Author’s response to reviews

Title: Branchial cysts: an unusual cause of a mediastinal mass: a case report

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Author’s response to reviews: see over
Editorial team Journal of medical case reports,

Thank you very much for peer reviewing this article and considering if for publication in this reputed journal.
It is to my best hope that I have addressed all reviewer comments and a description of the changes is as here below.

**Reviewer Steven Goudy:**

This is a rare case presentation not much literature is available introduction has been done.
Dates of the important events in the case have been included
Discussion beefed up

**Reviewer Karen Speck**

Made changes as suggested.
In the abstract spelling mistake “reveled” corrected.
Included “4th branchial cyst in the key words section” introduction
First to sentences of rephrased.

The neck was normal in this patient, but we have now included this in the physical examination.
This xray was after the TB meds.
The failure of improvement on anti TB and wide mediastinum necessitated referral to our centre.

The mass didn’t extend into the anterior mediastinum. It was noted when the dissection of the cyst was started. Again it was also noted on the ct scan.

There was no fistula. It was a cyst whose stalk just ended abruptly. Hence tracing was impossible into the pharynx. We just followed the stalk into the neck it was clinically not palpable but it ended at the jaw.

Branchial cleft cyst was a working diagnosis, from the CT scan. Not that we were 100% sure. Changes have been made pertaining to this statement.
Pre operative tests are labs such as tbc’s

As far as the neck dissection was concerned. We started with a median sternotomy and extended the incision over the rt anterior border of the sternocleidomastoid still following the cyst. We didn’t take any pictures unfortunately to add to this case report. the stalk was medial to the carotid sheath

**Reviewer Marion Henry**

Anonymity observed in the ct scan image, it has been deleted from the image
Addressed grammatical errors and syntax errors.

I hope this letter addresses all the valid comments raised by the reviewers.

Kind regards

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