Reviewer's report

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

Version: 3 Date: 18 June 2015

Reviewer: Marion Henry

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?: Yes

Is the Abstract representative of the case presented?: Yes

Does the Introduction explain the relevance of the case to the medical literature?: Yes. Rare clinical presentation. Not a unique report, though, as they even quote another paper on a similar presentation.

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

If any information is missing from the reporting, please detail it here.: See 2 comments above about missing details

Is the interpretation (discussion and conclusion) well balanced and supported by the case presented?: The discussion proceeds to describe some elements of working up branchial
cysts but seems to focus in on Fourth Branchial cleft cysts. Needs to be clearer in terms of which workup is recommended for the various types, especially since the patient described in the report did not get the workup suggested in the discussion

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

An interesting case report. Not unique.

**Was written informed consent to publish this case obtained?:** No

**Is the anonymity of the patient protected?:**

Unclear, there is a name on the CT scan. Don't know if that is the patient's name or physician's name.

**Additional comments to authors?:**

Many grammatical and syntax errors so that it is not easy and clear to read.

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.