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Dear Professor Shui Qiu,

Thank you for your answer regarding possible publication of our manuscript (NO.: 24389) in the World Journal of Orthopedics.

Critical review by the Editorial staff and reviewers was appreciated as it will further improve the quality of the manuscript. The reviewers' comments have been discussed with the co-authors and corresponding changes to the manuscript are written as a highlighted text. Each concern of the reviewers is separately addressed in the following pages.

We have re-checked the manuscript to comply with the World Journal of Orthopedics Guidelines and Requirements for Manuscript Revision: Case Report Checklist. After final corrections were made, the manuscript was reviewed by a native English speaker. A table characterizing the case reported in the Korean article was added, as suggested by the reviewer.

Should you require any additional information, contact me at your convenience.

Yours sincerely, Lovro Suhodolčan

Response to reviewers:

Reviewer No1: Priority Publishing. No Comments:

Reviewer No2:

1. Grammar of course needs to be corrected and some of their terminology may need adjustment. Minor language polishing.

After final corrections were made, the manuscript was reviewed by a native English speaker as suggested.

2. The authors should probably compare the instability to that observed adjacent to surgically fused vertebrae, and perhaps address the possible risk of future "subcervical" instability in this patient. Also, I am not sure of the status of the facet - was this an erosion or a fracture?

X-rays of the cervical spine on the day of the admission demonstrated spontaneous apophyseal joint fusion from the occipital condyle to C6 and from C7 to Th2. Flexion and extension X-rays showed wide apophyseal joint space between C6 and C7, suggesting instability and excessive mobility. Computerized tomography confirmed ankylosis at the C0-C1 level. No fractures of facets were noted on bending x-rays and CT imaging.

4. It would also be useful for the authors to include a table characterizing the cases reported in the Korean article they cited - as that journal may not be easily accessible? The frequency seems higher than we see in North America, so the perspective will be valuable.

Characteristics of a case reported by Kim et al are summarized in Table 1, which was added to the manuscript, as suggested by the reviewer.