Reviewer's report

Title: Challenging dedifferentiated liposarcoma identified by MDM2-amplification, two case reports

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Reviewer: Robert Canter

Reviewer's report:

Although the authors should be commended for the careful clinical and pathological evaluation of these two patients, I am not inclined to believe that the details of these two cases are sufficiently novel nor sufficiently unexpected to fulfill the journal's criteria for publication that this case report contributes to new medical knowledge and has educational value or highlights the need for a change in clinical practice or diagnostic/prognostic approaches.

The authors recognize that the clinical and pathological evaluation of soft tissue sarcoma cases is very challenging and requires a careful integration of the clinical, radiographic, and pathologic findings. The authors demonstrate sophisticated understanding that there can be substantial heterogeneity and overlap in sarcoma pathology, and that it is important to correctly classify and distinguish sarcoma subtypes because of prognostic and treatment implications. The authors understand the clinical and treatment implications that depend on precise sarcoma classification. The authors exemplify why referral to high volume sarcoma centers is critical to optimize outcomes for sarcoma patients because of the complex diagnostic and treatment issues involved.

That being said, the authors' findings do not describe novel or overly unusual features of these two cases. The complexity and diagnostic challenges inherent to a correct diagnosis of dedifferentiated liposarcoma are well known to sarcoma clinicians. The importance of testing for MDM2 amplification is also well known to sarcoma experts. Certainly, one could make the argument that awareness of the importance of MDM2 testing in the evaluation and management of high grade sarcomas, particularly in the retroperitoneum, could be better disseminated among community/general pathologists, but for sarcoma/soft tissue experts, I do not think the features of these cases are sufficiently innovative or unexpected to warrant publication.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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.