Reviewer’s report

Title: Real spinal cord injury without radiologic abnormality in pediatric patient with tight filum terminale following minor trauma: a case report

Version: 0 Date: 04 Nov 2019

Reviewer: Dimitrios Nikas

Reviewer's report:

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The authors present an interesting concept, and claim occult tethered cord was responsible for significant conus/cord injury in a series of 3 patients. These points need to be clarified (line number):

- Lines: 1.26: Corticosteroid protocol: What is your protocol – there were at least 30hrs past injury when patient arrived in your hospital.
- 2.28: What was the indication for surgery? How extensive was the laminectomy/laminoplasty? What do you mean by the term lysis?
- 3.51: Again, what do you mean by the term lysis? What exactly was the procedure? How many levels did you expose and why?
- 4.52: …the fibrolipoma was confirmed…Did preop MRI show fatty filum?
- 5.12: lysis: please specify
- 6.33-40: How big exposure did you accomplish? Why?

The authors need to clarify in detail the indications they used to proceed with their operative approaches, and elaborate more on the findings. Why did they expose the conus if they thought the filum was responsible for the tethering? How exactly the tight filum caused the conus contusion and the other findings reported? Can they quote any biomechanical studies or any other supportive evidence?

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