Reviewer's report

Title: Efficacy of postural techniques assessed by videofluoroscopy for myasthenia gravis with dysphagia as the presenting symptom: a case report

Version: 1 Date: 27 August 2010

Reviewer: Cheng-Feng Lin

Which of the following best describes what type of case report this is?: Other

If other, please specify:

Evaluation/diagnosis and management of a special group of population

Has the case been reported coherently?: Yes

Is the case report authentic?: Yes

Is the case report ethical?: Yes

Is there any missing information that you think must be added before publication?: 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:

General comments:

This case report is to investigate the efficacy of postural techniques that is assessed by videofluoroscopy for MG with dysphagia. This case report definitely has certain contribution to clinical application. Though this is a case study, it still can provide some insights to clinicians.

However, several unclear writings are noted. In addition, the videofluoroscopy is not a novel method for evaluation and is not the only way to evaluate this type of
population as authors mentioned. Why this method was chosen deserves some discussion. Also, postural technique seems to be an important part of this case report, however, very few discussions about the postural techniques was provided. This deserves some attention.

Several specific comments are provided following.

Specific (Comments made using page numbers at bottom of page)

Abstract:
Introduction, line 1: If dysphagia is an uncommon symptom of MG, then why should authors need to investigate the area? This sentence needs to be revised to deliver importance of the subject of this study.

Introduction:
Lines7 of first paragraph: “dysphagia with aspiration, along with respiratory involvement” the latter part seems redundant. Please revise.

Line 4 of Second paragraph: what is the “compensatory strategies” authors mentioned here?

Case presentation
Generally the presentation of this case is in a logical way, however, several information is missing.

Could authors provide stage of MG in this case or provide information of strength of oral muscles or head extensor and flexors (through manual muscle testing). This data may help readers understand how severe this case was. The strength of head extensors and flexors is also important to this case report since the postural technique authors reported is related to head position.

Line 8 of Second paragraph. Please consider “swallowing three consistencies”.

Line 10 & 11 of second paragraph. (Figure 1 and 2). It will be much better to indicate the pyriform sinuses with an arrow.

Line 15 of second paragraph: please indicate what the correct postural technique is.

Lines 18 of second paragraph: Will the evaluation result be affected after tracheostomy?

Discussion
Too many long sentences or clauses were used. Long sentences distract readers from merits of this study. Please avoid that.

Line 14-16, Paragraph 2: Is drug intervention along with videofluoroscopy a regular protocol for this type of population? Why do authors review drug treatment here? Is drug treatment along with videofluoroscopy superior to videofluoroscopy alone?
Line 17 of paragraph 2. Please consider deleting “repeat”.

Line 3 of paragraph 3. What is behavioral techniques that is included in the “appropriate interventions”?

Conclusion

Authors made conclusion that postural technique is effective for patients with MG. Could this efficacy be measured quantitatively? Also, is it possible for authors to provide the daily performance/evaluation of the “effect of postural techniques”?

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests