Reviewer's report

Title: Solitary Osteochondroma of the Twelfth Rib with Intraspinal Extension and Cord Compression in Middle-Aged Patient

Version: 2 Date: 8 November 2011

Reviewer: Francis Farhadi

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Shim and colleagues present a single case description of a 58 year old male who presented with a subacute onset of leg weakness and gait imbalance. Imaging revealed a T12-L1 level exophytic bony lesion suggestive of an osteochondroma originating from the 12th rib head. Operative resection and instrumented thoraco-lumbar spinal stabilization are described.

This report provides an illustration of a rare case where a costal osteochondroma (or possibly a low-grade chondrosarcoma) has extended into the spinal canal through an intervertebral foramen with associated spinal cord compression. Although this article does not provide any novel insights regarding the management of this condition, it is an interesting description given that only a handful of such cases have been previously reported in the literature, all of whom were much younger with just under half of them associated with hereditary multiple exostoses.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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