Reviewer’s report

Title: Reversal of isolated unilateral optic nerve edema with concomitant visual impairment following blunt trauma: a case report

Version: 2 Date: 3 August 2007

Reviewer: michael lee

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?: Yes

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?: Yes

Does the case report have diagnostic value?: No

Will the case report make a difference to clinical practice?: No

Comments to authors:

General

1. The major issue is that the CRASH trial published in the Lancet in 2002 showed that patients with head injury should not be treated with high dose corticosteroids because it increases the risk of mortality. This needs to be addressed since the author is advocating an intervention that is not standard of care. The International Traumatic Optic Neuropathy Study found no difference between observation, steroids, and surgery. In fact more than 50% of patients in the observation group improved. The author needs to comment on that this patient may have improved without any therapy whatsoever.

2. In the discussion the author states that visual acuity and pupillary (NOT PAPILLARY) reaction, and visual field needs to be assessed. The report does not give us this information. Tell us what the pre and post treatment acuity and pupil exam showed. Please send the pre and post visual fields or were these simply confrontation fields. If the pupil exam did not show an afferent pupillary defect then this very well may not have been traumatic optic neuropathy. Retinal edema can be traumatic and can cause a transient loss of vision or visual field. Retinal injury would not likely show an afferent pupillary defect.
3. It is not clear that the right optic nerve is swollen on the MRI. Did it show any abnormal signal? Did it enhance with gadolinium? The fat on the bottom part of the figure may just be poor fat suppression.

4. Minor changes to English dictions.

5. MRI is magnetic resonance imaging.

**What next?:** Reject

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