Reviewer’s report

Title: Varicella Zoster Virus infection presenting as isolated diplopia: a case report

Version: 2 Date: 23 August 2012

Reviewer: Maria Nagel

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The manuscript entitled “Varicella zoster virus infection presenting as isolated diplopia: a case report” requires revision but should be considered for publication since it is a unique case report describing isolated trochlear (CN IV) palsy WITHOUT associated zoster rash – expanding the spectrum of neurological disease without rash caused by VZV.

Strengths: Unique report of VZV causing CN IV palsy in the absence of rash will be of interest to neurologists and ophthalmologists.

Weaknesses: the quality and clarity of the writing needs improvement. Some specific examples:
1) Introduction, last sentence. Add “without rash” after “…involvement during VZV infection”. The absence of rash is one of the points that distinguishes this case.
2) Case description: The times of clinical events are confusing. Try to start off by defining day 1 of hospital admit; then with the day then the event to help the readers. For example:

“A 33-year-old man was referred to the emergency department and admitted (day 1) for acute onset of diplopia six hours prior. Seven days prior to admission, he developed mild headache….On admission, neuro exam revealed…Ocular exam revealed…CSF analysis…”

On day 2, for possible viral encephalitis, antiviral therapy…”

3) Discussion: First paragraph, first sentence – correct to “central nervous system”.

Second paragraph, first sentence, add “with” before…” isolated diplopia”

Last paragraph, second sentence, change to “discontinue early” not “early discontinued”.

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