

May 29, 2015

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 17925-review.doc).

Title: Delayed diagnosis of isolated alar ligament rupture: a case report

Author: Robin A. Kaufmann, Ingo Marzi, Thomas J. Vogl

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Radiology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 17925

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

While 2 reviewers had no further questions we meanwhile were able to address the 4 issues of reviewer s #2829907 and #2664504 as follows:

Ad 1) Introduction: Clinical importance of alar ligament ruptures might be mentioned.

Answer: In general we state (page 1) that upper cervical spine injuries *"frequently are associated with long-term impairment or work disability of involved individuals and bear a relevant medical and socioeconomic impact"* which is also the case in ligament ruptures. Moreover we mention that *" these cases are probably underdiagnosed, since they might be missed on initial presentation and only be identified in the context of persistent cervical instability"*

Ad 2) and ad 3) Discussion: Radiologic findings related to this pathology might be detailed (especially MR findings). Did the authors correlated MR scan with and without contrast agent?

Answer: We widened the respective part in the discussion (page 5) as follows: *" Since T1-weighted images provide poor contrast resolution and thus less ability to differentiate small variations in signalling we in addition used a Gadolinium contrast enhanced imaging technique. We evaluated the unenhanced and enhanced images in comparison and could better stage the amount of ligamentous injury and an oedema of surrounding tissues."*

Ad 4) Figure2: Time interval between trauma and MR scan should be mentioned.

Answer: Time interval was added in the figure legend.

Ad 5) Does the Authors have an open-mouth X-ray..If yes, attach it as this will highlight the importance of radiograph.

Answer: Unfortunately this was not done and therefore is not mentioned in our report. We hope that we could meet your expectations and to appropriately answer to all the concerns.

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Radiology*.

Sincerely yours,



Robin A Kaufmann

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