Reviewer's report

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

Version: 1 Date: 15 September 2006

Reviewer: Hideo Orimo

Reviewer's report:

General

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

1. Because the manuscript is classified as a case report, the style of the manuscript should conform to the instruction for authors. The abstract section should be structured into separate sections: Background, Case presentation, and Conclusions. Case 1 and Case 2 and the discussion about the cases should be incorporated in the case presentation section. The author should also describe conclusions as a separate section. In addition, Competing interests, Authors contributions and Acknowledgements that includes the statement of written informed consent should be added to the end of the article.

2. In the background section (not the introduction section), description about more general information of hypophosphatasia is necessary for readers without special knowledge of the disease. In addition, extensive discussion about the diagnosis of Case 2 is necessary, because the diagnosis of hypophosphatasia is questionable according to the laboratory examinations. She may be a carrier of a severe allele, because slight elevation of plasma pyridoxal phosphate level is often demonstrated in obligatory heterozygotes with severe alleles.

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

1. Sentences in the last 4 lines in the introduction (Page 4) may transfer to the discussion in the case presentation. Instead, a brief statement of what is being reported in the article may be added.

2. How were the levels of prostaglandins in the reported cases? The authors have reported that prostaglandin levels are related to clinical severity of the hypophosphatasia phenotype and response to the treatment with non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agents.

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.