

Peer Review File

Article Information: <http://dx.doi.org/10.21037/jss-20-586>.

Reviewer Comments

This is a very helpful case report which presented a complete resolution of chronic pain, sensory impairment and dysfunction following percutaneous transforaminal endoscopic decompression in s FBSS patient. As a matter of fact, endoscopic decompression has been more and more used in FBSS and could achieve favourable results in terms of relieving pain. Few cases have presented both sensory and motor function improvement/restoration. However, highlights of this case are less presented which impede its impact.

Major recommendations:

Comment 1. The authors have cited some FBSS cases treated with usual interventions while few ones treated with endoscopic decompression (reference 11 and 13 and 14). However, in the discussion, I fail to find the comparison between this case and similar cases (ref 11, 13, 14), aiming to point out this case report's difference/specialities from them. Besides, many other cases which have gained favourable results are ignored. For example:

<http://jss.amegroups.com/article/view/4730/html>

<https://thejns.org/focus/view/journals/neurosurg-focus/40/2/article-pE8.xml>

<https://www.asianspinejournal.org/journal/view.php?number=1053>

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S094926581730310X>

More direct comparisons with previous similar cases (use endoscopic decompression among FBSS patient) are needed.

Reply 1: We have addressed this comment. We discuss other endoscopic decompression successes, as well as how our case is different. We have added several additional references for comparison as well.

Changes in the text: See lines: 202-258

Comment 2. It's really very interesting to see the resolution of both sensory impairment and motor dysfunction. It's highly recommended to discuss why this could happen and why some previous similar cases failed to achieve this.

Reply 2: We have discussed our thoughts in the text.

Changes in the text: See lines: 245-264

Recommendations regarding the CARE GUIDELINE Checklist:

1. Checklist 3a: WHAT IS UNIQUE, in this case, needs highlighting in the abstract.

Changes in text: See lines 24 – 39

2. Checklist 3b: I fail to find this information in the abstract.

Changes in text: See lines 15-22

3. Checklist 3d: take-home message is missing in the abstract.

Changes in text: See lines 33-39

4. Checklist 4: WHY THIS CASE IS UNIQUE should not only be based on the

comparison between endoscopic decompression and traditional treatments but also between this case with previous endoscopic decompression cases.

Changes in text: See lines 50-58

5. Checklist 7: please draw a timeline and make it stand alone with clear time.

Changes in text: see lines 92, 94, 100-101, 107, 115, 122-123, 133-134, 137

6. Checklist 9b: information of previous treatment is needed, including medication, dosage, duration etc.

Changes in text: See lines 72-76, 88

7. Checklist 10b: please provide the latest follow-up outcome if there is.

Reply: The patient has not had another follow up since her postoperative visit.

Changes in text: See lines 134-136

8. Checklist 10d: please add this information even if there's none.

Changes in text: See line 125

Other minor recommendation:

1. Merge 2A and 2B; 3A, 3B, 3C and 3D; and 4A and 4B.

Reply: See page 11, figures have been merged.

A timeline presented as a figure would be best. Some examples from a sister journal:

<http://tocr.amegroups.com/article/view/38743/html>;

<http://tocr.amegroups.com/article/view/38433/html>

Reply: please see newly added Figure 5