Reviewer’s report

Title: New insight into ectopic thyroid glands between the neck and maxillofacial region from a 42-case study

Version: 0 Date: 19 Sep 2015

Reviewer: S Wei

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This is a large case series about ectopic thyroid, which will be important to this field. However, there are several issues need to be addressed.

1. Did the patients have any other developmental problems?
2. It will be great to know the locations of the "dual ectopic" and "others".
3. What were the criteria of "sublingual-type thyroid"? Were there any thyroglossal duct lesions? Did this group of patients have orthotopic thyroid tissue?
4. Were there any studies to demonstrate if patients had normal 4 parathyroid glands clinically? PTH IHC is not sensitive if there is no gross or microscopic evidence of parathyroid tissue. Fig 4E is not necessary, since there is no parathyroid tissue morphologically.
5. Page 9, line 31: TTF-1 is essential for thyroid morphogenesis and differentiation. Authors found that TTF-1 was highly expressed in ectopic tissue. Were there any differences of TTF1 expression between lingual thyroid and sublingual thyroid (and other locations).
6. How many slides (percentage of total blocks submitted) did you use for calcitonin IHC?
7. Fig 3A: The lesion appears to be a follicular adenoma.
8. Page 5, line 9-26: This part is too long, please shorten it.
9. Page 9, Line 12: Could you list published reports for ectopic thyroid as references?

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.

Yes
Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?  
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

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.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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