Reviewer’s report

Title: Unusual presentation of a giant thoracic schwannoma as an acute abdomen

Version: 3 Date: 5 January 2009

Reviewer: Zachary Smith

Which of the following best describes what type of case report this is?: Unexpected or unusual presentations of a disease

Has the case been reported coherently?: Yes

Is the case report authentic?: Yes

Is the case report ethical?: Yes

Is there any missing information that you think must be added before publication?: No

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

Is the anonymity of the patient protected?: Yes

Comments to authors:

This is a presentation not commonly seen in neurosurgery. Schwannomas of the spine rarely come to clinical attention in this fashion. For these reasons, the report is of clinical significance for both surgeons as well as general practitioners alike. The case presentation and discussion of the literature is coherent and appropriately comprehensive. The author’s should note the wording of the final sentence of the abstract introduction; "presenting as acute abdominal pain". The figures are instructive of the case. Would suggest, if possible, addition of an abdominal CT image given the case is applicable to multiple fields. I would recommend this article as a high priority for publication.

Quality of written English: Acceptable
Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'