Reviewer's report

Title: Primitive Neuroectodermal Tumor (PNET) of the kidney: case report and carcinogenic hypothesis.

Version: 2 Date: 10 October 2003

Reviewer: Antonio Lopez-Beltran

Reviewer's report:

General
The authors describe an additional case of PNET of the kidney in a 27 years old patient. The paper may need some editing and spelling corrections, such as page #4 AE1; technique. Reference #6: vol should be separated.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)
To include the number of reported Kidney PNETs would improve the Background section

Minor Compulsory Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
Differential diagnosis would be better placed in Discussion instead of Results

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
A number of corrections would improve the paper:
Since the diagnosis of PNET is primary based on H&E in addition to immunohistochemistry and molecular study of the specific translocation, at least the H&E features of the tumor should be illustrated in a figure including H-W rosettes.

PENET tumors only immunorreactive to CD99 are uncommon, usually these are additionally positive for Vimentin and some keratins. The authors should discuss this finding with the appropriate differential diagnosis.

The characteristics of the reported case should be discussed taking the results of reported cases, so they can attempt to give more originality to their report.

According to the presented Discussion, the authors do not provide with a new carcinogenetic hypothesis, instead, they agree with the previously reported stem cell precursor. Then, the title of the paper should include only "a case report".

It is unclear in Discussion that CD99 is known also as MIC2, 12E7, E2 and so on.

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published
Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests: None