Reviewer's report

Title: Aqueductal Developmental Venous Anomaly as an Unusual Cause of Congenital Hydrocephalus: Case Report and Review of the Literature

Version: 3 Date: 22 September 2011

Reviewer: Gianpiero Tamburrini

Which of the following best describes what type of case report this is?: An unexpected association between diseases or symptoms

Has the case been reported coherently?: Yes

Is the case report authentic?: No

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?: No

Is the case report persuasive?: No

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?: No

Is the anonymity of the patient protected?: Yes

Comments to authors:

The paper is proposed to describe an hydrocephalus secondary to aqueduct obstruction by a thalamoaqueductal venous anomaly. There are two main points that in my opinion render the paper of no sufficient value to be published:

1) It is not a so unique occurrence, being recognized among caused of aqueduct obstruction with already several cases described in the literature.

2) The figures presented are not diagnostic in my opinion of an obstructive hydrocephalus due to a venous anomaly: a) on the ultrasound as well as on MR, signs suspect for a subependimal intraventricular hemorrhage are present, a suspect that could have been confirmed by the intraoperative finding of an old bleeding aspect of the CSF; b) the MR with contrast images presented, on these grounds, could just be the documentation of a venous congestion; to confirm a
venous anomaly an MR angiography image at least should be added.

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests