Reviewer's report

Title: A Migraine Variant with Abdominal Colic and Alice in Wonderland Syndrome: A Case Report and Review

Version: 2 Date: 17 August 2009

Reviewer: Marcy Yonker

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Dr. Hamed:

This is a moderately interesting case in that the patient seems to experience two independent migraine variants. This case could be helpful in highlighting some of the pathophysiologic changes in migraine if presented in a much more compact and concise form. In my opinion, your message gets lost due to the length of the paper and the excessive verbiage. In the interest of perhaps improving the report, beyond heavily editing for length and comprehensibility, I would suggest the following specific changes:

1. In the abstract, I feel a more concise summary of the case would be beneficial to the reader, as this information, particularly the patient description, is repeated later.

2. I question whether 20% of pediatric migraine patients have abdominal migraine. The reference you cite in Seminars in Pediatric Surgery would not be my usual source of information for pediatric headache epidemiology.

3. The statement “Unfortunately these cases are frequently misdiagnosed…” seems to be contradicted by the following sentence as you state that “multiple unnecessary tests” are done delaying diagnosis, however in the next sentence you state “they should be differentiated from other organic, psychiatric, or CNS diseases with similar clinical presentations”, which would be done by performing tests.

4. I think the review of migraine pathophysiology could be much more concise.

5. Perhaps the explanation of the significance of the SEPs and TMS should be left for the discussion section and be made more concise, perhaps it is not necessary to explain the technology itself, but a brief explanation of the significance of the findings may be preferable.

6. I’m not sure you can state that “diagnostic workup confirmed that our patient had a rare migraine variant” but rather that diagnostic workup did not reveal another cause.

7. Not sure I understand what you are trying to say in the following statement “Not only the genetic load is likely to determine…” p 12

8. p 12 “Furthermore, genetic abnormalities may also… such as reduced NM junction (?)missing word?)……”
9. “This aura of abdominal migraine….”. From your case report, it seemed that the Alice-in-Wonderland phenomenon was completely independent of the abdominal migraines.

10. From the current understanding of the role of cortical spreading depression in migraine aura pathophysiology, I would disagree with the statement “The altered body perceptions described in AIWS are usually caused by migrainous ischemia…”

11. You take pains to differentiate between aura and hallucination in your discussion yet you describe flashes of light seen with the patient’s migraine headache as “hallucinations”.

I would consider the above suggestions to be Major Compulsory revisions in addition to editing for conciseness

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

**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