Reviewer's report

Title: Serous borderline tumor of the fallopian tube presented as hematosalpinx. A case report and review of the literature

Version: 1 Date: 6 July 2005

Reviewer: Philippe MORICE

Reviewer's report:

General
Interesting case of serous borderline tumor of the fallopian tube.

I think that several information should be added concerning particularly the clinical part of the case (which is too brief). Cf Minor essential revisions.

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

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

1. about the initial management, the authors should describe more precisely the surgical procedure carried out: complete exploration of the abdomino-pelvic cavity (if so, normal aspect of the peritoneum?), initial peritoneal cytology performed before or after the fluid aspiration of the hematosalpinx?, routine peritoneal biopsies performed?, extraction of the surgical specimen using an endoscopic bag?

2. the authors should report if a restaging surgery was discussed in this case. In table summarizing all cases reported, how many patients underwent a complete staging procedure at the time of initial surgery and/or restaging surgery (only the case reported by Zeng et al?). The interest of such (re)staging surgery should be involved in the discussion section.

3. The authors should precise also if all cases reported were treated by exclusive surgery or if some of them underwent adjuvant treatment.

4. The authors report that the patient is actually disease-free 4.6 years after the treatment of the borderline tumor. What were the follow-up procedures used in this case (blood markers, routine ultrasonography)?

5. The authors should replace material & method by histopathologic examination

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

The authors specify that this patients is a 34-years old patient. She underwent a conservative treatment of the tubal tumor. Does she desire a further pregnancy and if so, is she tried on to obtain it? The case reported by Zheng et al. became pregnant after IVF procedure
What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions
Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field
Quality of written English: Acceptable
Statistical review: No