Reviewer's report

Title: Fulminant mediastinitis after struma recurrence surgery

Version: 1 Date: 24 March 2010

Reviewer: Rainer Petzina

Which of the following 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?: No

Is the anonymity of the patient protected?: Yes

Comments to authors:

Dear authors,

your case report about a rare but life-threatening complication after struma recurrence surgery is a very important article because it demonstrates that "light" symptoms (personality changes, dizziness...) resulted from a fulminant mediastinitis.

I only have some small comments to further improve your manuscript:

- Delete all the mentioned times of day (section "treatment") (e.g. 14.00 - page 3, line 24; 15.00 - page 4, line 5; 15.00 page 4, line 18) or use "a.m./p.m."

- the section "laboratory values" (page 6, line 23...) should be shortened and summarized in one table to clarify and better visualize the laboratory data over time
- section "pulmonary diagnostics" page 9, line 14: delete or explain the sentence "A gastroscopy performed..." because it irritates a little, why you mention normal findings in a gastroscopy in a "pulmonary diagnostics" chapter

Sincerely,
Rainer Petzina

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.

Rainer Petzina