Reviewer's report

Title: Renal cell carcinoma with a tumor thrombus in the ureter; a case report.

Version: 1 Date: 23 March 2011

Reviewer: Heinric Williams

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. Background:
   a. Reference 1 should use 2010 data
   b. Renal cell carcinoma (RCC) involves more than proximal tubules and after addressing the types of RCC, there should be a reference
   c. RCC and RPC have different characteristics ... sentence need a reference
   d. Based on your pathology report, it stated that the tumor thrombus directly invaded the renal pelvis and extended down the ureter. This statement should be consistent throughout the report

2. Case Presentation
   a. Suggest keeping all your results of system evaluation together: For example, all your imaging results should be together, as well as your urinanalysis results
   b. When discussing the contrast enhancement, it would be better to state the Hounsfield units rather than "strong" contrast enhancement.
   c. You performed a cystoscopy, did you also perform retrograde pyelogram or ureteroscopy and possible ureteral washing or biopsy to evaluate the upper tracts since upper tract involvement was suspected on CT.

3. Surgical findings:
   a. Did you perform a retroperitoneal lymph node dissection to include the para-aortic lymph node that was seen on CT.
   b. When you tried to differentiate urothelial carcinoma from renal cell carcinoma, the examination that you performed was a histological frozen section analysis, is this correct.

4. Discussion
   a. There are several statements that need supporting references.
   b. The role of lymph node dissection requires more discussion or at least more recent and relevant references. This is a controversial area, I agree.
   c. What type of lymph node dissection was planned (you stated that hilar lymph node dissection was all that was done)
   d. YOu state that this is the second case report. You need to provide the details
of the first case and how your management differs from it and what can be learnt from both cases.

e. Which classification system are you using to call this a T3b lesion vs T3a. Your reference is the 7th edition. Also, you did not state any vein involvement in your pathology report

Minor essential revisions

1. There are general sentence structure corrections required.
2. Also need to have consistent statements. (e.g. tumor thrombus invasion into pelvis or ureter—which is correct?)
3. There were a lot of statements that lacked supporting references.
4. You concluded that a nephroureterectomy would have been the correct surgical procedure, but what preoperative evaluation would you have recommended to support your conclusion.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**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.