Author's response to reviews

Title: Radiographic Occult Cerebellar Germinoma Presenting with Progressive Ataxia and Cranial Nerve Palsy Case Report

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Dear editor,

Please find our manuscript, “Radiographic Occult Cerebellar Germinoma Presenting with Progressive Ataxia and Cranial Nerve Palsy,” for consideration of publication in *BMC Neurology*. We believe this paper addresses a series of important issues that will be of interest to your readers.

Although the usefulness of susceptibility-weighted imaging (SWI) to detect basal ganglia germinoma has been reported, it has not been widely recognized yet. We recently encountered an unusual case of primary cerebellar germinoma, with enlargement and spread of multiple hypointensity spots in T2*-weighted image (T2*WI) and SWI. The patient presented with progressive ataxia, followed by cranial nerve palsy and brainstem dysfunction, such as difficulty of breathing. The patient was referred to department of neurology first, because neurodegenerative diseases, infectious diseases, or autoimmune diseases were considered likely. It took fifteen months from the initial study to diagnose germinoma, because of atypical radiological findings and tumor location. Even though the tumor disappeared after treatment, the patient’s symptoms unfortunately remained. We believe that earlier diagnosis of germinoma in atypical locations, particularly in the cerebellum and brainstem, can be made with T2*WI and SWI. Moreover, not only neurosurgeons but neurologists, neuroradiologists, or general physicians should know that CNS germinomas could demonstrate the radiographic findings and symptoms described above. That is why we would like you to consider for publication on this journal.

This manuscript is not being considered for publication with any other source in any medium. In addition, there is no information with regard to financial supports, benefits or interests to be indicated. All authors have been personally and actively involved in substantive work leading to the report, and will hold themselves jointly and individually responsible for its content. All relevant ethical safeguards have been met in relation to patient or subject protection. We hope that you and your reviewers will find this manuscript as exciting as we do.
Yours sincerely,

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