Author's response to reviews

Title: Elderly onset intramedullary epidermoid cyst: a case report

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Version: 5
Date: 16 November 2014

Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Dr. Michael Kidd,

Thank you for your kind review on our manuscript entitled "Elderly onset intramedullary epidermoid cyst: a case report". The comments of the reviewers were helpful in allowing us to revise our manuscript. Our replies to the comments raised by the referees are as follows:

Reviewer #1:
The reviewer pointed out the necessity of the corresponding references where we wrote "Most reports agree that evacuation of cyst contents is a suitable surgical procedure for intramedullary epidermoid cysts. We chose the internal decompression by evacuation of cyst contents as a surgical procedure because the cyst wall tightly adhered to surrounding spinal cord tissue. Several previous reports described that neurological recovery was obtained by the simple evacuation of cyst contents. In this context, our choice of treatment was appropriate, at least in part. Indeed, the present patient showed marked recovery of muscle power of her lower extremities. One of the possible shortcomings of cyst contents evacuation is the recurrence of neurological symptoms induced by regrowth of the cyst. "We added references No3,4.

Reviewer #2
The reviewer pointed out that the discussion should widen about the age-dependence of the epidermoid cyst removal, and this context should be cited in the following manuscript (J Neurooncol. 2005 Nov;75(2):157-61) discussing the aspect of outcome. We added discussions about surgical outcome in elderly patients and references No7,8.

Sincerely,

Takeru Ohara