Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 3 Date: 10 June 2015

Reviewer: Karen Speck

Which of the following best describes what type of case report this is?: Unexpected or unusual presentations of a disease

Do you believe the case report is authentic?:

Yes

Do you have any ethical concerns?:

no

Is the Abstract representative of the case presented?:

yes

Does the Introduction explain the relevance of the case to the medical literature?:

yes

Does the article report relevant patient information?: Yes

Does the article report relevant physical examination findings?: Yes

Does the article report important dates and times in this case?: Yes

Does the article report the diagnostic assessments?: Yes

Does the article report the types of intervention?: Yes

Does the article report a summary of the clinical course of all follow-up visits?: Yes

If any information is missing from the reporting, please detail it here.:

please see my attached comments for very specific details of edits and questions to be answered.

A few brief thoughts:
Physical exam - the neck exam should be included.
Diagnostics - did he get a CXR prior to anti-TB meds?
Types of intervention - the article would benefit with an improved description of the neck dissection.

Is the interpretation (discussion and conclusion) well balanced and supported by the case presented?:

yes though i do have suggestions in my attached document.

Does the case represent a useful contribution to the medical literature?:

this is a rare phenomenon. this could be stressed more in the introduction with a mention of this as a 4th branchial cleft cyst (~1-4% of all branchial anomalies) and perhaps include percentages of mediastinal extension.

Was written informed consent to publish this case obtained?: Yes

Is the anonymity of the patient protected?:

yes

Additional comments to authors?:

Pleas see my attached suggestions for grammatical edits and pertinent questions that once answered in the text, I believe will improve the quality of this article.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Declaration of competing interests:

I have no competing interests.