

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-54755

Date: 13-11-2025

Title: House Syndrome (Fixed Malleus Head): A Diagnostic Pitfall to Consider Before Stapes Surgery.

Recommendation:

Accept as it is

Accept after minor revision.....

Accept after major revision

Do not accept (*Reasons below*)

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality	✓			
Techn. Quality	✓			
Clarity		✓		
Significance	✓			

Reviewer Name: Dr. Amina

Reviewer's Comment for Publication.

This manuscript presents a **rare and clinically important case** of *primary malleus fixation (House syndrome)*, which mimics otosclerosis and can lead to inappropriate surgical decisions if unrecognized. The report highlights the diagnostic challenges, emphasizes the critical role of **high-resolution temporal bone CT (HRCT)**, and provides practical surgical insights that are valuable to otologic surgeons.

Strengths:

- The paper focuses on a **rare but under-recognized ossicular pathology**, adding meaningful content to otologic literature.
- The **clinical presentation, imaging findings, and intraoperative details** are clearly described and logically sequenced.
- The discussion effectively correlates **radiologic interpretation and surgical decision-making**, which is educational for both radiologists and otologists.
- The **literature review** is current and relevant, citing classic and recent works (1960s–2024).
- The **conclusion** is concise, emphasizing the diagnostic and surgical implications effectively.

Weaknesses / Suggestions for Minor Revision:

1. **Language and formatting:** Minor grammatical and stylistic refinements (e.g., consistent use of tense, spacing, and reference punctuation).

International Journal of Advanced Research

Publisher's Name: Jana Publication and Research LLP

www.journalijar.com

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2. **Abstract:** Can be slightly condensed to highlight the diagnostic pitfall and surgical takeaway more clearly.
3. **Figures:** Inclusion of HRCT images (before and after re-evaluation) would significantly enhance the diagnostic clarity and educational value.
4. **Discussion:** Briefly expand on the **differentiating features** between otosclerosis and malleus fixation on HRCT and audiometry.
5. **References:** Maintain consistent citation style (uniform punctuation and spacing).

Overall Evaluation:

This is a **well-written and insightful case report** that effectively underscores an important diagnostic consideration in middle-ear surgery. The clinical content is original and well-supported by imaging and literature review. With minor language and structural improvements, it is **suitable for publication**.