Reviewer's report

Title: Congenital Anterolateral Tibial Bowing and Polydactyly: Case Report

Version: 2 Date: 26 May 2007

Reviewer: Hans Michael Manner

I am familiar with the literature and believe that this case meets one of the 7 criteria for evaluation in the journal: Presentations, diagnoses and/or management of new and emerging diseases

Has the case been reported coherently?: Yes

Is the case report authentic?: Yes

Is this case worth reporting?: Yes

Is the case report persuasive?: Yes

Does the case report have explanatory value?: Yes

Does the case report have diagnostic value?: Yes

Will the case report make a difference to clinical practice?: Yes

Comments to authors:

General
This is an excellent report of a very rare entity and thus I would entirely suggest publishing the paper. From the paediatric and genetic point of view the work up and conclusions are complete and clear. I congratulate the author for this excellent presentation of a very rare entity and I appreciated the conclusion that knowledge of this entity may protect the children from being overinvestigated.

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Revisions necessary for publication

From the radiographic and orthopaedic point of view I would suggest to review some points:

1. I think the mentioned greenstick fracture of the tibia resembles a partial duplication of the tibia at the ape of the deformity as it has been reported by Manner et al. They found a clearly visible duplication of the medullary cavity clinically during osteotomy and by magnetic resonance imaging.

2. The duplication in the foot does not only include the metatarsal bones and the toes but also the medial cuneiform – maybe it may be more clearly visible on more recent x-rays. Therapeutically, resection of the super numerous toe alone may leave a severe enlargement of the hindfoot with ongoing problems.

3. It should be mentioned that the fibula presents usually straight and uninolved in these cases which may be a first sign of a “benign” deformity. Nevertheless the presence and problem of a proximal fibular overlength which is typically found should be mentioned.

What next?: Accept after minor revisions

Quality of written English: Acceptable