Reviewer's report

Title: Distinctive spinal changes in two patients with unusual forms of autosomal dominant endosteal hyperostosis: two case reports

Version: 4 Date: 11 July 2007

Reviewer: Christine Hall

I am familiar with the literature and believe that this case meets one of the 7 criteria for evaluation in the journal: Unexpected or unusual presentations of a disease

Has the case been reported coherently?: No

Is the case report authentic?: Yes

Is this case worth reporting?: No

Is the case report persuasive?: No

Does the case report have explanatory value?: No

Does the case report have diagnostic value?: No

Will the case report make a difference to clinical practice?: No

Comments to authors:

General

Unfortunately the two cases reported are not adequately illustrated. The radiographs for case 1 are inadequate for confirmation of the diagnosis and there are insufficient radiographs of case 2 to confirm the diagnosis. The legends to the radiographs identify some features which are not visible. When illustrating a bone (eg femur) it is customary to include both ends of the bone. The illustrations also need to identify which is case 1 and which case 2. In the text and legend to fig 1 the term x-ray should be replaced with radiograph. In the text and figs 5 and 6 the abbreviation 3D CT should be avoided. A-P should read antero-posterior. The features described in Fig 8 are not visible and there is no arrow. Perhaps a lateral view might show the features better. Fig 6 does have an arrow which is not refered to in the legend and the illustration itself is not clear. I am sure better views could be found. I presume this as a very oblique reconstruction of the mandible. In the text there is inconsistency in the references - eg fractures reported in 5 and 6 or 1 and 6. Similarly spine changes reported in 3,4 and also 5. Case 1 presented with one fracture not 'multiple'. The conclusions are not warranted and purely speculative. Some of the English in the discussion and
conclusion needs revising.

Revisions necessary for publication

**What next?:** Reject

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published