Author’s response to reviews

Title: Imaging finding and arthroscopic treatment of isolated contracture of the rectus femoris muscle: a case report

Authors:

Yunfeng Zhou (yfzhou0506@163.com)
Zhengzheng Zhang (1193589603@qq.com)
Jingyi Hou (3144394660@qq.com)
Rui Yang (striver2017@163.com)

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Bernardo Aguilera-Bohorquez (Reviewer 1): The manuscript is well structured and follows the recommendations of CARElist. As the authors describe, rectus femoris muscle contracture has been widely documented in the literature. However, the interesting of the case was the cause of retraction and the treatment. I think that this manuscript shows the usefulness of the MRI and a useful alternative for the management of this alteration.

Add a brief explanation of the authors' opinion about the strengths and limitations in their approach to this case, a table could be more explanatory.

Response: Thanks for your positive evaluation and valuable suggestion. As is mentioned in the manuscript, the contracture of rectus femoris (RF) had been mainly reported in the literatures from 1960s to 1980s, and most of them focused on its clinical manifestations and diagnostic methods, rather than treatment. The published treatment in the literatures were mainly related to quadriceps contracture, offering a glimpse into traditional approaches to handle such disorders. We suppose that it might be more complex than isolated RF contracture as we reported, and the treatments might not exactly the same, so we haven’t paid more attentions on the treatment of quadriceps contracture. As a supplement, we discussed the strengths and potential risks and preventive measures of the treatment under arthroscope (in the discussion section, line 140-151, page 7). For only one case in our study, we don’t have enough experience to systematically summarize the strengths and limitations. We hope the MRI findings and newly proposed minimally invasive treatment with arthroscopy for isolated RF contracture could provide some referential resource for peers.
Luv Singh, M.D. (Reviewer 2): This an article highlighting a rare condition involving the diagnosis, treatment, and prognosis of a rectus femoris contracture. The article logically and thoroughly explains their rational and procedure. The literature review was concise and relevant. Pictures and video are adequately descriptive. It should be a useful resource for other orthopedic surgeons who come across this unusual condition. It's clear that barriers to higher level studies are related to difficulty obtaining a high enough N, but a case series to highlight the treatment's reproducibility would be useful going forward if possible.

Response: Thanks to you for your encouraging comments. RF contracture is encountered rarely in orthopaedic practices. Limited by the number of cases, it is difficult to conduct higher level studies at current stage. Thanks for your reminding, we will continue to follow up the patient and track her recovery. If possible, we will further improve the operation and testify its reproducibility.