

ANSWERING REVIEWERS

November 11, 2013

Dear Editor,

Thank you very much for reviewing our (ESPS) Manuscript NO: 5976, entitled " Severe isolated sciatic neuropathy due to a modified lotus position ".

An author's response to reviewer's comments:

We revised our manuscript according to reviewer's comments, point by point.

Reviewer 1:

First reviewer suggested four queries for our manuscript. Please find out in response letter and in the text. Please read carefully and consider an acceptance. We are looking forward to receiving acceptance letter from WJCC.

1. The authors assume that the sciatic neuropathy has been generated due to continuous sitting in modified lotus position. Although this might be a possible cause, there is no way to verify this hypothesis.

ANSWER: Indeed it is not possible to prove that that in this case prolonged sitting in the so-called lotus position had resulted in sciatic neuropathy. However, it is plausible to assume this hypothesis. Patient was sitting in this position for months with his heel pressing the right sciatic nerve. Furthermore, as a result of the neuropathy local osteoporosis had developed in the right leg, in literature known as disuse osteoporosis. Secondly, in literature lotus neuropathy is a rare, although known complication of prolonged sitting in the yoga position and in our patient there were no other clues to assume another explanation for the isolated sciatic neuropathy.

2. Both PTSS and schizophrenia are associated with alterations in the release profile and action of neurotransmitters (mainly dopamine and serotonin).

ANSWER: In literature it is known that in PTSS and schizophrenia a dysregulation in dopamine and serotonin exists. However, to our best knowledge this is not associated with isolated peripheral neuropathies. We believe that this theory is beyond the scope of our case report, in which we try to illustrate a rare cause of sciatic neuropathy as spot diagnosis (picture of the sitting position in combination with the EMG).

3. Severe isolated sciatic neuropathy due to a modified lotus position. The authors present a case of a sciatic nerve palsy due to a persistent lotus position. Sciatic nerve palsy/injury due to positional issues is well known and has been described in literature several times. Thus I do not think that this case report is worth publishing as there is no new message nor does it add to our understanding of this disease.

ANSWER: Indeed sciatic nerve palsy is a well-known complication of positional issues. However, yoga or lotus neuropathies have been described in only a few cases. To our best knowledge, illustrations of a patient sitting in a prolonged lotus position have never been published. The scope of the article is to present a remarkable cause of isolated sciatic neuropathy as a spot diagnosis (picture of the sitting position in combination with the EMG).

Furthermore, the manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers: the format has been updated including title page, references, captions of figure 1.

Thank you again for reviewing our manuscript.

Sincerely yours,

On behalf of the authors,

Jacob W Bosma, MD.

Department of Internal Medicine.

St Lucas Andreas Hospital, Department of Internal Medicine, Jan Tooropstraat 164, 1061 AE Amsterdam, The Netherlands, Jacob.bosma@slaz.nl.