Reviewer's report

Title: Anesthetic considerations of Adults with Morquio's Syndrome-A Case Report

Version: 2 Date: 11 September 2009

Reviewer: Paul Pagel

Reviewer's report:

General Comments

The authors describe their management of a patient with Morquio’s syndrome undergoing orthopedic surgery under general anesthesia. They should be congratulated for their successful care of this difficult patient. The authors briefly review some of the anesthetic implications of Morquio syndrome. However, their review misses many of the important papers about this form of mucopolysaccharidosis (for example, see J Inherit Metab Dis 2007;30:165-74, Hum Mutat 2005;26:500-12, Anesth Analg 1993;77:1261-70, Eur J Pediatr 1998;157:534-8, J Heart Valve Dis 2006;15:839-42, Heart Surg Forum 2008;11:e96-8, J Bone Joint Surg Br 1996;78:307-13). Morquio’s syndrome has multiple systemic manifestations, and this referee would strongly suggest that the authors approach their review of this subject from a more systematic perspective. Their assertion that the case is the first to describe anesthesia in an adult with Morquio’s syndrome (page 2) is strictly incorrect (as can be seen by several of the papers cited above).

Specific Comments

Page 3: Please label the major radiological findings depicted in figures 1A and 1B. The figure legends should also be expanded to include descriptions of these findings.

Page 4: The authors performed a standard fiberoptic intubation. Does the disease mandate any specific changes in technique compared to a patient with a difficult airway who does not have Morquio’s syndrome?

Page 4: How did the authors assess cervical stability and tracheal integrity?

Page 4: What information did the authors get from the arterial catheter that influenced their intraoperative management?

Page 4: Would the authors recommend neuraxial anesthesia in these patients? Why or why not?

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests
Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests