Reviewer's report

Title: The Right Non-recurrent Laryngeal Nerve with Extralaryngeal bifurcation, The Left Recurrent Laryngeal Nerve also with Extralaryngeal bifurcation and with Sympathetic Nerve Anastomosis: Three Variations of the Laryngeal Nerve in the Same Patient.

Version: 1 Date: 12 August 2010

Reviewer: Ozer Makay

Which of the following 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?: Yes

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

Is the anonymity of the patient protected?: Yes

Comments to authors:

The present case report entitled: "The Right Non-recurrent Laryngeal Nerve with Extralaryngeal bifurcation, The Left Recurrent Laryngeal Nerve also with Extralaryngeal bifurcation and with Sympathetic Nerve Anastomosis: Three Variations of the Laryngeal Nerve in the Same Patient", by Gurleyik E is an interesting and well-discussed report. Gurleyik E is reporting variations of the inferior laryngeal nerve in a thyroid patient, pointing out the importance of routine identification of the nerve and the artery during thyroidectomy.

The case is interesting especially in light of the debates about the routine identification of the nerve during thyroidectomy. The focus of the report is in the
target of the journal and is well written with adequate literature and image support. The report’s question has been clearly defined and is appropriate.

However, the paper has some minor limitations and I have a question to address the author:

1) Errors in English should be checked and corrected.
2) Was the branching between ILN and the cervical sympathetic chain found incidentally? In thyroid surgery philosophy, it is not a routine for searching this kind of a relation between the sympathetic chain and the ILN. The communication of these 2 structures should be emphasized better in the “the left side” section of the case report.
3) Use ‘It is thought ….” instead of “I think…” and ‘branch’ instead of ‘brunch’ in the discussion part.

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests