Reviewer’s report

Title: Acute abdomen due to spontaneous splenic rupture in association with the first presentation of lung malignancy: a case report.

Version: 2 Date: 11 April 2011

Reviewer: Rachel Sanborn

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:

This is a very interesting case report of an extremely unusual and unexpected presentation of a common disease. The authors have created a well structured manuscript summarizing the presentation.

The manuscript would benefit from a thorough review for grammar and spelling. It would be good to clarify that Figure 1 is reproduced with permission from the original authors. Figures 3-5 are very good images as provided for the manuscript and help to strengthen the reader’s interest in the presentation. Figure 2 would benefit from inclusion of the lateral film for the radiograph, as the mention is of an anterior mediastinal mass, which is impossible to determine from just the AP film.

One issue that is missing from the report is what the ultimate staging and
treatment was for the patient. Was metastatic disease identified elsewhere? What was the ultimate therapy? Was this a presentation of a potentially curable patient, or were the goals of therapy palliative from the outset?

Given that the spleen did not contain metastatic cancer, the reader wonders what other concurrent medical comorbidities the patient had. It would strengthen the presentation to discuss what other medical illnesses or diagnoses the patient had prior to presentation.

Overall, this is a very interesting case presentation, and with a few minor revisions, would be ready for publication.

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.