Reviewer's report

Title: Is there a need to screen for testicular germ cell tumor in relatives of patient with extragonadal germ cell tumor?

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Reviewer: Phuong Mai

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In this case report, the authors described an individual with a mediastinal seminoma diagnosed at the age of 24 whose asymptomatic dizygotic twin brother was diagnosed with a testicular seminoma by screening ultrasound 2 months later. The authors concluded that additional studies are needed to improve understanding of familial germ cell tumors.

Major Compulsory Revisions

1) Given that the title of the article poses the question of screening for relatives of individuals with extragonadal germ cell tumor (GCT), it would be important to summarize the status of testicular screening and the current practice regarding screening for relatives of individuals with testicular GCT, to help put the discussion in context.

2) In the Background section, the authors stated that “The omission of extragonadal tumors in the published reports may have contributed to the underestimation of the importance of the hereditary factor of germ cell tumors and hindered the development of strategies for screening and follow-up of FTGCT”. Are there any estimates of the proportion of extragonadal GCT that occurs in the familial setting? Please elaborate or provide more data to support this statement. Likewise, the statement “based on the present case report we could hypothesize if the exclusion of extragonadal germ cell tumors from FTGCT studies may exert a negative influence on the advances of the knowledge regarding the underlying common genetic mechanisms of germ cell tumors” seems to suggest that extragonadal GTC accounts for a significant proportion of familial GCT, an assumption that cannot be made based on one case report.

3) Please consider revising the title of the article. “Is there a need to screen for testicular germ cell tumor in relatives of patient with extragonadal germ cell tumor?” seems to suggest that a) relatives of individuals with extragonadal GCT are at such increased risk of testicular GCT that screening is indicated; and b) there exists a standard for testicular GCT screening. The first point cannot be supported with one case report, and the article does not at all discuss the current state of testicular GCT screening.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest
Quality of written English: Acceptable

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