Reviewer’s report

Title: High-Resolution Magnetic Resonance Imaging Findings of Basilar Artery Plaque in a Patient with Branch Atheromatous Disease: a case report

Version: 2 Date: 20 August 2014

Reviewer: Ken Johkura

Which of the following best describes what type of case report this is?: Findings that shed new light on the possible pathogenesis of a disease or an adverse effect

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?: Yes

Will the case report make a difference to clinical practice?: No

Is the anonymity of the patient protected?: Yes

Comments to authors:

The authors’ showed branch atheromatous plaque in the basilar artery together with involved penetrating artery in a pontine infarct patient on high-resolution MR imaging. Although MR images of intracranial artery plaques have already been reported, the presented image is valuable because it demonstrates occluded small artery together.

Major points:
The slice orientation should be added to the MR images.
Axial image showing basilar artery wall plaque encroaching the orifice of the paramedian pontine artery should better be presented.
The manuscript is too long for the amount of information provided. It suffers from much repetition and could be shortened.

Minor points:
Discussion
The basilar artery plaque with the orifice of the involved perforating artery has already been reported (ref. 4). So, strictly speaking, this report in not the first report to demonstrate the relative position of atherosclerotic plaque between the major and penetrating artery. This sentence should be better rewritten with toning down.

**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.