Reviewer’s report

Title: Large retroperitoneal isolated fibrous cyst in absence of preceding trauma or acute pancreatitis

Version: 2  Date: 8 December 2014

Reviewer: Kostiantyn Kopchak

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Major Compulsory Revisions
It is necessary to mention if symptoms disappeared after surgery.

“After discussion with the patient, the decision was made to resect the cyst due to increasing pressure related symptoms and for diagnostic certainty.” - if the intraabdominal pressure was measured, the data should be present, if not-authors should not connect symptoms with the intraabdominal hypertension.

“Error! Bookmark not defined” in the line 146

Conclusion about epidemiology of retroperitoneal cystic masses could not be made, based on the case presentation.

Minor Essential Revisions:
Fig 1. Gives no additional information. In text: “It appeared to be isolated and separate from the adjacent organs including the pancreas, stomach, spleen and left kidney (Figure 1, 2).”, while in fig 1 is shown left renal vein.

It is better to take this fig from the text, as fig 2 is more informative

In fig 2 it is not necessary to point main pancreatic duct, as there is no visual connection between MPD and cyst

“The cyst appeared to arise from the para-aortic lymph nodes with a tongue of tissue approximately 5 mm wide adherent to this which was divided.” – it is necessary to show this “tongue” on CT/MRI or on the intraoperative photo.

Photo of histological examination could be beneficial

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

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