Reviewer's report

Title: A rare case of a splenic hamartoma in a patient with a huge palpable abdominal mass: a case report

Version: 4  Date: 21 August 2014

Reviewer: Charalambos Drossos

Which of the following best describes what type of case report this is?: Expected 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?: No

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

Is the anonymity of the patient protected?: Yes

Comments to authors:

My opinion is that the imaging findings of this case report are not specific and differential diagnosis is impossible on base of them.

Some corrections are:

a) in case presentation, 5th paragraph had been written "The diagnosis of splenic hamartoma was proposed", I believe the right term is "The possibility of splenic hamartoma was proposed", because the final diagnosis is histologically-after spleenectomy. The imaging findings are controversial for this entity alone.

aa) in case presentation, 4th paragraph had been written "No cystic areas or calcifications were observed".

Unfortunately in the 1st figure, there are two microcalcifications and for this
reason the above must been revised.

b) in Discussion, the 9th paragraph has been written "..confirmed by biopsy", the term is wrong because there is full histopathological examination after spleenectomy, and not by biopsy. The 8th paragraph, had been written "Diagnosis is based on imaging findings", accordingly to 4th reference Wang et al, but I am insist that the imaging findings are not specific, as my opinion at first.

c) the legend of figures must been completed:
cc) in 1st figure, that show two microcalcifications.
In fig.4, the image is coronal T1W+Gd, and fig. 5 is transverse T2W image.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests