Reviewer's report

Title: Pseudo - subarachnoid haemorrhage due to chronic hypoxaemia: Case report and review of the literature

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Reviewer: Vasileios-Arsenios Lioutas

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting case report of "pseudo" subarachnoid hemorrhage. CT scans of the head are performed with increasing frequency for several different indications. CT scan findings compatible with SAH can be indicative of potentially life-threatening situations that warrant emergent interventions. Therefore it is very important for clinicians and radiologists alike to be familiar with the subtleties, challenges and limitations associated with the interpretation of such studies. In this context, I believe that the case report merits publication.

However, I do have some comments and issues that need, in my opinion, to be addressed before publication and I would categorize as "Major compulsory revisions".

(1) There is discussion regarding polycythemia and hypoxemia and their link to the imaging presentation, but I think the direct causal association between those and the imaging finding is perhaps overstated - it is an appealing explanation but it should be stated as such and not as a de facto proof.

(2) Along the same line and based on the MRI findings, the role of compensatory venous engorgement seems to be more central than implied in the paper. Some commentary about possible superficial hemosiderosis associated with the polycythemia would be useful.

(3) Similarly, I think that the notion "MRI can securely differentiate" is perhaps an overstatement. My major concern is that a faulty sense of comfort might be conveyed. A less assertive statement would seem more fit, without undermining the doubtless usefulness of MRI in a situation like this.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests