Reviewer’s report

Title: Delayed Oesophageal Perforation following Lightening Strike.

Version: 1 Date: 10 May 2011

Reviewer: Bojan Paunovic

Which of the following following best describes what type of case report this is?: Unexpected or unusual presentations of a disease

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?: Yes

Does the case report have diagnostic value?: Yes

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

Is the anonymity of the patient protected?: Yes

Comments to authors:

very nicely written
excellent explanation of lightning physics and pattern of injury

My only concern is that it might generate letters to editor criticizing the fact that the 79 year old patient "was thrown back 2 meters and suffered a fractured right humerus"

while minor blunt trauma causing esophageal perforation is rare- it is described in the literature (1 example in:Hyperextension injury of the cervical spine with esophageal perforation - Journal of Neurosurgery vol 53 # 4)

maybe some discussion regarding this is necessary
Quality of written English: Acceptable