Author's response to reviews

Title: Spinal cord injury secondary to high-voltage electrocution: a case report.

Authors:

Harpreet K. Johl (harpreetjohl@gmail.com)
Adel Olshansky (adel.olshansky@gmail.com)
Said R. Beydoun (sbeydoun@usc.edu)
Richard A. Rison (rison@usc.edu)

Version: 4 Date: 7 March 2012

Author's response to reviews: see over
March 7\textsuperscript{th}, 2012

Dear JMCR Editorial Team,

We appreciate the Deputy Editor’s time and comments. Below is our response (in italics):

“The question that I was not able to answer having read this manuscript was what this case report told us that we did not already know. It does seem to me that quite a few cases of spinal cord injury leading to differing degrees of paralysis have been reported in the literature. So my question is how this case report significantly advance our understanding of spinal cord injuries caused by electrocution?”

We agree that there have been previously published case reports on patients with spinal cord injury from electrocution. However, high-voltage electric injuries are uncommonly reported and in the current and past literature there is a paucity of reports correlating clinical and MRI changes following electrocution. Furthermore, there are even fewer reports demonstrating high cervical-brain stem involvement in cephalic-entry electrocution injuries with repeat neuroimaging showing changing radiographic and clinical findings over time. Our submitted case demonstrates both cervico-thoracic (C3 to T2 injury) and bilateral ponto-medullary level ischemic infarction the latter of which was reversible as demonstrated radiographically as near-complete resolution of the ischemic changes. We believe that our case report adds to the medical literature for these reasons, in particular the clinical and MRI findings over time following the injury and especially the high-cervical-brain stem-ponto-medullary involvement. Perhaps therefore a better title would be “Cervicothoracic and pontomedullary injury secondary to
high-voltage electrocution: a case report.” Additionally, this case report will appeal to a wide audience given the multi-disciplinary management of these patients along with presentation of both clinical and radiographic findings that highlight the sequela of neurological complications following electrocution.

Please let me know if I may answer any further questions.

Sincerely yours,

Richard A. Rison, M.D., F.A.A.N.E.M.