Reviewer's report

Title: Recurrent Posterior Circulation Strokes Caused by the Anomalous Occipital Bony Process in a Young Patient

Version: 2 Date: 2 September 2014

Reviewer: Andrew Ducruet

Reviewer's report:

The authors provide an interesting and rare case report of a young healthy patient with recurrent posterior fossa strokes that were attributed to vertebral compression by bony extension of the occipital bone, which was exacerbated by neck turning. This is of interest to the community, but the authors must address the following concerns prior to consideration for acceptance.

Major Compulsory Revisions

I am most concerned about the authors' decision to sacrifice this patient's dominant vertebral artery at such a young age. The MR angiogram clearly demonstrates a smaller contralateral V4 segment. Serious consideration should have been given to surgical resection of this bone, as it is extracranial and accessible via traditional skull base approaches. Certainly the endovascular strategy may present subsequent stroke, but in a young patient, I am concerned about the long-term outcome of this procedure. The authors should acknowledge this limitation in their revision.

Minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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