Reviewer's report

Title: Primary malignant denovo giant cell tumor of kidney

Version: Date: 19 May 2004

Reviewer: Oluwole Fadare

Reviewer's report:

General
Overall, this is a well-written report of a novel morphologic finding that is worthy of dissemination.

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

1) Page 2 (abstract)
This background section and relevant parts of the text should be re-written: “…are usually observed in osseous tissue or as tumors of the tendon sheath” overlooks the major category of giant cell tumors of soft tissue. In addition, when the authors list the various organs in which “osteoclast-like giant cell tumors” have been reported, I think they are lumping 4 distinct tumor categories together under that term, which is nosologically and nomenclaturally invalid. The four categories include 1) Giant cell tumor of bone or other sites 2) Giant cell variant of MFH 3) Soft tissue giant cell tumor of low malignant potential (Folpe et al. Mod Pathol 1999;12:894-902) and 4) Carcinomas or Melanomas (usually poorly differentiated) with osteoclast-like giant cells (Molberg KH, et al Cancer 1998;82:1279-87 and Fadare O, et al. Am J Surg Pathol 2003;27:854-60). For a tumor to be lumped in category 1, as it is presumed the authors are doing, there must be no immunohistochemical or ultrastructural evidence of an epithelial histogenesis. In any case, it should not be implied that “osteoclast-like giant cell tumors” is a homogeneous category that may include the bone lesions AND the tumors that have been reported in those various organs
2) Table 1: The authors should include Chen CH, et al. J Postgrad Med 2003;49:246-8 and Sentinelli S et al. Pathologica 1986;78:691-9 in their literature review or explain why those 2 reports should be excluded.
3) Page 1: Primary malignant de novo giant cell tumor should be replaced with Primary de novo malignant giant cell tumor of the kidney
4) Page 3, Line 2, “usually observed in……SOFT TISSUES should be inserted somewhere in this sentence
Page 3, Line 7: “giant cell tumors” should be replaced with “tumors with osteoclast-like giant cells”

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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) Table 1: SCC at the bottom squamous CELL...
2) Table 1: What is PS100?
3) Page 4 , lines 24 and 25: it is customary to list the immunohistochemical method, Antibody vendor, and ideally, but optionally, the clone and dilution. CK should be uniformly expressed in lower-case or upper-case letters. MAC 387 should be listed on line 25 with the other antibodies

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)
What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No