Author's response to reviews

Title: Congenital bipartite lunate presenting as a misdiagnosed lunate fracture: a case report

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Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for considering my manuscript entitled “Congenital bipartite lunate presenting as a misdiagnosed lunate fracture: a case report. MS: 7972533403468654”.

I am writing to address the points made by the reviewer, Dr Ajay Gupta in his report dated 1 June 2010. To clarify each issue and to expedite the process, I shall address them as separate points.

1. “What made the authors diagnose the patient with an undisplaced fracture of the scaphoid?” In the report, I have stated clearly that this was a provisional diagnosis made in the emergency department and that this was based on the clinical finding of snuffbox tenderness.

2. “The lateral radiograph does show a irregular and segmental appearance of the pisiform bone” This is due to the patient’s age. At age eleven, the pisiform is just beginning to ossify and this explains the craggy appearance of the ossification centre.

3. “There also appears to be an undisplaced fracture of the base of the second metacarpal bone” There is actually no fracture of the second metacarpal, it is in fact the proximal physis of the second metacarpal bone.

4. “The triquetrum ordinarily articulates with the dorsal part of the lunate. It may be worth demonstrating if the so appearing division in the sagittal plane of the lunate was dorsal, through or ventral to the triquetrolunate articulation” The lunotriquetral joint is an articulation between the entire surfaces of the radial aspect of the triquetrum and the ulna aspect of the lunate. It is a complex relationship that is not quite fully understood. The bipartite division is through the middle of the lunate. However, the complex motion of this joint and the added unknown aspect of partially ossified carpal bones make addressing this question beyond the scope of this report.

5. “The lunate appears to be in DISI configuration” The lunate is not in DISI. The measured scapholunate angle formed by the intersection of the longitudinal axes of the partially formed lunate and scaphoid is 48 degrees. This is within the normal range. Additionally, the scaphoid and lunate are not fully ossified at age eleven.

I hope that these answers shed some light on the issues that were raised by the reviewer.

Thank you for your time once again,

Kind Regards,

Brian Loh