Author's response to reviews

Title: Ectopic thymoma presenting as a giant intrathoracic mass: A Case Report

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Version: 2 Date: 11 June 2012

Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Mr. Vipin Zamvar

The Journal of Cardiothoracic Surgery Editorial Team

Dear Dr. Okumura and Dr. Kitada

MS: 1599934772690711 entitled “Ectopic thymoma presenting as a giant intrathoracic mass: A Case Report” Tomoyoshi Takenaka, Teruyoshi Ishida, Yoshinori Handa, Shinichi Tsutsui and Hiroyuki Matsuda

We have very appreciated your important comments, and answered by points, therefore the paper has been well revised and graded-up.

Your kind consideration of this paper would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

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Response to reviewer (Dr. Kitada)

Comment

I think that it is permitted to be accept. You please review the following one.
It thinks that the outcome of this case be specified.

Response to comment

The postoperative course was uneventful, and there has been no evidence of recurrence 6 months after the surgery.

We have added this sentence in the Case section (page 3, lines 9-11).

Response to reviewer (Dr. Okumura)

Comment 1

The authors insist that the tumor is ectopic. I wonder whether there was no connection with thymus. As far as I judge from the CT image, the mass can derive from the right lobe of the thymus.

Response to comment

The continuity between the tumor and the thymus was difficult to judge during the operation because the tumor crushed the organs of mediastinum. However, the tumor existed mainly in thoracic cavity not in anterior mediastinum, therefore, we represented this tumor as ectopic thymoma.

Comment 2

The authors diagnosed the tumor as WHO type B1 thymoma. The microscopic finding of the tumor reveals that most epithelial cells are spindle, suggesting that the tumor is considered as WHO type AB thymoma. In addition, the authors performed several immunohistochemistry, and the spindle cells were not be
stained by CAM5.2. Type B1 thymoma is supposed to be stained by CAM 5.2 while medullary thymomas are not frequently CAM5.2 (+). I require the authors to re-evaluate the histological classification.

Response to comment

We consulted the other pathologist, and this tumor was diagnosis with WHO type AB thymoma as reviewer suggested. We changed the diagnosis of this tumor as WHO type AB thymoma.

Comment 3

Page 4, Line 14, the phrase “expansive growth to without apparent invasion” is something wrong.

Response to comment

We changed this sentence as “A well-defined giant mass measuring 18x14.5x11cm was found in the right thoracic cavity”.