Reviewer's report

Title: Large cell non-Hodgkin's lymphoma masquerading as a renal carcinoma with IVC thrombosis: A case report

Version: 1 Date: 8 September 2010

Reviewer: IOANNIS ANASTASIOU

Which of the following following best describes what type of case report this is?: Other

If other, please specify:

Unexpected or unusual presentations of a disease
An unexpected association between diseases or symptoms
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?: Yes

Is this case worth reporting?: Yes

Is the case report persuasive?: No

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:

General comments:

The case is well presented and quite well documented. The reported observations are interesting and useful in differential diagnosis and management of renal masses with atypical features.
- Revisions necessary for publication

1. Items under discussion

a. Large cell non Hodgkin Lymphoma and previous reports about its cooccurrence with large vessel thrombosis should be reported in the introduction.

b. Physical examination findings (especially about the palpable or not abdominal mass) should be added in case presentation. Additionally, laboratory findings about liver, renal function and blood count should be useful in the same section.

c. In the last paragraph of case presentation is reported that "a single case of ALCL presented initially as superior vena cava syndrome has been reported [10]". In this article [10], an intravascular biopsy of the presumed clot within the SVC was performed. Histologic examination of the resulting tissue revealed cells highly suspicious for a neoplasm, an endovascular malignancy causing SVC syndrome was considered and the patient was admitted for surgical exploration. Postoperatively, the combined histologic, immunohistochemical, and molecular findings were consistent with a diffuse large B-cell lymphoma according to the Revised European-American Classification of Lymphomas. Taking under consideration the previous diagnostic methodology, how is the invasion of IVC by lymphoma cells documented in your case? Is there a biopsy or is it a suggestion?

2. Minor issues not for publication

a. References should be added in many points, such as:
   - Introduction
   - In the end of the 1st paragraph
   - Case Presentation
   - In the middle of the 1st paragraph after the phrase 'Typical renal metastases are found...'
   - In the middle of the 2nd paragraph after the phrase "Obstruction of the IVC is even less common".
   - In the end of the 2nd paragraph.
   - Conclusion
In the end of the conclusion paragraph.

b. Spelling mistakes
   i. Last paragraph of case presentation: the word ‘described’ is false.
   ii. 2nd paragraph of patient’s perspective: CT scan instead of CAT scan

c. Abbreviations should be used constantly throughout the paper.

d. The expression ‘for example’ is rather informal and it would be better to be deleted.

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.