Reviewer's report

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

Version: 5 Date: 29 August 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 Some of the minor revisions have been made but there has been no attempt to improve the images to confirm the diagnoses in both cases 1 and 2. The radiographic findings in case 1 are inaccurate. The illustrations do not demonstrate sclerosis of the skull vault and there is no endosteal thickening of the humerus. There is some brachycephaly which has not been discussed - not a feature of the disorder and may relate to hypotonia.

In case 2 the images have not been improved and there are not enough to establish the diagnosis although cortical thickening of the diaphysis of the femur is shown. The radiographic changes are of anterior bony ankylosis (not ankylosis-like)
P4 correct A-P
P5 correct 'multiple' - multiple in the father, but single in the daughter.

The statements in the conclusions section are unwarrented. All you have done is report 2 cases of possible (not demonstrated) autosomal dominant endosteal hyperostosis highlighting the fractures and spinal ankylosis.
Revisions necessary for publication

What next?: Reject

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