Author’s response to reviews

Title: DIAGNOSIS AND MANAGEMENT OF A MEDIASTINAL ECTOPIC THYROID LAYING ON THE RIGHT BRONCHUS: CASE REPORT AND REVIEW OF LITERATURE

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Dear Reviewers, thank you for your criticism, that gave me the opportunity to clarify better some points now added in the text (yellow highlighted). In fact, we discussed about the opportunity to perform a biopsy before surgery, but we decided to avoid it because of the high risk of complications due to the several anatomical structures surrounding the mass. Moreover, considering the anatomical dislocation of the mass, from the neck to the right bronchus, we assessed that the opportunity to obtain histological samples representative of the entire tissue would have been very rare.

The mini invasive approach was clarified in the manuscript, in fact we performed mini invasive surgery for the chest, through an upper partial sternal split, extended to the 4th intercostal spaces (the manubrium was completely divided). This technique was able to provide an effective surgical field, minimizing the surgical complication related to the total sternotomy.

A table summarizing a literature review was added and it reports both some hypothesis published on the origin of the ectopic thyroid and a comparison with similar cases of ectopic thyroid.

The English grammar was reviewed.