Reviewer's report

Title: Achoossification of the spinal ligaments and achondroplastic girl manifesting enchondromatosis and

Version: 5 Date: 25 February 2008

Reviewer: Gen Nishimura

I am familiar with the literature and believe that this case meets one of the 9 criteria for evaluation in the journal: Unexpected or unusual presentations of a disease

If other, please specify:

The previous manuscript was much better than the revised one. The authors never took my suggestion to revise the manuscript.

Has the case been reported coherently?: No

Is the case report authentic?: Yes

Is this case worth reporting?: Yes

Is the case report persuasive?: No

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

Is the anonymity of the patient protected?: Yes

Comments to authors:

I can not see radiological findings indicative of enchondromatosis on spinal MR images that the authors illustrated in the manuscript. These spinal MR images should be discarded. MR imaging shows only thickening of the longitudinal ligaments. However, I agree with the author’s proposal that ossification of the longitudinal ligaments and metaphyseal enchondromatous changes are related to each other, and I think that these findings represent impaired terminal differentiation of cartilage (chondrocytes) in this particular case with achondroplasia. In this context, the previous manuscript was much better than the revised one, because the authors described that ossification of the longitudinal ligaments is related to impaired endochondral ossification.
What next?: Revise and resubmit

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