Author’s response to reviews

Title: Bilateral impending macular holes after high-voltage electrical shock injury and its surgical outcome

Authors:

Pingbo Ouyang (oupingbo2001@163.com)
Anushavan Karapetyan (anushavankar@gmail.com)
Juanlian Cui (cuijuanlian@126.com)
Xuanchu Duan (duanxchu@126.com)

Version: 2 Date: 15 September 2014

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

Title: Bilateral impending macular holes after high-voltage electrical shock injury and its surgical outcome: a case report

Manuscript ID: 6472219271294826

Authors:
Pingbo Ouyang (oupingbo2001@163.com)
Anushavan Karapetyan (anushavankar@gmail.com)
Juanlian Cui (cuijuanlian@126.com)
Xuanchu Duan (duanxchu@126.com)

Version: 2 Date: 23 February 2014

Author's response to reviews: see over

Your and reviewers’ comments were highly insightful and enabled us to greatly improve the quality of our manuscript and we did our best to address them. In the marked copy the deleted parts are highlighted with red whereas added and corrected ones with yellow.

The followings are our point-by-point responses to the comments.

Reviewer Claudia Bruè
General

1) I believe the journal prefers US English spelling, and hence the present mixed spelling is not acceptable. Thus while US spelling is used for “meter” and “color”,

UK spelling is used for “oedema” and “haemorrhages”.

Corrected

2) I see no real reason for any (except one) of the abbreviations given and used, as they are not used often enough (4 or 5 times?) to justify inclusion (eg. ICU, IOP, KP, RPE, TA, DC, AC…). Only “SD-OCT” is justified.

Only abbreviations IOP and KP have been removed, since they are mentioned only once in the text. We didn’t remove the others, because ICU, TA, RPE, AC are mentioned one more time and DC twice after first mention in the text.

3) Please note that numbers and their units (eg, “2 mg”) should be separated by a space (ie, not “2mg”), throughout the manuscript.

These have been corrected.

4) The whole manuscript is under-referenced generally, with many statements not
supported by relevant references (see below).

Corrected

Abstract

1) Page 2, line 2: Introduction: please correct “To our best knowledge” to “To the best of our knowledge”.

Done

2) Page 2, lines 4-7: Case presentation: this first sentence is too long. Please edit it for length and clarity.

The sentence has been separated into two parts and punctuated accordingly.

3) Page 2, line 12: Conclusion section: Please correct “aimed to aid” to “aimed at aiding”.

Corrected

Introduction

1) Line 1: Please supply the reference for “St. Yves in 1722”, as this is not in the reference list

Done

2) Lines 2-5: Please supply a reference.

Done

3) Line 7: “oedema”: please use US spelling consistently throughout: “edema”

Corrected throughout the text.

4) Line 8: Please remove “etc”

Removed

5) Line 8: Again, please correct “To our best knowledge” with “To the best of our knowledge”.

Corrected

6) Line 11: Please replace “and intend to highlight” with “we highlight”

Replaced

7) Lines 11-12: “and intend to highlight the effectiveness of the surgical treatment.”

It remains difficult to highlight the full effectiveness here as there is indeed very
little follow-up provided…? It appears effective in the short term (at one week after surgery).

The idea has been made clearer and more accurate

Case presentation

1) This is given as a single paragraph. Please try to divide the text into paragraphs according to content.

The text has been divided into paragraphs

2) Please note that in Figure 2, panels a and c are never mentioned in the main text. Please include a reference to these panels in the main text or remove the panels from the Figure.

To me there is no need to reference these panels in the text. The explanations of these panels are included in the figure legend and their function is to show the red-free fundus image and the place and directions of cross-sections on panel b and d, otherwise it would be unclear whether it is a horizontal or vertical cross-section.

3) Page 4, Line 16: Please replace “well-defined “cuff” around macula” with a “well-defined “cuff” at the macula”.

Replaced

4) Line 17: Please replace “a disruption between the retinal layers of the fovea” with “a disruption of the retinal layers at the fovea”.

Replaced

5) Line 24: Please replace “retinal tear” with “macular hole”

Replaced

Discussion

1) Again, the paragraph use (and lack thereof) leaves much to be desired here.

The text has been paragraphed

2) Page 5, lines 6-15: None of this is referenced at all. Please supply the relevant references to support all of these statements.

References have been added and the text has been slightly altered.

3) Page 5: lines 19-20: “forming a High-voltage wire-Air-Human body-Earth current loop”. Please remove this random capitalization (note also, “earth” refers to an
electrical earth, and not the Earth).

Removed

4) Page 6, line 10: “2) the RPE is thicker and more tightly packed in submacular than in any other region of the eye, thus accumulating more thermal energy and heat leading to a damage of the macula”. Please supply a reference to support this statement.

Referenced

Conclusions

1) “aimed to” again (see above).

Corrected

2) “and the surgery proves to be effective in restoring the normal macular structure.”

Maybe more accurately said as “in the short-term, the surgery…”, or something similar.

The phrase “in the short term” has been added

References

1) The formatting of the references appears to have little to do with the format given in the authors’ instructions…? Please format the references as requested by the journal and as clearly given in the authors’ instructions.

With all respect and appreciation to the reviewer we have to disagree, since the reference formatting is the same as shown in journal’s authors’ instructions. For instance, you may see and compare the example given in the instructions: Koonin EV, Altschul SF, Bork P: BRCA1 protein products: functional motifs. Nat Genet 1996,13:266-267. The reference numbers in the text are included in square brackets.

Figures

1) Figure 1: “macular circular lesions (so called cuffs) are visible”. Maybe this could be indicated in the Figure with an arrow or two…?

Done

Reviewer Niranjan Kumar

1) Aim and conclusions of the study are different (Ref. Abstract section). Need to
conclude based on purpose of the study.

Corrected

2) Many statements are without reference. Authors need to provide the same.
Corrected.

3) Check correct SI units: e.g. 35kv high-voltage wires
Corrected

4) 'According to his words after completion of his work under 35kv high-voltage wires on a two meters high platform in a prostrate posture, he carelessly straightened up in order to jump down from the platform and immediately felt his body being pulled upward to the wires and struck instantly.' This sentence may be shortened.
The sentence has been shortened and separated into two parts

5) ‘blunt traumas caused by electrical shock’….gives impression that electrical shock causes blunt trauma. Modify the statement.
The phrase 'caused by electric shock' has been deleted.

6) ‘One week postoperatively the retinal tear was basically closed’…..Isn’t it macular hole? Why ‘basically’?
Retinal tear replaced with macular hole. The word basically deleted.

7) Any role of blunt trauma/ Purtscher’s retinopathy? To be discussed

Purtchers’s retinopathy hasn’t been considered due to the following few reasons:

1. The patient presented 3 months after the trauma, hence accurate evaluation was impossible to be made, whereas patients with Purtchers’s retinopathy normally present within 2 -3days,
2. No macular cotton-wool spots, intraretinal hemorrhages and Purtcher flecken seen at the macular and peripapillary regions, which are diagnostic of the condition

Editor

1) The paper has been reviewed by a native English speaker.

2) Please include an acknowledgement section at the end of the manuscript before the reference list.

There is no one who significantly contributed to the paper and is not included as a co-author, hence no one to acknowledge in acknowledgment section.
3) Please ensure that each figure should be closely cropped to minimize the amount of white space surrounding the illustration.

Figures have been cropped and converted into png format.