Reviewer’s report

Title: Atlanto-axial rotatory dislocation in a girl with Spondylocarpotarsal synostosis syndrome

Version: Date: 1 26 July 2006

Reviewer: Toru Maruyama

Reviewer’s report:

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

1. Are the institutions of the authors correct?
Which institutions are Dr. Myriam Chaabounni and Klaus Klaushofer belonged to?
2. The usage of the terms, AAR dislocation, AAR subluxation, and AAR fixation were confusing. Because most of the patients with AARF as well as this reported patient have no actual dislocation, I think the term should be unified to AARF.
3. A photo of the patient’s face should be shown if the patient and family allow us to do so.
4. Type III of the Fielding’s classification demonstrates more than 5 mm displacement. Is that right? To which type was the patient classified?
5. How did the authors treat her torticollis?
The authors had better refer to the articles published by Dr. Dachling Pang, in Neurosurgery, 2004 Sep 55(3)614-626 and 2005 Nov 57(5)941-72. In the articles they emphasized that CT scans in maximum rotated positions are essential for diagnosis and treatment of AARF.
6. Among the conclusions the authors listed, at least B) and C) were not derived from the results of this case report. The authors’ opinions are probably right, but I do not think those are the conclusion of this case report.
7. English should be better.
15-year-old-girl --> 15-year-old girl
Spondylocarpotarsal --> spomdylocarpotarsal?
(SSS) --> SSS
(AARD) --> AARF
2900 gm --> 2900 g
OFC --> what?
Number the references and indicate them with square blankets in the text.

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

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

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

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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