Reviewer’s report

Title: The surgical treatment strategies for thoracolumbar spinal fractures with ankylosing spondylitis: A case report

Version: 0 Date: 15 May 2019

Reviewer: Arjun Ballal

Reviewer's report:

Comments:

Abstract:
1) The abstract is the face of any article and has to be properly written.
2) Here a structured abstract is not necessary as it is a case report.
3) Conclusions are written in a case series and not in case reports, hence avoid conclusion here as the sample size is only three cases.
4) The authors have not mentioned as to what surgical procedure was performed to fix the fractures and have only mentioned simple posterior internal fixation. Kindly, mention as to what procedure was performed, and what were the implants used?
5) Avoid mentioning keywords from the title.

Introduction:
1) The introduction is too short kindly, make it more descriptive.
2) References to be mentioned in a few places.

Materials and methods:
1) Kindly, rewrite as 'two men and one woman'.
2) Kindly, mention what type of a fracture? Also how many columns were involved? Were there any neurological deficits? If yes then how was it assessed that the deficits were due to the fracture and not due to ankylosing spodylitis?
3) What was the cause of the fractures?
4) More details have to be presented about the surgical method performed.
5) Nothing has been mentioned about the radiological findings.
6) Nothing has been mentioned about the post-operative management.
7) The surgical method is very poorly explained.

Results:
1) Results are written in case series and not case reports.
2) Why were the Follow ups done on telephone and why were the patients not followed up physically?
3) What was the scoring system used to assess the improvement in symptoms of the patient?
4) Images have to presented after the discussion section.

Discussion and conclusion:
1) The discussion is unnecessarily long and can be made more concise and relevant.
2) Comparison to similar reports and studies need to be done.
3) The conclusions have to be mentioned only in case series and not in case reports.

References:
1) All references have to be written in Vancouver format.
2) All references older than the year '2000' need to be updated as they are over 19 years old.
3) Kindly, avoid the term 'et al' in the references section and mention the names of all the authors.

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

No

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

No

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

No

**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:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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