Reviewer's report

Title: Primary Cardiac Sarcoma: Reports of Two Cases and a Review of Current Literature

Version: 1 Date: 12 April 2007

Reviewer: Michael Reardon

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The article by Devbhandari et al titled “Primary Cardiac Sarcoma: Reports of Two Cases and a Review of the Literature” looks at two patients with left atrial sarcoma treated surgically, and a brief review of the literature.

Cardiac sarcomas are indeed rare tumors and most centers have very little experience with them. The major issues I find with this paper are really two-fold. One is that it would be very helpful if they focused on the diagnosis of intracardiac masses and whether or not there are potential ways of differentiating factors about large tumors that would allow them to be referred to cardiac centers with expertise in this problem rather than being assumed to be myxomas; and two, their patient was treated with radiation therapy which is usually not indicated for cardiac sarcomas outside of pulmonary artery sarcomas.

The number of cases is very small and really doesn’t add to the treatment of cardiac sarcomas, but the review could be made more interesting to the current readership by focusing on the preoperative diagnosis and adding more on the treatment options.

I include a list of references including a review article which I have written on malignant primary cardiac tumors which might help them rewrite the discussion portion of this to make the review more helpful to the current readership.


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

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

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests
Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.