Reviewer's report
Title: A case of complete splenic infarction after laparoscopic spleen-preserving distal pancreatectomy

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Reviewer: Stefan Breitenstein

Reviewer's report:
The authors report a case of a patient with a complete splenic infarction after laparoscopic spleen-preserving distal pancreatectomy.

1. Although the case report is well written, there are some questions which need to be answered.

a) The authors mentioned that there was the suspicion of a serous cystadenoma in an asymptomatic patient based on CT and MRI scans. Asymptomatic serous cystadenomas are not an indication for pancreatectomy. What was the diagnosis of the final histology report? What was the indication for the CT-scan? Was the cystic lesion an incidental finding? Please clarify the indication for surgery and make it clear for readers, who are not experts in this field.

b) For me it is still not clear, how total infarction occurred. The authors should demonstrate with convincing pictures that the splenic artery and vein were intact after surgery and were not accidentally ligated with ultrasonic shears.

c) Blood loss should be presented in ml?

d) What was the course of WBC?

2. Actually, partial infarction is a known complication after spleen-preserving distal pancreatectomy and there is not much literature about total infarction.

3. The conclusion which was drawn by the authors does not reflect the results presented in this case report. Was this patient treated like a patient with splenectomy during the follow-up
(vaccination)? When is a splenectomy mandatory? How could you avoid this complication? Are the oncological reasons for distal pancreatectomy with splenectomy?

4. The case report would benefit from better illustrations and tables. The important structures should be marked (eg with arrows) in all of the figures. This will help to improve clarity. For example, where are the spleen and the vessel in Figure 1. Where is the spleen in figure 3-5? It might be also a residual fluid collection. Figure 3-5 can be summarized in one figure (e.g. Figure 3 a),b),c),d)

f) Figure 3-5 can be summarized in one figure (e.g. Figure 3 a),b),c),d)

10. Ethical considerations - inappropriate animal experiments or clinical studies that are deemed unethical: appropriate.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.
Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.
Unable to assess

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.
No

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.
Not relevant to this manuscript

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Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:
Acceptable
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