**Reviewer’s report**

**Title:** Case report on spontaneous pneumomediastinum following a prolonged second stage of labour: an emphasis on early diagnosis and conservative management.

**Version: 0 Date: 08 Jul 2017**

**Reviewer:** Valirie Agbor

**Reviewer's report:**

1. Do you believe the case report is authentic?
   
   Yes

2. Do you have any ethical concerns? Please consider if local Institutional Review Board approval or ethical approval was obtained (if appropriate) and if the patient (or their parent or guardian in the case of children under 18) gave written, informed consent to publish this case and any accompanying images. A statement to this effect should appear in the manuscript.

   Comments: I have no ethical concerns.

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

   Yes

4. Does the article report the following information? Where information is missing, please specify.

   a. The relevant patient information, including:
      - De-identified demographic information (age, gender, ethnicity)
      - Main symptoms of the patient
      - Medical, family and psychosocial history
      - Relevant past interventions and their outcomes

   b. The relevant physical examination findings
c. Important dates and times in this case (if appropriate, organized as a timeline via a figure or table); if specific dates could lead to patient identification, consider including time relevant to initial presentation, i.e. initial presentation at $T = 0$, follow up at $T = 1$ month.

d. Diagnostic assessments, including:
   - Diagnostic methods
   - Challenges (e.g., financial, language/cultural)
   - Reasoning and prognostic characteristics (e.g., staging), where applicable

e. Types and mechanism of intervention

f. A summary of the clinical course of all follow-up visits

Comments: All elements were provided, except for a follow-up visit after discharge.

5. Is the interpretation (discussion and conclusion) well balanced and supported by the case presented?

Comments: Yes

6. Is the anonymity of the patient protected? Please consider any identifying information in images such as facial features or nametags, whether the patient is named etc. If not, please detail below.

Yes

7. Is the Abstract representative of the case presented?

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

Comments: Yes.

9. Additional comments for the author(s)?

The authors describe a case of oesophageal rupture and pneumomediastinum following a prolonged second stage of labour in a 27-year old primigravida. The paper is well written, and I have just minor comments.

1. P2 L37: Originating in or originating from?

2. P3 L1: If you prefer using the commercial name of drugs, then the drug name should be in capitals and carrying a trademark.

3. P3 L13: Provide unit for the blood pressure and respiratory rate. Please, do same for the serum lactate and bicarbonate.

4. P3 L22: All abbreviations like ECG should be defined at first use.

5. P4 L11: The authors list serial chest xrays like it is a treatment the patients received for her oesophageal rupture.

6. Attaching images of the CXR and CT-angiogram to highlight significant findings will increase the credibility of this paper.

Level of interest

Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article of importance in its field
Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:
Acceptable

Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:
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2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?
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