Reviewer's report

**Title:** Relapsed angioimmunoblastic T-cell lymphoma with acquired expression of CD20: A case report and review of the literature

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**Reviewer:** louisy huang

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This manuscript describes an unique case of angioimmunoblastic T-cell lymphoma (AITL) with aberrant expression of CD20 in relapse, which implies (1) the caveats in the diagnosis, and (2) potential use of anti-CD20 antibody rituximab to target not only the B cells in the background but also the CD20-positive tumor cells.

**Minor Essential Revisions:**

1. In the manuscript, the “FH” in the abbreviation of follicular T helper (TFH) is better to be placed in subscripts.

2. On the page 6 of the manuscript, there is a typing error: high endothelial “venules”.

**Discretionary Revisions**

1. On page 7, the authors compared the morphological features of biopsies in 2004 and 2011, and conclude that “there was no cytomorphological signs of progression”. Could the authors define the “cytomorphological signs of progression” more precisely in their manuscript?

2. On page 8, the authors mentioned that “CD20 expression may be acquired in T-cell lymphomas following activation of the T-cells, as has been demonstrated in stimulated lymph nodes from monkeys with simian immunodeficiency virus”. This is an interesting finding. In fact, the “lineage infidelity” also occurs in B-cell lymphomas as well as classical Hodgkin lymphomas, as previously demonstrated by the authors’ group. Is there any other possible mechanism involving the acquired expression of CD20 in T-cell lymphomas in addition to that mentioned in the manuscript? The authors are encouraged to discuss other potential mechanisms such as the role of trogocytosis in this “lineage infidelity”.

**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, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.
Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests