

Jan.13, 2014

Dear Editor,

I have enclosed the manuscript for World Journal of Orthopedics #7344.

Title: Modern Posterior Screw Techniques in the Pediatric Cervical Spine

Author: Daniel Hedequist MD

Name of Journal: World Journal of Orthopedics

ESPS Manuscript NO: 7344

Below are the changes/answers to the reviewers:

Reviewer 00724252:

1) I have added lines 294-296 as well as reference 17 regarding the experience of pedicle screws in the subaxial cervical spine.

Reviewer 02446747

- 1) This is a technique article and a topic highlight for review.
- 2) The paper is a description of techniques for posterior screw fixation and I have reworded the title so that there is no expectation of anterior procedures.
- 3) I do not use a modified technique for C1 lateral mass screws and do not use the atlanto-axial jamming technique.
- 4) The case you are querying about—no odontoid excision was done. Reduction of the deformity was done with traction and instrumentation. The article is about posterior screw fixation techniques and transoral anterior approaches do not belong in the article.
- 5) I have described multiple screw options for C2. Operative fixation of pediatric hangman's fractures would be a rare occurrence and would be done with any variety of means, including C2 screw fixation discussed in article.

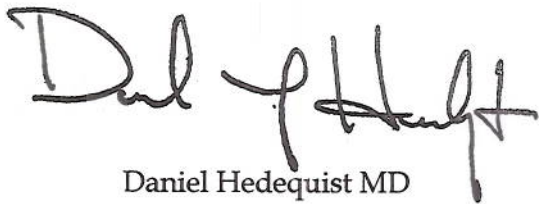
Reviewer 00501328:

- 1) The article has 17 references. I have placed only references which are important on the techniques, there are not many and I have placed only ones I deemed important.
- 2) I have changed the title to include techniques.
- 3) The paper was written regarding posterior techniques and I have added posterior in title, no anterior techniques are discussed.
- 4) I did not add any older wiring techniques as the paper is focused on posterior screw fixation.

- 5) I did not discuss occipital fixation as I wanted to solely discuss screw techniques and wanted to keep the article a reasonable length.
- 6) I do not use Pediguard.
- 7) I have a section in the paper on neuromonitoring: Lines 85-89

The references and typesetting for this manuscript are correct.
I look forward to seeing this paper in the World Journal of Orthopedics.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan Hedequist', with a stylized, cursive script.

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