Reviewer’s report

Title: Concealed Primary Aortic Sarcoma Provoked Hypertensive Encephalopathy due to Thoracic Aortic Occlusion: a case report

Version: 1 Date: 25 December 2012

Reviewer: Ho-Ki Min

Reviewer’s report:

- Major Compulsory Revisions

Several issues warrant comment:

1. Symptoms of hypertensive encephalopathy typically start to occur 12–48 hours after a sudden and sustained increase in blood pressure. In my opinion, uncontrolled hypertension for 2 months would be caused by primary aortic sarcoma that may progressively obstruct the aortic lumen. And hypertensive encephalopathy in this case would be provoked by acute embolic events. What is your opinion? If my hypothesis is correct, the title of this manuscript should be changed and presumptive mechanisms for hypertensive encephalopathy should be described in this manuscript.

2. In my opinion, rapid diagnosis and prompt management is extremely important in this case. Delay in diagnosis or surgical intervention would provoke reperfusion injury and its systemic effect after surgical intervention. On the other hand, repeated embolic events could lead to death because the authors left the thoracic aortic mass untouched. What were the causes of death? How many times did you take from the diagnosis to the surgical intervention? How did you administer an anti-coagulation therapy after surgery?

- Minor Essential Revisions>>

Pathologic result (Page 3 and paragraph 2) was reported in operative field or at post-mortem? If post-mortem, we recommend that this sentence is attached prior to “Discussion”.

- Discretionary Revisions >>

None

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Declaration of competing interests:

None