
Authors did not describe the findings related to the arch configuration. Images presented are low resolution and do not show difference in tissues. A full arch view or drawing depicting the origins of the great vessels is helpful. None of the images presented is of publication quality!

Differential diagnosis? Pulmonary sequestration as a cause of recurrent lower respiratory tract infections was not mentioned in this discussion of vascular anomalies and infections.

Did the patient have wheezing or airway compression on physical exam?

What is the embryology of a right-sided arch? How is it developmentally related to the immune system, particularly B-cell immunity? What are the genetics involved?

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests: