Reviewer’s report

Title: Corticomedullary mixed tumour resembling a small adrenal gland-involvement of cancer stem cells: case report

Version: 0 Date: 07 Dec 2016

Reviewer: Gianluca Donatini

Reviewer's report:

Nice case report

Few Concerns.

First. You wrote about a mixed tumor which is actually well defined in "layers". Was it within the nodule, or was it not possible to define "tumor nodule" and "normal" adrenal?

In this case you should refer to a synchronous cortico-medullar tumor rather than mixed. You should develop more this point in result and not in discussion as well as move within result the staining part.

Second. In Conclusion you stated that you "demonstrated" the role of stem cells in the development of this tumor. Have you a different grade of differentiation of these stem cells within your stainings? To better clarify. Starting from the fusiform stem cells, have you different fusiform cells that stained for both markers of cortical and medullary tissue or starting form the very first stem cells, some demonstrated differentiation towards cortical and towards medullary? Because otherwise you "made the hypothesis" about the stem cells.

I think that a revision would be needed
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.

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

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

Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?
If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal