Reviewer's report

Title: Opitz trigonocephaly syndrome died during surgery: a case report

Version: 1 Date: 18 December 2010

Reviewer: sherif shehata

Which of the following following best describes what type of case report this is?: An unexpected event in the course of observing or treating a patient

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?: No

Is the case report persuasive?: No

Does the case report have explanatory value?: No

Does the case report have diagnostic value?: Yes

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

Is the anonymity of the patient protected?: Yes

Comments to authors:

1) the authors describe the intrauterine growth retardation in the pregnancy history of the case: what is the impact to produce the syndrome and haw they assess the degree of retardation as no further signs reported?

2) The patient description showed that at 44 weeks there is brain stem cerebral lesion producing the hearing loss despite that no psycho motor delay was evident till age of 4 months which is confirmed by the SNPS array of no significant findings: the records of the patient should be revised carefully as no speculation from reporting the case with no positive findings at clinical or histopathological or chromosomal or autopsy study ( there is a missing link or explanation that the authors should think for it)

3) at surgery where the mishap occurs a number of questions has to be answered:
a) what is the level of the surgeon performing the surgery and experience as the center load could be different from that of center with high load which will sure affect outcome as compared to papers like Azimi et al (ref 5 with 25 cases) or Optiz et al. Supporting this notion that no findings and as compared to discussion in Case 3 of Optiz et al (re 3) with connective tissue disorder which is not the same.

b) what is the cause of bradycardia, could be iatrogenic from brain insult.

c) How the mylenization problem is excluded in your case with possibility in producing the hearing loss.

Thus fore, the authors could not provide new data in the syndrome to support the publication of this special case report till now and make it worthy.

All the above mentioned queries need to be answered before resubmission.

4) Death in this case need to be explained better

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**

'I declare that I have no competing interests'

Prof Dr Sherif Shehata