Reviewer's report

Title: Osteoarthrosis causing altered mental status - a case report

Version: 3 Date: 17 August 2014

Reviewer: Richard Rison

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?: No

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:

1. Abstract: “Here we reports a rare case of cervical spondylosis causing phrenic…” should be:

   “Here we report a rare case of cervical spondylosis causing phrenic…”

2. Were the authors able to exclude a diabetic phrenic neuropathy? (see below)

3. The authors state the following: “The EMG revealed decreased amplitude in the phrenic nerves bilaterally and radiculopathy in the upper limbs, suggestive of nerve root compression at cervical foraminal level.” Technically the nerve conduction study shows the phrenic nerve amplitude and the electromyogram shown the MUAP’s. Please state more specifically what the EMG findings were that led you to conclude a radiculopathic process. Was a phrenic nerve conduction study done?
4. Was a full 3-limb EMG/NCS study done to exclude ALS?

5. Were other etiologies such as diabetic phrenic neuropathy (see above), diabetic CIDP, proximal MMNCB, myositis, and myasthenia considered?

6. Consider adding an MRI of the cervical spine image and/or appropriate tracings of the NCS/EMG (if available).

7. Consider adding the following reference: http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21906870 as it shows how diabetes alone can cause bilateral phrenic neuropathies and diaphragmatic weakness.

8. The discussion section should be expanded a little.

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.