Title: Localized subacute thyroiditis presenting as a painful hot nodule

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Reviewer: Marek Ruchala

Reviewer's report:

Li and Wu et al. report a case of subacute thyroiditis of atypical clinical manifestation, presenting as a hot thyroid nodule, with normal thyroid function, thyroglobulin level and ESR. The report is valuable, presents a rare clinical situation and is well documented. However, requires some minor corrections as listed below.

Was the C-reactive protein concentration measured? It is more specific parameter of inflammation than ESR

In the introduction section Authors report that patient presented with a hot thyroid nodule in 131 I thyroid scan, while in the case presentation section and figure legend, Tc99m scan is mentioned - which one is true??

There are some grammatical mistakes and some phrases are difficult to understand. Thus, authors should seek for help of an English native speaker or philologist to correct the manuscript.

Abstract - “Physical examination palpated” should rather be replaced with “Physical examination revealed”.

57-year-old (in the case presentation) or 57 year old (in the abstract) - it should be uniform in the text

In the case presentation “On physical examination, she appeared a...” should be corrected for “Physical examination revealed a...”

In case presentation: Thyroid ultrasound examination were performed should be corrected for “Thyroid ultrasound examination was performed”

In case presentation: “in the lower lobe of the left thyroid” authors probably meant “in the lower pole/part of the left thyroid lobe” - please correct

In the discussion section: the sentence with expression “#and that is why it may be erroneous diagnosis” should be corrected for “what may lead to difficulties in diagnosis”

After the sentence “Sometimes the diagnosis may be less clear, particularly when the presenting symptom is a solitary thyroid nodule with normal thyroid function and thyroglobulin as well as normal ESR.” it would be good to cite some references documenting that i. e. Szczepanek-Parulska et al. Endokrynologia Polska/Polish Journal of Endocrinology 63 (2) /2012.
Recent papers demonstrated the usefulness of sonoelastography as another useful tool in diagnosing and monitoring of subacute thyroiditis. It should be mentioned in the discussion section (i.e. Ruchala M et al. JCEM 2011).

The expression “Based on the findings in course of time combined” should be rewritten as it is unclear.

**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.