Author's response to reviews

Title: Delayed Recognition of Paediatric Calcaneal Osteomyelitis: a case report

Authors:

Alvin J Mallia (alvinmallia@hotmail.com)
Neil Ashwood (Neil.Ashwood@burtonft.nhs.uk)
Georgios Arealis (garealis@yahoo.gr)
Frank Bindi (Frank.Bindi@burtonft.nhs.uk)
Georgiana Zamfir (georgianazamfir@gmail.com)
Ilias Galanopoulos (galanop.ilias@gmail.com)

Version: 3  Date: 8 July 2015

Author's response to reviews: see over
Cover Letter

To the Editors of Journal of Medical Case Reports,

We are submitting a Case report entitled: Paediatric Calcaneal Osteomyelitis - Delayed Recognition: a case report for consideration for publication in the journal of medical case reports.

Authors:
Alvin James Mallia, email: alvinmallia@hotmail.com
Neil Ashwood, email: Neil.Ashwood@burtonft.nhs.uk
Georgios Arealis, email: garealis@yahoo.gr
Frank Bindi, email: Frank.Bindi@burtonft.nhs.uk
Georgiana Zamfir, email: georgianazamfir@gmail.com
Ilias Galanopoulos, email galanop.ilias@gmail.com

We have decided to write this case report for the following reasons:
- Calcaneal osteomyelitis in the paediatric population is a condition which is difficult to diagnose, and if missed it may lead to serious consequences for the patient. We therefore would like to emphasise the importance of maintaining a high index of clinical suspicion in any child presenting with heel pain.
- To bring about awareness of the reasons why this condition is difficult to diagnose for e.g. slowly evolving clinical signs, marginal blood results and radiographs which often reveal little or no changes
- To discuss imaging and treatment in further imaging.
- To discuss the literature on paediatric calcaneal osteomyelitis.

I, Alvin Mallia (Corresponding author) certify that:
• The manuscript is being submitted by me (Corresponding author) on behalf of all the authors.
• Written, informed consent was taken from the parent of the patient for reporting this case.
• The manuscript is original work of all authors.
• All authors made a significant contribution to this study.
• This manuscript has not been submitted for publication; it has not been accepted for publication and has not been published in any other journal.
• All authors have read and approved the final version of the manuscript.

Thank you

Sincerely,
Dr. Alvin Mallia
**Revision of paper**

Please see the three reviewer reports below. We have highlighted, in bold, all the comments which need to be addressed, and commented on how we have made the appropriate corrections.

**1. Reviewer’s report**

Title: Delayed Recognition of Paediatric Calcaneal Osteomyelitis: a case report  
Version: 2  
Date: 17 June 2015  
Reviewer: Selcuk Yuksel

Which of the following best describes what type of case report this is?: Other  
If other, please specify: delayed diagnosis

Do you believe the case report is authentic?: Yes, I do. Really, he is a overlooked case. Currently, in a case of heel pain, many the clinicians think Sever’s Disease instead of severe infection. They pointed out this issue.

Do you have any ethical concerns?: No

Is the Abstract representative of the case presented?: Yes

Does the Introduction explain the relevance of the case to the medical literature?: Yes

Does the article report relevant patient information?: Yes

Does the article report relevant physical examination findings?: Yes

Does the article report important dates and times in this case?: Yes

Does the article report the diagnostic assessments?: Yes

Does the article report the types of intervention?: Yes

Does the article report a summary of the clinical course of all follow-up visits?: Yes

If any information is missing from the reporting, please detail it here.: No

Is the interpretation (discussion and conclusion) well balanced and supported by the case presented?: **Discussion is longer than normal,** *We have reduced the amount of words slightly*

Does the case represent a useful contribution to the medical literature?: a little bit.

Was written informed consent to publish this case obtained?: Yes
Is the anonymity of the patient protected?:
Yes.

Additional comments to authors:
You should add (in page 6, second paragraph) that one of the important direct inoculation causes is heel puncture for screening of newborn.
Reference:
-we have added this additional cause

Level of interest:An article of importance in its field Quality of written English:Acceptable

Declaration of competing interests:
No

2. Reviewer’s report
Title:Delayed Recognition of Paediatric Calcaneal Osteomyelitis: a case report
Version:2 Date:4 July 2015
Reviewer:Cen Bytyqi

Which of the following best describes what type of case report this is?: New associations or variations in disease processes

Do you believe the case report is authentic?:
I believe that this is an original study.

Do you have any ethical concerns?:
No, I do not have any ethical concerns. The written informed consent was obtained from patient for publication of this case report and any accompanying images.

Is the Abstract representative of the case presented?:
I have no comments about abstract, it is well written.

Does the Introduction explain the relevance of the case to the medical literature?:
I think that introduction is well written, but I think that authors should be more clear about the aim of the study and to pointed out the importance of their study.
- We have stated that our aim is to highlight why this condition is difficult to diagnose, and why this is important i.e.- long term sequelae of a missed diagnosis in the paediatric age group

Does the article report relevant patient information?: Yes

Does the article report relevant physical examination findings?: Yes

Does the article report important dates and times in this case?: Yes

Does the article report the diagnostic assessments?: Yes

Does the article report the types of intervention?: Yes

Does the article report a summary of the clinical course of all follow-up visits?: Yes
If any information is missing from the reporting, please detail it here.:
No comments.

Is the interpretation (discussion and conclusion) well balanced and supported by the case presented?:
The authors appropriately cite past literature with similar findings to theirs. They discussed very well their results with other’s in term of delays in diagnosis, initiation of treatment, etiology, diagnostic assessment and treatment.

Does the case represent a useful contribution to the medical literature?:
Yes, because delays in the diagnosis of the calcaneal osteomyelitis can result in disastrous complication in the pediatric patient, such as growth arrest.

Was written informed consent to publish this case obtained?: Yes

Is the anonymity of the patient protected?:
The anonymity of the patient was protected, no names in case presentation or in images.

Additional comments to authors?:
No comments.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
Quality of written English: Acceptable

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interest.

3. Reviewer’s report
Title: Delayed Recognition of Paediatric Calcaneal Osteomyelitis: a case report
Version: 2
Date: 7 July 2015
Reviewer: Nexhmi Hyseni

Which of the following best describes what type of case report this is?: New associations or variations in disease processes

Do you believe the case report is authentic?:
I believe that this is an original study.

Do you have any ethical concerns?:
No, I do not have any ethical concerns. The written informed consent was obtained from patient for publication of this case report and any accompanying images.

Is the Abstract representative of the case presented?:
I have no comments about abstract, it is well written.

Does the Introduction explain the relevance of the case to the medical literature?:
Yes.

Does the article report relevant patient information?: Yes

Does the article report relevant physical examination findings?: Yes
Does the article report important dates and times in this case?: Yes

Does the article report the diagnostic assessments?: Yes

Does the article report the types of intervention?: Yes

Does the article report a summary of the clinical course of all follow-up visits?: Yes

If any information is missing from the reporting, please detail it here.:
No comments.

Is the interpretation (discussion and conclusion) well balanced and supported by the case presented?:
The paper covers in detail all the specifics of the problem. The data are numerous and complex and systematic, clear, ranging from the purpose of the paper. The conclusions are scientifically based, with direct implications in clinical practice.

Does the case represent a useful contribution to the medical literature?:
Yes

Was written informed consent to publish this case obtained?: Yes Is the anonymity of the patient protected?: Yes

Additional comments to authors?:
No coment

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field Quality of written English: Acceptable

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interest