Reviewer’s report

Title: Osseous hemangioma of the seventh cervical vertebra with osteoid formation mimicking metastasis: a case report

Version: 3 Date: 2 February 2009

Reviewer: Eduardo Zambrano

Which of the following 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?: Yes

Is this case worth reporting?: No

Is the case report persuasive?: No

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?: No

Is the anonymity of the patient protected?: Yes

Comments to authors:

The authors describe the case of a hemangioma involving the cervical spine in a 44 year-old healthy woman. Although the authors claim that this an unusual presentation which mimics metastatic disease, hemangiomas are known to occur in the spine with certain frequency and, as they point out in their discussion, they are known to produce osteoid matrix in some occasions. When presenting in this fashion (i.e. with osteoid formation), they may represent a slight diagnostic challenge on morphological grounds alone; however, utilization of routine histochemical markers would immediately reveal the vascular nature of this benign proliferation. It is, therefore, my opinion that even though this is an interesting case, it does not add any new insights to this clinical-pathological entity.
Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published