Author's response to reviews

Title: Traumatic spondyloptosis of the lumbar spine: A case report

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Author's response to reviews: see over
The Editor,
Journal of Medical Case Reports

Dear Sir/Madam
Submission of manuscript entitled **Traumatic spondyloptosis of the lumbar spine: A case report**

We are submitting our manuscript for publication in your Journal because it has a high readership, offers concessions to authors from low income countries and I have published with you before.

This is a rare case of spondyloptosis or grade V spondylolisthesis of the fourth lumbar vertebra (L4). This kind of injury is more common at the lumbosacral joint but exceedingly rare in the lumbar spine because of the stability of the lumbar segment of the spine. Very few cases of lumbar spondyloptosis have been published in literature. Although this is not the first report of this injury, it is an original case report of a severe spine injury caused by a collapsing concrete wall and resulted in post-operative neurological improvement. Most severe injuries of the spine result in permanent neurological sequelae. In this case we did not have access to CT scans, MRI nor intra-operative spinal cord monitoring. We also did not have access to intraoperative fluoroscopic guidance.

By publishing this article in your Journal we also aim to motivate other surgeons in Africa that inspite of all the resource limitations, something can always be done and with acceptable results. Otherwise many of these complex injuries are just neglected.

We declare no competing interests