Reviewer's report

Title: "Primary" aggressive chondroblastoma of the humerus: a case report

Version: 1 Date: 12 November 2003

Reviewer: Mark Johnson

Reviewer's report:

General
This is an interesting case report which reflects the natural history of untreated chondroblastoma. I would ask the authors to emphasize the fact that this tumor was present for at least 12 years without metastasizing. This suggests that chondroblastomas which do metastasize most likely have one or more additional genetic mutations permitting the process of metastasis to occur. I think that the title should be changed to reflect this emphasis, to something like "Natural History of Untreated Chondroblastoma: a Case Report with 12 Year Follow-up". It is probably not justified to refer to this particular tumor as "aggressive", for even a relatively low-grade tumor is likely to reach enormous size, and infiltrate adjacent soft tissues, if given enough time.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

Minor Compulsory Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
There are several grammatical errors, such as sentence fragments and lack of agreement between subject and verb, which can be readily corrected with minor editorial review. I believe that the illustrations are sufficient, and support the author's description well.

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

What next?: Accept after minor compulsory 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:
None.