Reviewer's report

Title: Rectus sheath haematoma or leaking aortic aneurysm - a diagnostic challenge: a case report

Version: 1 Date: 9 February 2009

Reviewer: William Speake

Which of the following best describes what type of case report this is?: An unexpected event in the course of observing or treating a patient

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:

1. In the abstract the wording should be changed to 'could lead to unnecessary laparotomy' with current easy access to CT
2. Abstract case pxn typo word 'scan' is missing
3. Main body of text line 2 word 'previously' not needed
4. P4 line 1 'both the right iliac fossa' wording does not make sense
5. Discussion line 1 'rectus sheath haematoma' should be put in
6. The quote from ref 12 is not true in clinical practice and is not in fact relevant to this report as it refers to trauma - probably best left out.

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I work in the same hospital as some of the authors