Reviewer's report

Title: Ectopic internal carotid artery presenting as an oropharyngeal mass

Version: 1 Date: 2 July 2007

Reviewer: Eberhard Seifert

Reviewer's report:

General

Summary:
The authors describe a patient suffering from progressive dysphagia: examination revealed a tortuous internal carotid artery clinically presenting as a pulsating oropharyngeal tumour.

The illustrations show an axial CT-Scan, a multiplanar coronal reconstruction, and a MR angiography.

In the discussion the literature is addressed and the case history discussed in terms of this literature.

Comments:
Overall it is an interesting case history, adequately presented and discussed, which highlights the importance of a thorough diagnostic evaluation before surgical interventions in the oropharynx. The literature is sufficient.

However there are some suggestions to improve the quality of the manuscript:

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

1. An abstract should be added.

2. There are some spelling mistakes, (e.g. page 4. line 3 should be “pulsative” instead of “pulsutive” or p.6 last paragraph “Kenzie et al.”. The manuscript should be thoroughly revised. The language style esp. in the discussion should be improved (native speaker!)

3. Page 6: last sentence of the 1st paragraph could be omitted.

4. Page 7: 2nd paragraph should be moved before the first paragraph, beginning page 7 with “Ectopic ICAs…”

5. References: style should conform to the instructions for contributors to Head and Face.

6. Figures: arrows to show the phenomena described would be helpful.

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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)

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

**What next?:** Accept after minor essential revisions

**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