Reviewer's report

Title: ALK-negative anaplastic large cell lymphoma with extranodal involvement of the thigh muscle: A case report

Version: 1 Date: 20 September 2013

Reviewer: Sabine Pomplun

Which of the following 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:

Overall a nicely written case report.

Few points:
1) There could be more emphasis why this case report is unique, ie, extremely short presenting history, lack of systemic clinical findings.
   To address this it would be helpful to know how long the history of weight loss was (Case report 1st paragraph) and what clinical examination revealed, ie absence or presence of skin lesions etc

2) The authors report CD34 positivity in tumour cells. This would be very unusual in ALCL. Has a leukaemic infiltration definitely been excluded?
3) Discussion paragraph 1:
Another main differentiating point between Alk1+ and Alk1- disease is the difference in the age range affected. It would be good to include this statement as an elderly gentleman is being presented here.

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**
I declare that I have no competing interests.