Reviewer's report

Title: Asymptomatic neural tumor of the heart

Version: 1 Date: 25 October 2006

Reviewer: charles connolly

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General Asymptomatic neural tumour of the heart

Question1 what was the cause of the hematemesis? which was the presenting symptom on clinical presentation presumably it was incidental?

Comments:
Pathological aspects are weak ,i.e 30% of Cardiac Myxomata show positive S100 staining, therefore QUESTION 2-- were other markers done to exclude cardiac myxoma such as CD 31 &CD 34 ? I assume they were, but if so this should be stated.
I note the immunohistochemical studies were” COMPATIBLE with LOW GRADE

NEURAL TUMOUR” HOWEVER QUESTION 3 --- WAS A DEFINITE DIAGNOSIS MADE OR NOT AND IF NOT WHY NOT? I would like to see a bit of pathological discussion on this point, with discussion of the differential diagnosis entertained and outruled by pathology i.e. presumably this was not a paraganglioma etc

The authors mention the tumour had a low mitotic index QUESTION 4. how was this assessed ? was it by a simple mitotic coun,t or by ki 67 immunostaining or a combination of the two ,or what?
I note that there is no Anatomic Pathologist is listed in the group of authors nor is there any acknowledgement of the input of the pathology department to the paper.
For credibility I think there should be some such involvement. at some level.in the case by pathology

Would recommend that the journal accept this interesting and very rare case subject to revisions outlined above although of limited interest

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached
expansion of the pathology paragraph as discussed above

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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)
none

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)
none

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 limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable