Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 1 Date: 17 September 2006

Reviewer: Anne Grethe G Jurik

Reviewer’s report:

Abstract:
It seems incorrect to state that both patients had multifocal lesions. Only one lesion was biopsied in case 2 and the spinal lesions may be due to trauma (see below, case 2). The abstract summary includes only the verified multifocal patient.

Introduction:
The statement “Growth hormone therapy might also have played a role….“ will be more appropriate in the discussion.

Case descriptions:
Case 1: The abbreviation ENT is not explained (ear, nose and throat?)
It is stated that the mutation is from maternal origin, but not why.
Case 2: Apart from scintigraphy there is no imaging information regarding the rib lesion. The rib is the only focus biopsied so the presence of a multifocal disease has not been confirmed. The spinal changes could be post-traumatic.
The level of serum calcium was not stated in any of the patients, why?.

Discussion:
It is very “narrow”, not including the known aspects of hypophosphatasia such as clinical and radiological features simulating vitamin D-resistant rickets. The occasional occurrence of bending at the costocondral junction and fractures after minimal trauma are important differential diagnoses in the presented cases. The presented imaging findings are not compared with those of CRMO in patients without detected or suspected hypophosphatasia.

References:
References in accordance with the suggestions for extension of the discussion should be included.

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