Reviewer’s report

Title: Chromophobe renal cell carcinoma with concomitant sarcomatoid transformation and osseous metaplasia: a case report

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Reviewer: Jae Y. Ro

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In this case report, they reported a case of sarcomatoid chromophobe renal cell carcinoma (CRCC) associated with ossification. As the authors indicated, this may be the first reported case of sarcomatoid CRCC with concomitant osseous metaplasia. It is a rare event and the paper is well described and reportable after revised accordingly.

Recommendations for the improvement of the paper are below:

1. I see eight authors in this small case report! What the authors’ role for this paper! You may list some of them under acknowledgement rather than under co-authors.

2. Why radical on small incidental RCC? It can be a perfect candidate for the partial nephrectomy! (2.5 cm, upper pole, and an incidental finding)

3. In Abstract, line 6: ----“architectural patterns”--. necrosis, hemorrhage, edema, fibrosis, and calcification are not architectural patterns. These are associated secondary changes. Change “architectural patterns” to “associated secondary changes”.

4. In page 4, line 1: “a chief complaint of a left renal tumor”. A left renal tumor was not a chief complaint by the patient. This was detected during ultrasound for hepatitis C check up. Recommend changing the sentence to, “A 77-year-old woman visited our hospital with an incidentally identified left renal tumor by a screening abdominal ultrasonography procedure for hepatitis C infection”.

5. Change the figure label! CT photos should be Figure 1A and 1B, not Figure 1 and 2; Gross photo should be Figure 2, assigned as “Figure 6”; micro photos should be 3A, 3B and 3C, not 3,4,5. I do not see any mitoses in Figure 3B in sarcomatoid component. After get another good photo with mitoses, put arrows, indicating mitoses.

6. In page 4, line 4 from the bottom: --“peripheral”, change to “perirenal”.

7. In page 4, line 2 from the bottom: “degenerative changes of hyalinization and fibrosis”, change to “hyaline degenerative change and fibrosis”. Explain where these changes were seen! In CRCC area, sarcomatoid area, or ossification area, or all areas???

8. In page 5: “Conclusion” should be “Discussion or Comment”. Not a conclusion.

9. In page 5. Add ‘heterologous sarcomatoid components, such as
chondrosarcomatous, osteosarcomatous or rhabdomyosarcomatous component have also been reported (reference: Arch Pathol Lab Med. 2009 Nov;133(11):1857-60).

10. Figure 3B (labeled as Figure 4) needs a better photo which is concordant with their microscopic description (sarcomatoid spindle cells with marked nuclear pleomorphism and brisk mitotic activity).