Author's response to reviews

Title: An unusual cause of ankle pain: Fracture of a talocalcaneal coalition as a differential diagnosis in an acute ankle sprain. A case report and literature review.

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Prof. Shipley,


There are no commercial relationships which may lead to a conflict of interest. The typescript has been read and agreed by all authors.

All authors made substantial contributions to the manuscript. DW was involved in drafting the manuscript and preparing the figures; NG and JE performed the clinical investigation and contributed in the appropriate sections to the manuscript. ACS and MJR did the drawings and assisted writing the Review section. SO was responsible to create the algorithm and in writing the manuscript.

All authors were involved in the final approval of the submitted version.

We hope that this manuscript will be considered for publication in BMC Musculoskeletal Disorders.

We thank the Reviewers for their helpful and improving comments. We hope, we addressed all comments in an appropriate manner.

Kind Regards

Dirk Wähnert
Reviewer's report:

The authors presented the case of a patient with a fracture of a talocalcaneal coalition and they performed an interesting literature review. In my opinion, the fracture of the talocalcaneal coalition is a pathological condition to consider in the differential diagnosis of the ankle trauma. Then, I believe that the article should be considered for the publication after minor essential revisions to make even more interesting the paper.

Specifically

- I suggest a simplification of the “Diagnostic/Classification” section, with the insertion of some tables to better clarify the different imaging signs of this condition.

Answer: Following the recommendation of the Reviewer, we split the section to “Diagnostic” and “Classification” additionally we summarized the radiological characteristics in a Table.

- Moreover, no data are reported about the misdiagnosis of this condition and it might be interesting to evaluate this specific issue and the prognosis.

Answer: To the knowledge of the authors there are no data reported on the epidemiology/incidence on this misdiagnosis. This is one reason we want to publish this case report to bring this rare event into the minds of trauma and orthopaedic surgeons.

- Finally, some typing error were detected.

Answer: We looked over the manuscript and corrected the mistakes.

Reviewer's report:

In this paper the authors present one case of talocalcaneal coalition fracture and a complete review of the literature. The paper is overall well written.

Only minor essential revisions are requested.

Specifically

1) the abstract should be rewritten stressing on the main features of the syndrome as per the literature and much less on the case report.

Answer: Following the Reviewers suggestion, we rewrote the Abstract to highlight the features of the coalition and the case.

2) The “Diagnostic/Classification” section is not clear, please simplify.
Answer: Following the recommendation of the Reviewer, we split the section to “Diagnostic” and “Classification” additionally we summarized the radiological characteristics in a Table.

3) There are several mistakes in english, please revise.

Answer: We looked over the manuscript and corrected the mistakes.