Reviewer's report

Title: Metaplastic ossification in the cartilage of the bronchus of a chronic multi-drug resistant tuberculosis patient: a case report

Version: 1 Date: 6 January 2009

Reviewer: Anh Bui

Which of the following best describes what type of case report this is?: New associations or variations in disease processes

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?: No

Will the case report make a difference to clinical practice?: No

Is the anonymity of the patient protected?: Yes

Comments to authors:

Well-written case report of a uncommon result of chronic TB. Inclusion of the figures is extremely helpful and informative.

Specific comments:

1) In your abstract, I might not be so bold as saying that this is the "first time in a chronic tuberculosis" patient, since as you mentioned in your conclusion, there are at least 2 other case reports in patients with TB--and the issue of "chronic" TB might be debatable.

2) What is the clinical significance of pulmonary ossification? What are the thoughts of the clinical significance in the replacement of cartilagenous with bone? Are there any means of early detection (other than in postmortem
analyses)?
3) How much of the inflammed area was affected? When you say "metaplastic ossification with fatty marrow replaced a portion of the cartilage plate," was this rather diffuse around the granulomas? Or just a focal spot? If just focal, any ideas why just one spot?

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare I have no competing interests.