Reviewer’s report

Title: Spinal epidural hematoma without significant trauma in children: Two case reports and review of the literature

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Reviewer: Dimitrios Nikas

Reviewer's report:

Although only two cases, there is little in the literature on the subject of management of spontaneous epidural hematoma (sEH) in children. The presentation, workup, and management of this pathology reflects well why children should not be managed as small adults.

The authors need to particularly be commented for the comprehensive literature review. They could make a stronger point in their conclusions if they included a more comprehensive list of the already published cases of sEH resolution without surgical management. A table including presentation, coagulation profile, management, time to resolution, residual deficits would serve the reader well.

There have been several proposed mechanisms to explain the resolution of sEHs (associated fracture, pressure gradients, redistribution of hemorrhage, clot resorption due to proliferation of endothelial cells and dural supportive tissue). Based on presentation and serial imaging of the second case they describe, what do the authors advocate as the possible mechanism of spontaneous resolution in their case?

In the absence of trauma was non-accidental injury suspected or ruled out?

The authors of this manuscript provide further evidence that surgical intervention is not uniformly indicated when focal neurological findings are absent, and conservative management should always be considered for these patients, particularly in the pediatric population.
Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.
Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.
Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.
Yes

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