Author's response to reviews

Title: Rectus sheath hematoma: three case reports

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear editor,

Regarding the reviewers' comments required changes are performed and revised manuscript is uploaded. The changes made are as follows:

**Reviewer 1: Paul Mueller**

**General**

- While uncommon, rectus sheath hematoma has been widely reported. In fact, the authors did not cite/reference a report of 126 cases at a single institution (Rectus sheath hematoma: Review of 126 cases at a single institution. Medicine. 2006;85:105-110).

  **Response:** Above mentioned literature was added to the references.

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**Revisions necessary for publication**

- The authors make the same conclusions as the aforementioned reference—which had, by far, more cases. The authors should cite this reference and clearly describe why their report is a unique addition to the literature.

  **Response:** Above mentioned literature was cited in the references and used in the discussion.

- I like the description of the CT classification system. Perhaps a diagram could be added to the report which depicts the various types (p. 4).

  **Response:** As there are too much figures, a new figure including diagram is not added.

- Were the cases seen at the same institution? Please clarify.

  **Response:** On page 2, in the last paragraph of background “to our emergency department” phrase was added to clarify that all of the patients were treated in our clinic.

- P. 3: Should be "complete blood count."

  **Response:** On page 3, in Case 1, “control blood cell count” was corrected as “complete blood cell count”

- P. 3: What is a "control CT"? Do you mean "follow-up CT"?

  **Response:** On page 3, in Case 2, at the end of the paragraph “control CT” was corrected as “follow up CT”

- There are very many English syntax errors that will need to be corrected.

  **Response:** Language corrections are done as: On page 2, in the conclusion of abstract “as” is replaced by “since”.

- **Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being Published
Reviewer 2: Joseph Mazza

Comments to authors:

1. The authors present three case reports of rectus sheath hematoma, providing brief descriptions of each case along with treatment and associated factors or etiologies leading to this malady. However, they simply list these factors and provide no information based on literature review of what are the more common factors associated with this entity. This is important information for clinicians and would help raise the index of suspicion of a rectus sheath hematoma when confronted with frequent presenting symptoms of acute abdominal pain.

   - **Response:** On page 4, predisposing factors and common presenting symptoms were added to the first paragraph of the discussion with the light of the literatures suggested by the reviewers with the light of three additional literature.

2. The authors did not do a comprehensive review of the literature and perhaps this would help in their elaborating on the various causes of rectus sheath hematoma. This information would be most suitable in the discussion portion of the manuscript. I listed three additional review articles not cited by the authors, one of which comes from their own country (Ozucelik DN et al, Ann Saudi Med 2005;May-June:25:250)

   - **Response:** Information from additional literatures were added to the discussion and related literatures were added to the references.

Also additional changes regarding the additional PDF containing annotated notes on the manuscript were done as required. On page 2, in the Background part, literature (1,5) was corrected as (1-5).

I hope these changes would fulfill your requests.

Best regards.

Selin Kapan MD