Reviewer’s report

Title: A case report of revision occipital-cervical fusion after atlanto-axial instrumentation failure for neurofibromatosis type I

Version: 0 Date: 01 Nov 2018

Reviewer: Reviewer 2

Reviewer's report:

PEER REVIEWER ASSESSMENTS:

OBJECTIVE - Full research articles: is there a clear objective that addresses a testable research question(s) (brief or other article types: is there a clear objective)?

Yes - there is a clear objective

DESIGN - Is the current approach (including controls and analysis protocols) appropriate for the objective?

N/A - no methodology

EXECUTION - Are the experiments and analyses performed with technical rigor to allow confidence in the results?

N/A - no experiments or analyses

INTERPRETATION - Is the current interpretation/discussion of the results reasonable and not overstated?

N/A - no results to interpret

OVERALL MANUSCRIPT POTENTIAL - Could an appropriately REVISED version of this work represent a technically sound contribution?

Maybe - with major revisions
PEER REVIEWER COMMENTS:

GENERAL COMMENTS: I have the pleasure to revise the case report about an occipital cervical fusion after atlanto-axial instrumentation failure for NF type 1. Although the case is interesting and also well written, failure of atlanto-axial wiring for fixation is quite common. I think this manuscript has scientific value; authors should discuss the literature about failure wiring for atlanto-axial instability. Without this, the case did not add too much to the spinal literature.

REQUESTED REVISIONS:

I think the case report presented is well described and also well written but adds little value to the current literature. Some concomitant literature review about failure C12 fusion with wiring techniques would be interesting.

ADDITIONAL REQUESTS/SUGGESTIONS:

I would expand the introduction - discussing the types of spinal deformity in NF, as well the incidence of cervical instability in this group of patients. A comprehensive literature is necessary. Considering case presentation - the intra-articular spacers were peek cages? titanium? used off label from cervical spacers? please clarify. Discuss the nuances of cervical fixation in NF - the bone anomalies, vertebral artery abnormal course, etc.

Note: This reviewer report can be downloaded - see attached pdf file.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Unable to assess

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

Unable to assess

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

Unable to assess
Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

Not relevant to this manuscript

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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