

Peer review file

Article information: <https://dx.doi.org/10.21037/acr-21-36>

Reviewer A

In this manuscript titled “Multiple spontaneous cerebrospinal fluid leaks: A rare case report and review of the literature” the authors have presented their experience of treating an elder female patient with spontaneous CSF rhinorrhea with multiple skull base osteo-dural defects. Additionally, they have performed a literature review of this important topic. I have the following concerns with the manuscript:

Comment 1: Line 33: “5-week history of bilateral clear discharge” should be changed to “5-week history of bilateral clear nasal discharge”.

Reply 1: We have modified our text as advised. (see Page 2, line 33)

Changes in the text: The text was changed to “5-week history of bilateral clear nasal discharge”.

Comment 2: Line 160: “observed cases of mCSFLs did not fit into the typical age groups” should be changed to “observed cases of sCSFLs did not fit into the typical age groups”.

Reply 2: We have modified our text as advised. (see Page 8, line 170)

Changes in the text: The text was changed to “observed cases of sCSFLs did not fit into the typical age groups”.

Comment 3: Images should be labeled for anatomical landmarks for a better understanding.

Reply 3: We have modified our images as advised.

Changes in the text: Images were labeled to include anatomical landmarks.

Comment 4: The discussion part of the manuscript should be modified to include the present case as well, and not only a review of the literature.

Reply 4: We have modified our text as advised. (see Page 6, line 117)

Changes in the text: The following paragraph was added “Our patient presented with a typical history of CSF rhinorrhea, however detailed assessment of imaging and the use of intrathecal Fluorescein revealed not only one site of CSF but multiple and bilateral skull base defects that required repair. The multiple skull base defects this patient presented with required meticulous repair, the need of advanced endoscopic sinus surgery skills and additional operative time. This diagnosis should be always on the mind of skull base surgeons especially for patients who fit the profile of sCSF and complain of bilateral CSF rhinorrhea, failure to identify other sites of leakage might lead to persistent CSF leakage and hence the possibility of having complications and the need for further surgeries to repair the missed skull base defects. Furthermore, early anticipation of such cases will help in surgical planning and improved post-operative care such as the need of lumbar drain and ICP lowering medication.”

Reviewer B

The authors present a mCSFL case of a 45-year-old obese woman and review of the literature.

Comment 1: First, the novelty of this case should be clarified.

Reply 1: We have modified our text to include the novelty of this case. (see Page 6, line 117)

Changes in the text: The following text was added “The following paragraph was added “Our patient presented with a typical history of CSF rhinorrhea, however detailed assessment of imaging and the use of intrathecal Fluorescein revealed not only one site of CSF but multiple and bilateral skull base defects that required repair.”

Comment 2: Second, the authors should emphasize what we have learned from this case.

Reply 2: We have modified our text to include what we have learned from this case. (see Page 6, line 119)

Changes in the text: The following text was added “The multiple skull base defects this patient presented with required meticulous repair, the need of advanced endoscopic

sinus surgery skills and additional operative time. This diagnosis should be always on the mind of skull base surgeons especially for patients who fit the profile of sCSF and complain of bilateral CSF rhinorrhea, failure to identify other sites of leakage might lead to persistent CSF leakage and hence the possibility of having complications and the need for further surgeries to repair the missed skull base defects.”

Comment 3: Third, the authors should clarify the knowledge gap that this case can answer.

Reply 3: We have modified our text to clarify the knowledge gap that this case can answer. (see Page 6, line 125)

Changes in the text: The following text was added “Furthermore, early anticipation of such cases will help in surgical planning and improved post-operative care such as the need of lumbar drain and ICP lowering medication.”