

07/29/2021

Dear Editor and Reviewers,

Enclosed please find manuscript No.69727 titled, "Clinical algorithm for preventing missed diagnoses of occult cervical spine instability after acute trauma: a case report" to be considered for resubmission as a case report to ***World Journal of Clinical Cases***. We thank the editor and reviewers for their overall positive reviews of our work and their constructive feedback for our manuscript. We revised our manuscript point-by-point based on the comments and suggestions. All changes to the manuscript are highlighted in the revised manuscript, and the responses are listed point-by-point below in blue.

All of the authors have read the revised manuscript and agreed with its contents, and no portion of this work has been submitted for consideration elsewhere. Thank you very much in advance for considering our manuscript.

Sincerely,

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The Point-by-point Response to Reviewers' Comments

We thank the editor and reviewers for their overall positive reviews of our work and their constructive feedback for our manuscript. We revised our manuscript point-by-point based on the comments and suggestions. All changes to the manuscript are highlighted in the revised manuscript, and the responses are listed point-by-point below in blue.

Reviewer #1:

*1) **Response to comment:** Please, explain the mechanism and details of the trauma, including the height of the fall and other injuries to the patient.*

Response: The patient presented with cervical spine pain and inability to stand following a serious fall from a height of 2 meters. No other injuries or comorbidities were present. We have added this to the revised manuscript (page 4, line 25; page 5, lines 20).

Reviewer #2:

*1) **Comment:** The Manuscript needs minor grammar revision.*

Response: We reread the manuscript several times and corrected any typographical and grammatical errors. Moreover, we also requested a professional English company and one native English speaker to help us polish the manuscript. All corrections have been highlighted in the revised manuscript.

Editors:

*1) **Comment:** Core-tip and audio is missing.*

Response: We have added Core-tip to the revised manuscript (Page 4, lines 1-7). We will upload the audio.

“Core Tip: Currently, there is no consensus on the optimal strategy for diagnosing occult cervical spine instability. We present a case of occult cervical spine instability and provide a clinical algorithm for diagnosing occult instability of the cervical spine. In this clinical algorithm, we recommend bedside lateral X-ray under traction or lateral X-ray after anesthesia and muscle relaxation prior to surgery as an effective, safe, and efficient method for detecting

highly suspected instability of the cervical spine. We believe that this clinical algorithm will aid physicians in preventing missed diagnoses of occult instability of the cervical spine.”

2) Comment: *The “Author Contributions” section is missing. Please provide the author contributions.*

Response: We have added “Author Contributions” to the revised manuscript (Page 1, lines 22-28).

“Author contributions: Zhu C and Yang H conceived the study design, carried out the study, and drafted the manuscript; Im G and Liu L carried out the initial analyses and reviewed and revised the manuscript. Zhou C and Song Y coordinated and supervised data collection and critically reviewed and revised the manuscript for important intellectual content. All authors approved the final manuscript as submitted and agree to be accountable for all aspects of the work. Zhu C and Yang H contributed equally to this work. Im G is a native English speaker and refined the language of the manuscript.”

3) Comment: *The authors did not provide original pictures. Please provide the original figure documents. Please prepare and arrange the figures using PowerPoint to ensure that all graphs or arrows or text portions can be reprocessed by the editor.*

Response: We will provide the original figure documents when uploading the revision files.

4) Comment: *The “Case Presentation” section was not written according to the Guidelines for Manuscript Preparation. Please re-write the “Case Presentation” section, and add the “FINAL DIAGNOSIS”, “TREATMENT”, and “OUTCOME AND FOLLOW-UP” sections to the main text, according to the Guidelines and Requirements for Manuscript Revision.*

Response: We have rewritten the “Case Presentation” section in the revised manuscript according to the *Guidelines for Manuscript Preparation* (Page 4, lines 22-28; Page 5, lines 1-29; Page 6, lines 1-17).

5) Comment: *Please update manuscript format per journal guidelines.*

Response: We have revised the manuscript format according to journal guidelines.

6) Comment: *Please provide Copyright License Agreement and *Conflict-of-Interest Disclosure Form.*

Response: We will upload the Copyright License Agreement and Conflict-of-Interest Disclosure Form.

7) Comment: *PMID and DOI numbers are missing in the reference list. Please provide the PubMed numbers and DOI citation numbers to the reference list and list all authors of the references. Please revise throughout.*

Response: We have expanded the reference list and revised the format of the references per journal guidelines (Page 8, lines 11-30; Page 9, lines 1-22).

8) Comment: *The authors did not provide original pictures. Please provide the original figure documents. Please prepare and arrange the figures using PowerPoint to ensure that all graphs or arrows or text portions can be reprocessed by the editor.*

Response: We will provide the original figure documents when uploading the revision files.

9) Comment: *Please expand the reference list.*

Response: We have expanded the reference list and revised the format of the references per journal guidelines (Page 8, lines 11-30; Page 9, lines 1-22).