Reviewer’s report

Title: Extramedullary hematopoiesis presenting as a compressive cord and cerebral lesion in a patient without a significant Hematologic Disorder

Version: 3 Date: 12 February 2009

Reviewer: Mehran Karimi

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?: 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?: Yes

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

Is the anonymity of the patient protected?: Yes

Comments to authors:

Dear Editor in chief,

Thank you so much for choosing me as a referee.

Please see my comments as below. I prepared it today morning but our internet was disconnected and sorry for the delay in reply.

Major comments:

This is an interesting case but there are some critical questions:
1-The hematologic workup (high reticulocte and BM findings) are infavour of hemolytic anemia. So, how the author can rule out chronic hemolytic anemia in this case? How long the patient has had anemia?
2-What about the family history?
3-What about the coombs test and spleenic size which didnot mentioned in the text.
3-The CBC is also in favour of thalassemia minor and is there available any mutaion analysis in this case?
4-The CBC (Hb,Wbc,Plt.....)has been checked two time with 21 months interval but all of the data are the same and it is strange.Is it right?
5-Why the patient has had thrombocytopenia?
6-The photo of pathology is very important and it is better to show it in the manuscript.
7- EMH is impending to bleeding with any manipulation and is the patient has had bleeding during the surgery?
8-How long the patient has had follow up after surgery and the author should mentione the last follow up.
According to above items,we cannot rull out hematologic diorders yet.

Minor comments:
1- The first paragraph of discussion part (line 3-6)is completly similar to introducion part and should be replace by a new sentence or deleted.
2-EMH is more commen in Thalassemia intermediate compared with thalassemia mJOR.
3-The abbreviation of CNS(introduction part)should be written complete for the first time.
there are some minor misspleling like "concent"that consent is correct

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests