Reviewer's report

Title: Cauda Equina Compression in Achondroplastic Dwarf. Is complex anterior and posterior surgical intervention necessary?

Version: 3 Date: 5 September 2008

Reviewer: Anastasios Christodoulou

Reviewer's report:

From the x-rays and CT scans provided it's clear that that is a complex case of achondroplasia which combines a multilevel congenital spinal stenosis with a severe form of kyphosis. These are two distinct problems that have to be addressed separately even in a combined procedure and a single level decompression only from the front has many chances not to achieve optimal results.

From that point of view is not clear from the pictures provided the actual levels of compression and the reasons for which the single anterior decompression was primarily preferred.

We don't also have photos after the 2nd operation which will better document the final outcome radiologically.

I'd also like to mention that the number of authors is more than 4 and their contribution although mentioned is not clear.

At the present I believe that the article needs better documentation so I would recommend a major compulsory revision.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'