Reviewer's report

Title: Splenic rupture as the presenting manifestation of primary splenic angiosarcoma: a case report

Version: 2 Date: 18 February 2008

Reviewer: saptarshi biswas

I am familiar with the literature and believe that this case meets one of the 7 criteria for evaluation in the journal: Presentations, diagnoses and/or management of new and emerging diseases

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:

Primary angiosarcoma of the spleen is a very rare and aggressive neoplasm with poor prognosis. Primary tumors in the pediatric age group is even rarer.

Splenic angiosarcoma rarely occurs in the pediatric group (18 years or younger). Survival duration for pediatric patients is often limited.

In a recent pediatric surgery publication(aug 2007)a case of a 7-year-old boy with splenic angiosarcoma is reported. The postoperative course following splenectomy was uneventful. The patient was disease free at 16 years after surgery.

1. The case is well written although the authors should have highlighted the physical findings along with vitals and labs on initial presentation given splenic rupture was the initial presentation.

2. In the 2nd paragraph under the case presentation section 'former'splenectomy needs correction.

3. The case could have benefitted with slides of the CT although the authors have touched upon in the discussion section
CT may reveal an enlarged spleen with hypo- or hyperattenuating areas on nonenhanced scans. Areas of hyperattenuation are likely to reflect acute hemorrhage or hemosiderin deposits. On contrast-enhanced CT scans, the tumors may exhibit peripheral or heterogeneous contrast enhancement. Ill-defined nodular lesions with low- or high-signal intensity may be seen on both T1- and T2-weighted images depending on the age of blood products and presence of necrosis. High-signal intensity on both T1- and T2-weighted images is related to subacute hemorrhage or tumor necrosis, and low-signal intensity is related to chronic hemorrhage or fibrosis within the tumor. The appearance of splenic angiosarcoma on contrast-enhanced T1-weighted images consists of hyperintense masses with focal areas of nonenhancement depending on the hemorrhage and necrosis within the tumor.

4. The immunopathological study of the resected specimen showed CD31 (positive), CD34 (positive), factor VIII related antigen (positive), and ulex europaeus agglutinin (positive) in a case report published recently. This case report does not mention any immunopath findings.

**What next?:** Accept after minor revisions

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable