Reviewer's report

Title: Schwannoma of the external auditory canal: A case report

Version: 1 Date: 6 November 2006

Reviewer: David Stickler

Reviewer's report:

General

Authors present an unusual case of schwannoma of the external auditory canal.

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

1. The primary goal of the case is to educate readers about this unusual location for a schwannoma. Since the diagnosis is based on the histopathological evaluation, a histopathological section should be included with the case.

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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. Abstract line 4. Misuse of the word “presented”
2. Background. The last sentence is a little awkward.
3. Case Presentation, final line page 1. “recurrens: should be “recurrence”
4. Discussion, line 6. Should “sensitives” be “plexus”? I would place “the” before “sensory”
5. Discussion, line 9. Comma needs to be placed after “mass”
6. Discussion line 13. There are several errors in grammar in the sentence that starts with “In the presence of an…” making the sentence difficult to understand.
7. Discussion line 15. “of ” should be inserted before “a true capsule” and the "s" should be deleted from “consists”

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

1. If the mass enhances with contrast, would the inclusion of an image of the enhancing mass be better?

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

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published