Author's response to reviews

Title: Operative management of a rare case of non-traumatic cervico-thoracic spondylolisthesis

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

Thank you very much for reviewing our manuscript “Operative management of a rare case of non-traumatic cervico-thoracic spondylolisthesis.”

Here are our responses to the stated concerns:

1. It is unclear why the authors used a cage as well as posterior fixation.

Answer:
Posterior stabilization was necessary as we determined that laminectomy and resection of the lateral masses of C7 and C8 would be the safest way to decompress the spinal cord and the roots of C7 and C8. To increase the stability of the fusion and to avoid fatigue of the posterior stabilization we added a HARMS-basket through a ventral approach. We have added this explanation to our discussion.

2. The English needs to be revised: horizontal displacement is olisthesis, and ‘stitches in the hand’ should be ‘paraesthesiae’, for example. I suggest that the authors consult an English speaking biomedical scientist for the purposes of revising the English language of this manuscript.

Answer:
The language was intensively revised. Therefore we kindly ask to add Roberto D. Valladares as a co-author. All changes are signed by track changes.

3. Please remove patient’s initial from the case presentation, as this may identify the patient. Kindly replace it with “the patient.” In keeping with journal style, please remove the sub-sections/sub-headings from the case presentation section.
Klinik und Poliklinik für Orthopädie
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Answer:
We adapted the format to the journal style.

Kindest regards,

Stefan Zwingenberger

Dr. med. Stefan Zwingenberger