Author's response to reviews

Title: Chronic multifocal non-bacterial osteomyelitis in hypophosphatasia mimicking malignancy

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Dear Lolu da-Silva, assistant editor, BMC series

We would like to answer the reviewers' questions in detail regarding the manuscript with the title Chronic multifocal non-bacterial osteomyelitis in childhood hypophosphatasia mimicking malignancy sent to BMC pediatrics for publication.

Reviewer A.G. Jurik stated that rib lesions are rare in CNO. We agree and therefore we have added a new sentence at the end of the discussion stating this finding. In order to broaden the scope of the reference list we have included some references of other cohorts and follow-up studies in the literature into the list at that point, as suggested.

Reviewer H. Orimo suggested to restructure the introduction by adding background information. We have followed his suggestions.

We have added a new explanatory section into the introduction and an have updated reference list in this regard, as suggested by the reviewer:

Hypophosphatasia (HP) is characterized by a genetic defect in the gene of the tissue-nonspecific alkaline phosphatase TNSALP [1] [2] [3]. There is clinical variability of the HP phenotype: 5 major subtypes (perinatal, infantile, childhood, adult and odontohypophosphatasia) have been described [4]. Biochemical [5] and molecular data [6] [7] [8] [9] indicate that the severity of the molecular genetic alterations and subsequently levels of TNSALP are major determinants of the clinical phenotype. Childhood HP presents after the first year of life with rickets causing a short stature, delayed walking and a waddling gait due to bone deformities (genua vara or valga) and chronic skeletal pain.

In addition, we have shortened the background part in the abstract, as suggested.

We hope that with this revision we have met the criteria of both reviewers. We are very thankful for their comments.

Sincerely yours
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