Author's response to reviews

Title: Rare association between cystic fibrosis, Chiari I malformation, and hydrocephalus in an infant: case report and literature review

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor,

Thank you for your thoughtful review of our article “Rare association between cystic fibrosis, Chiari I malformation, and hydrocephalus in an infant: case report and literature review” that we submitted to the Journal of Medical Case Reports.

Reviewer 1 did not request any changes to the document. Reviewer 2 requested several changes to grammar and references, and we have complied. We appreciate Reviewer 2’s thoughtful comments. Reviewer 2 is correct that several authors have speculated that coughing or minor trauma results in adhesions and scarring around the foramen magnum, ultimately altering CSF dynamics -- this has been hypothesized to also result in syrinx formation. Along these lines, we speculate in our report that chronic and persistent coughing in cystic fibrosis may result in adhesions and scarring in the same way, resulting in hydrocephalus. We have added a few sentences clarifying this at the end of page 7 and the beginning of page 8; however, we wish to keep it brief, since this is purely speculative in nature. We do agree with Reviewer 2 that this is a very interesting association that requires further study.

We would like to thank you for your comments and hope that you find the above changes acceptable.

Andrew Jea, MD