Reviewer’s report

Title: Unusual tumours of the heart: diagnostic and prognostic implications.

Version: 1 Date: 28 December 2008

Reviewer: Rossana Bussani

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Dr. Makhija and coll. report three cases of cardiac tumours. The first case is a cardiac metastasis from colon adenocarcinoma, the third case is a metastasis from tongue adenocarcinoma. Both these cases are unusual and of interest.

I would disagree on the 'unusual' for case number 2 which is an incidental finding of atrial mixoma. This should be addressed.

This report is clinically useful as it addresses the uncertainties of medical/surgical management of patients with cardiac metastases.

The conclusion of this report however are far from being conclusive. The uncertainties call for a need for a multicenter (multinational) registry of cardiac metastases to answer questions such as 1) Best diagnostic approach?; 2) value of transesophageal biopsy; 3) value of surgical excision for: a) survival, b) palliation of symptoms; 4) prognostic value; 5) is screening for cardiac metastases warranted.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests