

## REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-55530

Title: Tuberculose ostéo-articulaire de la cheville simulant un rhumatisme inflammatoire chez un adulte jeune : apport décisif de l'IRM

### 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 S. K. Nath

Date: 02.01.26

### Detailed Reviewer's Report

#### Strengths of the Study

- The study addresses a rare and clinically challenging presentation of tuberculosis involving the ankle, which contributes valuable case-based evidence to the field.
- The emphasis on the pivotal role of MRI in early diagnosis, treatment monitoring, and differentiation from inflammatory diseases adds practical relevance.
- The detailed depiction of MRI features provides useful insights for radiologists and clinicians managing similar cases.
- The longitudinal follow-up with MRI after treatment enhances understanding of disease evolution and treatment response.

#### Weaknesses of the Study

- The study is limited to a single case report, which restricts the generalizability of the findings.
- Absence of detailed information on the diagnostic procedures (e.g., microbiological confirmation via biopsy or cultures) limits the definitive evidence for tuberculosis diagnosis.
- Lack of discussion on differential diagnoses considered and how they were ruled out.
- No specific information on the exact treatment regimen, duration, or adherence details.
- Insufficient discussion about the potential pitfalls and limitations of MRI findings in similar cases.
- The paper does not specify ethical approval or informed consent procedures.

#### Reviewer Comments

- The title accurately reflects the case focus; however, incorporating the significance of MRI could improve clarity, e.g., "... the decisive role of MRI in diagnosis and follow-up."
- The abstract effectively summarizes the case but could be enhanced by explicitly stating the main conclusions and clinical implications.
- The introduction provides relevant context but would benefit from referencing additional recent studies or reviews on musculoskeletal tuberculosis.
- The methodology is appropriate for a case report but lacks specific details on diagnostic confirmation (biopsy, PCR, culture). Clarify whether microbiological evidence was obtained to definitively confirm tuberculosis.
- The results are clearly presented, with detailed MRI descriptions. Inclusion of more illustrative figures or tables summarizing key findings could improve reader comprehension.

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- The discussion contextualizes the rarity of ankle tuberculosis and emphasizes MRI's role. However, it should address potential diagnostic pitfalls and limitations of MRI in similar scenarios.
- The conclusion appropriately underscores the importance of MRI but should also mention the necessity for histopathological or microbiological confirmation where possible.
- Ethical considerations are not mentioned. Explicit confirmation of ethical approval and informed consent is necessary, especially for publishing case details.
- Language quality is generally good; minor typographical edits could enhance readability. Ensure consistency in terminology and abbreviations throughout.
- The references are relevant, but the formatting should adhere to journal standards, and recent literature could be incorporated to strengthen the background and discussion sections.