Author's response to reviews

Title: Bilateral rigid auricles should raise the suspicion for adrenal insufficiency.

Authors:

Mark V Koning (markkoning66@hotmail.com)
Ard Struijs (a.struijs@erasmusmc.nl)

Version: 5 Date: 27 July 2014

Author's response to reviews: see over
Author’s response to reviews

Title: Bilateral rigid auricles should raise the suspicion for adrenal insufficiency. 
(MS: 9836942311294805)

Authors: MV. Koning (markkoning66@hotmail.com); A. Struijs (a.struijs@erasmusmc.nl).

Version: 5
Date: 27-july-2014
Dear editor,

We thank you for the consideration to publish the manuscript in your journal. The reviewers gave helpful comments and we address them pointwise. The changes are marked in the revised manuscript.

Kind Regards,

Mark Koning
Ard Struijs
Reviewer's report
Title: Bilateral rigid auricles should raise the suspicion for adrenal insufficiency.
Version: 4
Date: 12 June 2014
Reviewer: Jens C Richter

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?: 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:
The authors claim repeatedly that the rigid auricles are an "early sign". This is not true, as they state later on, the changes had been present for years already.
   The reviewer is absolutely right, we changed it to a “warning sign”.

It would be helpful to say whether the patient had had any trauma to the ears, such as being a former boxer or wrestler?
   We have added this information in the case presentation.

There are a few spelling errors in the manuscript. Careful proofreading is recommended.
   A colleague have reviewed the manuscript and changes were made.

There was a relatively recent report of a similar case in German language, that the authors might be aware of but have not cited (Richter, Chappuis 2009 DMW) attached
   We were unaware of this report and read it with great interest. We have extended the discussion with a paragraph to place this case report in perspective of other literature.

Altogether an interesting and well written report of an unusual symptom, which is of potentially high relevance and should not be missed.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published
Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.
Reviewer's report
Title: Bilateral rigid auricles should raise the suspicion for adrenal insufficiency.
Version: 4 Date: 15 July 2014
Reviewer: Sharmila Ahuja

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?: 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:
This is a very interesting case report. However, in discussion of the case, review of literature is missing. Has there been any previous reports? The References indicate that this topic has been dealt with and published before. Some addition of literature review is desirable in the Discussion to increase the value of this report.

The reviewer is right, and we have added a paragraph in the discussion in order to put this case in perspective of other literature. We address the critical care especially, since the stiff ears are rarely presented in those settings, as indicated by only 2 known previous cases.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
Quality of written English: Acceptable
Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests