Reviewer's report

Title: Guidelines disobeyed - A severe complication following spinal mobilisation in a patient with Forestier's disease: a case report

Version: 2 Date: 25 March 2011

Reviewer: Haymo G Thiel

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

If other, please specify:

unusual adverse event involving physiotherapy treatment

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?: No

Does the case report have diagnostic value?: No

Will the case report make a difference to clinical practice?: Yes

Is the anonymity of the patient protected?: Yes

Comments to authors:

This is an interesting clinical case describing a rare complication associated with manual therapy, which should be published following revision.

1. As a general observation, I would suggest that the authors ask a native English speaker/academic to edit the manuscript in detail, as grammar and syntax need attention throughout.

2. As the details of the therapeutic intervention are not known, I feel it would be more appropriate to change the title to: 'Guidelines disobeyed - A severe
complication associated with manual therapy of the cervical spine in a patient with Forestier's disease: a case report'.

3. To make the underlying condition more recognisable to an international readership, I would suggest to modify the first sentence of the Case Presentation (page 3, line 13) as follows:...a 56 year old male with Forestier’s disease (also known as diffuse idiopathic skeletal hyperostosis).

4. It would be of benefit to provide a brief description of how common Forestier's disease is, and in what type of patient it is likely to be encountered.

5. There is too much detail provided under the sub-headings of 'Surgical Intervention' (page 4, line 15 to page 5, line 6) and 'Course' (page 5, lines 14 to 21). I would suggest that the authors try to summarise this further.

6. To give only one reference (Malone et al., 2002) for a risk estimate for complications following manual treatment is not balanced enough. It would be better to give a range of estimates on the basis of more up to date, and especially more robust, research data (Malone's et al. estimate was based on retrospective case reports of only 22 patients seen in one single neurosurgical practice). For example, please refer to the recent systematic review by Dawn Carnes et al. entitled 'Adverse events and manual therapy: a systematic review' Manual Therapy 2010;15:355–363, for a more in depth review of the subject area.

**Quality of written English:** Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests