Reviewer's report

Title: Primary pancreatic B cell lymphoma: is there a role for surgery? Case report and review of the literature

Version: 3 Date: 10 January 2008

Reviewer: J R Salvatore

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?: No

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

Comments to authors:

1. The patient is noted to be a "heavy smoker and alcoholic". These should be quantified and the relationship, if any, to Pancreatic Lymphoma should be explained. 2. Involvement of the SMA, as noted in the Discussion section, is very important to deciding on a surgical approach to these tumors. However, the CT scan information in the Case Presentation Section does not tell us if there is SMA involvement. This should be clarified.

3. The size of the tumor on CT scan is not mentioned - only that it is "large". Some of the literature on Pancreatic Lymphoma has addressed the issue of size of a pancreatic mass and the likelihood that it is a Lymphoma or an Adenocarcinoma. This needs to be addressed by the authors.

4. The tumor was staged as IIE. However all lymph nodes are reported as free of disease. How did the authors determine the stage of this lesion?

5. The patient was treated with chemotherapy after surgery at 3 month intervals. The treatment regimen they have used is usually given every 3 weeks. Is 3 months correct?

What next?: Accept after minor revisions

Quality of written English: Acceptable