Reviewer’s report

Title: A case of an intrapartum sacral stress fracture

Version: 3 Date: 7 September 2011

Reviewer: Frank Hildebrand

Which of the 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?: No

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?: No

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

Is the anonymity of the patient protected?: Yes

Comments to authors:

Sacral stress fractures during pregnancy have not/rarely been described in the current literature. During pregnancy, this fracture is particularly challenging since adequate analgesic control is complicated by drug interactions with the fetus. Furthermore, diagnostic imaging must be considered carefully to reduce potentially harmful radiations.

The manuscript discusses a highly interesting case of a 26 year old pregnant patient with severe low back pain. The authors describe the medical history in detail presenting a precise diagnostic and clinical progress. The pathophysiological background of sacral stress fractures as well as the challenging treatment options during pregnancy are discussed adequately. In summary, the current manuscript reveals a highly interesting differential diagnosis, physicians should be aware of in case of long-term back pain during
pregnancy.

The present study is dealing with an interesting topic. Consequently, we have only minor revisions regarding this manuscript:

1) There are few formal grammatical mistakes we ask for correction:
   • Head line: A 26 years old women ....
   • Page 3: She previously ran one hour daily until.... [better: performed running /jogging]
   • Page 4: Therefore peridural anesthesia was commenced.

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published