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Editor-in-chief,

World Journal of Orthopedics

ESPS-MS NO: 22568

Title: Entrapment of middle cluneal nerves as an unknown cause of low back pain.

Xue-Mei Gong, Science Editor, Editorial Office

We are enclosing the manuscript entitled "Entrapment of middle cluneal nerves as an unknown cause of low back pain and pseudosciatica." for consideration as a publication in **the** World Journal of Orthopedics. This is a revision of previous submission entitled "Entrapment of superior and middle cluneal nerves as an unknown cause of low back pain and pseudosciatica (ID: 00503831)." According to the reviewer's comment, manuscript has been carefully revised. This case report has not been published previously or submitted elsewhere for review. There has been no surgical report of entrapment of the middle cluneal nerves. We present a case of severe low back pain,

which was completely treated by release of the nerve. The symptoms of these patients mimicked a radiculopathy and disc disorders in lumbosacral spine. Actually, this case was misdiagnosed and surgically treated as a lumbar spine disorder. We believe that not only neurosurgeons but also orthopaedists, spine surgeons, rheumatologist, and pain clinicians should pay attention to this clinical entity. We appreciate your review of this work. We sincerely appreciate the comments from the reviewers of our manuscript and have revised our manuscript in accordance with their suggestions. We hope that our manuscript will be accepted in its present form for publication in your prestigious journal.

Sincerely yours,

Yoichi Aota, M.D.

First and foremost, we are very grateful to all the reviewers for their meticulous reviews of our paper, reflecting their interest in it.

Reviewer #1 Comments:

1. This is an interesting case report of an unknown cause of low back pain.

Entrapment of superior and middle cluneal nerves are certainly an underdiagnosed entity. Therefore, this case report has the important task to make health professionals aware of this clinical condition. However there are some issues that I would like to point out: - The very first reference is numbered 34. The author should number the references in Arabic numerals according to the citation order in the text. Put reference numbers in square brackets in superscript at the end of citation content or after the cited authors name.

Reply to the Reviewer's Comments: In the text, number of references were changed in accordance with the citation order in the text. I put reference numbers in square brackets in superscript.

2. Try not to use any abbreviation in the abstract. - The terms "low back pain", "superior cluneal nerve" and "middle cluneal nerve" and its respective abbreviations are used too often. Authors should look for other ways to avoid excessive use of repetitive terms as well as to avoid abbreviations.

Reply to the Reviewer's Comments: According to the "Guidelines and requirements for the manuscript Revision: Editorial", abbreviations were defined in the abstract. Excessive use of repetitive terms were reduced.

3. Authors should also avoid to use first person in text. Phrases like "in my personal communications..." or "in my experience" are inadequate. - The topic "Modern Studies" should comprise only its first paragraph. Everything from " To date, common procedures..." through "substantial relief in one" is in fact DISCUSSION. The last paragraph "SCN/MCN surgeries were approved..." is methods, and can enter as the first paragraph of the case report.

Reply to the Reviewer's Comments: Sentences containing "in my personal communications...", "in my experience" and " To date, common procedures..."

were deleted. Sentence of "SCN/MCN surgeries were approved..." was moved in the first section of surgery in the case report.

4. There are too many redundant references. - Books and congress presentations citations such as 15, 16 and 31 should be avoided.

Reply to the Reviewer's Comments: Books and congress presentations citations were deleted.

5. Revision by native speaker of english is needed.

Reply to the Reviewer's Comments: This revision had been passed through an English editing service.