Reviewer’s report

Title: Thyroglossal duct cyst carcinoma with concurrent thyroid carcinoma: a case report.

Version: 4 Date: 8 January 2008

Reviewer: Benjamin Mosher

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?: Yes

Does the case report have explanatory value?: Yes

Does the case report have diagnostic value?: Yes

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

Comments to authors:

Has the case been reported coherently?
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Yes, presents case, reviews literature, discusses work-up and treatment.

Is the case report authentic?
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Yes

Is this case worth reporting?
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Yes, rare finding, but one that many surgeons will come across in their career if their practice includes regular head and neck surgery.

Is the case report persuasive?
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Yes, other than the fact that with a suspicious neck mass the thyroid was not
worked-up prior to the first operation, i.e., FNA any nodules in the thyroid. Also what was the size of the papillary cancer in the thyroid, article does not say.

Does the case report have explanatory value?
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Uncertain what this question is asking.

Does the case report have diagnostic value?
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Yes, keep broad differential diagnosis when approaching any mass. Fine needle aspiration (FNA) of mass and possible thyroid nodules prior to first operation.

Will the case report make a difference to clinical practice?
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Yes, work-up and surgical options presented in this case.

Comments to authors
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pg 2, abstract, introduction, end of last sentence “but needle aspiration cytology, ultrasound and CT may play a role in the rising a suspicion of malignancy.” This is not good grammar.

pg 3, introduction, 2nd paragraph, 3rd sentence “The peak incidences for women and men are the third and sixth decades, respectively, with an age and sex distribution is similar to patients with thyroid carcinoma.” Reword, two sentences to make clearer. Think authors are trying to say that the age incidence and sex distribution of thyroglossal duct carcinoma and thyroid carcinoma are similar.

pg 3, introduction, 2nd paragraph, 5th sentence “show distant metastases sowing a prognosis is similar to the thyroid papillary carcinomas.” There is a misspelled word and poor grammar.

pg 3, introduction, 3rd paragraph, I would make this two paragraphs with “Presentation is similar” as the start of other paragraph.

pg 4, case presentation, 1st paragraph, 3rd sentence “Medical history was positive” either change to two sentences or change while negative to it was negative.

pg 4, case presentation, 1st paragraph, 8th sentence “A neck sonogram” There is a misspelled word (slightly).

pg 4, case presentation, 1st paragraph, 10th sentence “A small 1 cm wide lymphnode close” There are two misspelled words in this sentence (lymphnode, excided).
It seems inconsistent to me that the pre-op neck sonogram (pg 4, 1st paragraph, 8th sentence) showed no thyroid abnormality but the post-op one (pg 4, 2nd paragraph, 3rd sentence) had characteristics suspicious for malignancy.

What was the size of the tumor in the thyroid specimen and what were the thyroglobulin levels?

What next?: Accept after minor revisions

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