Reviewer's report

Title: Hyper-IgG4 disease: Report and characterisation of a new disease.

Version: 1 Date: 5 June 2006

Reviewer: Terumi Kamisawa

Reviewer's report:

General
This is a worthwhile paper reporting a new entity about retroperitoneal fibrosis.

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

There are many cases of retroperitoneal fibrosis which don’t show good response to steroid therapy. I think there are subtypes in retroperitoneal fibrosis. Do authors think all idiopathic retroperitoneal fibrosis are involved in this new disease? It is necessary to describe about this point in discussion.

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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)

IgG4-related systemic disease has been already proposed from studies about autoimmune pancreatitis in Japan (Ref 130, 157, 167). Authors should mention about this in the text. Authors also should refer new papers about IgG4-related sclerosing disease (Pancreatology 2006;6(1-2):132-137, and Internal Medicine 2006;45(3):125-125).

There are too many histopathological figures. About half of Figure 1-3 should be deleted.

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

Which journal?: Appropriate or potentially appropriate for BMC Medicine: an article of importance in its field

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.