Reviewer’s report

Title: Simultaneous medullary and papillary thyroid cancer: description of two cases

Version: 2 Date: 29 January 2007

Reviewer: Ronald McCoy

I am familiar with the literature and believe that this case meets one of the 7 criteria for evaluation in the journal: Unexpected or unusual presentations of a disease

Has the case been reported coherently?: Yes

Is the case report authentic?: Yes

Is this case worth reporting?: Yes

Is the case report persuasive?: No

Does the case report have explanatory value?: Yes

Does the case report have diagnostic value?: No

Will the case report make a difference to clinical practice?: Yes

Comments to authors:

General

Need to emphasise more how these particular cases directly contribute to our understanding of the pathogenesis of thyroid cancer.

Revisions necessary for publication

Overall - needs an English language edit - some of the expressions are direct idiomatic translations and not common in English language medical literature.

Specific comments

Introduction
- What is meant by endodermal enlarge? The meaning is not clear.

Case 1
- No need to mention the surgical department unless the location of the patient is related to the disease pathology e.g. ionising radiation exposure in a particular region.

Case 2

Should read 34-year-old woman (not years)
- anamnesis is not a common English word; suggest rewriting to "no relevant past or family medical history"
- "increased lymph nodes" should read "enlarged lymph nodes"
- "2,7x1,9 cm" needs copy editing
- "little ipo echoic" should read "small ipoechoic"
- The last two sentences of Case 2 are too colloquial - suggest rewriting last few sentences
DISCUSSION

-the word "Nowadays" is used inappropriately

-focus the discussion of these cases more closely to the pathology including any evidence of specific biochemical and genetic markers in these cases

What next?: Revise and resubmit

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published