Reviewer's report

Title: Bone metastases can mimic a Complex Regional Pain Syndrome I: A Case Report

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Reviewer: Raneem Albazaz

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

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

Is the anonymity of the patient protected?: Yes

Comments to authors:

This is a case report of a 77 year old man who developed symptoms and signs of CRPS1 (following arthroscopy for knee pain) and who upon further evaluation was found to have bony metastatic disease affecting the knee. The authors use this case to highlight the importance of applying the full CRPS1 diagnostic criteria, with a particular emphasis on the exclusion of other possible differentials, before confidently making the final diagnosis.

This is a well written report, which emphasises its main message very well. However, the authors should consider the following points:

• It is feasible that the patient may have indeed developed CRPS1 subsequent to arthroscopy and had a concomitant metastatic bony deposit to account for his original knee pain (as signs only developed after arthroscopy). Did the patient have any symptoms/signs suggestive of CRPS1 prior to arthroscopy?
• The authors’ claim that this is the first case of bone metastases mimicking CRPS1 is not entirely accurate as there is at least one other similar case
documented in the literature (concerning the foot).

- Table 1 of differential diagnosis of CRPS1 lists “para-neoplastic” twice and unnecessarily includes CRPS1 in the list.
- Figure 2 of CT image of the knee does not present any useful addition to the case and should be omitted.
- A table of CRPS1 diagnostic criteria would be helpful.
- Minor spelling errors require correction.

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.