Reviewer's report

Title: Primary leiomyosarcoma of the right atrium: a Case report and literature update

Version: 1 Date: 26 September 2010

Reviewer: dimitrios Dr. med. PhD, FETCS dougenis

Reviewer's report:

Dear Editor I suggest publication after revision. May I see it again after revision please?

Best regards

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Declaration of competing interests:

This a nicely written manuscript dealing with the surgical management of a leiomyosarcoma of the right atrium. Since sarcomas of the heart are rare tumors and the authors have managed to do a very precise literature review, I believe this paper is worthwhile publishing in the JCTS. However, I suggest the following points of criticism that need to be addressed:

1. Abstract. The authors make the conclusion that “A vigorous attempt at tumor clearance … may improve the survival”. This conclusion is not in keeping with the case report presented here. Such a conclusion cannot be made and this sentence should be eliminated.

2. Case presentation: The authors state that they performed a pulmonary embolectomy. It would be very interesting to inform the readers if it was successful and if the histology of this material/thrombus was in keeping with the sarcoma.

3. Just before the conclusion paragraph, the authors state: “Given the high risk of tumor recurrence … early treatment of recurrence” I believe that since the tumor of the right atrium had already developed pulmonary embolism, the patient should be treated with adjuvant chemotherapy because of anticipated neoplastic cells remaining in the pulmonary circulation and not waiting and observing the patient. How do the authors respond to that? Why wait for recurrence first?

4. Some figures could be eliminated since there are too many for a case report (encompass 2-3 picture in one figure)

5. Most of the references are not according to the instructions to authors