OPEN PEER REVIEW

Open Peer Review (OPR)

As a new feature for progressing towards transparency, we decided to open a new window for all of our editors as well as authors titled "**Open Peer Review**". We hope by this new facility, our reviewers will be more motivated and authors will be more satisfied with the review process. We believe that publishing our peer review reports could make a transparent and clear environment for all our efforts within a journal, but not all reviewers tend to publish their comments.

What is "Open Peer Review" process?

An "Open Peer Review" process is making the details of all review process (including reviewers, associate editors, and EICs comments) as "Public" as it is agreed by EIC, Authors, and reviewers.

Advantages of "Open Peer Review" process

- More transparency, constructiveness and tactful comments of the peer review process: leads to an increase in the quality of reviews
- More motivations for all involved roles in the review process
- Authors' satisfactions from the review process: Increases honesty between authors and reviewers
- Education of both authors and new students
- Prevents reviewers from following their individual agendas and leading to the detection of reviewers' conflicts of interests

You can find out more at:
https://sites.kowsarpub.com/kowsar/knowledgebase/category/tree.html#opr.html

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Peer Review Report for "Effect of Growth Hormone Therapy in Patients with Noonan Syndrome: A Retrospective Study"

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Review Timeline:

Submit Date: 8 Jul 2020
Revised Date: 14 Sep 2020
Accepted Date: 23 Sep 2020

Revision (0)

Here, you can see the **Reviewers**, **Associate Editors** and **EICs'** comments from the beginning to the end of the revision process.

REFEREE: Reviewer | Revision (0) — 2 Aug 2020

Dear AE,
The manuscript entitled "The effect of Growth Hormone Therapy in patients with Noonan Syndrome" has the potential to be accepted, but some points have to be clarified or fixed before we can proceed.
1. Result: Please mention SD for IGf1 level , before and after treatment.
2. What was the P value for height velocity changes (before and after treatment) in the second year of treatment?
3. Because of a low number of cases (7 cases) evaluation of the correlation between H.V and height with IGF1 will not be valid. Please explain this.
4. If there are genotyping results for these patients, please mention and clarify how many of them had PTPN11 mutation.
Thanks.

Hengameh Abdi: Reviewer | Revision (0) — 25 Aug 2020

Dear AE,
The manuscript entitled “The Effect of Growth Hormone Therapy in patients with Noonan

Syndrome" was reviewed. It is a "case series" study in 12 patients with Noonan syndrome. Several points should be addressed before considering the manuscript for publication:

- I suggest the manuscript title be changed to "Effect of Growth Hormone Therapy in Patients with Noonan Syndrome: A Retrospective Case Series Study".

Materials and Methods:

- Please add the name of city and country of the study.
- Height measurements have not been described.
- Data regarding laboratory measurements such as CV of assays should be mentioned with more details.
- Line 79: What is TW2?
- Please add a statement regarding monitoring of safety of the treatment.

Results:

- Please summarize data presented in the text in a table named as Table 1 and merge Table 2 with this table; also add number of patients for each variable and p-values for related variables.

Thanks.

REFEREE: Associate Editor | **Revision** (0) 27 Aug 2020

Dear EIC,

The manuscript needs minor revision before it can be accepted for publication.

Thanks.

REFEREE: EIC | **Revision** (0) 27 Aug 2020

Dear Author,

The manuscript needs revision before it can be accepted for publication.

Thanks.

OPEN PEER REVIEW

Revision (1)

Reply to Reviewers

Ideally, the reviewing process can significantly improve the submitted manuscripts by allowing the authors to take into account the advice of reviewers. Author(s) must reply to all reviewers' comments in a separate Word file, point by point. A "**Reply to Reviewers**" document is submitted along with revised manuscript during submission of revised files, summarizing the changes that the authors made in response to the reviewers' comments. The responses to reviewers' comments specifies how the authors addressed each comment the reviewers made.

You can read the authors' responses to the reviewers' comments in the next page.

Reviewer comments and response:

To the Editor and Reviewers

Thank you very much to the editor and reviewers for the valuable comments and suggestions. We have carefully considered the very helpful comments and suggestions raised by the expert reviewers and have made changes to the manuscript as suggested (these are highlighted in red in the manuscript). Below is a point by point response to the comments raised. A neat version of the manuscript is also attached.

Reviewer 1

	The manuscript entitled "The effect of Growth Hormone Therapy in patients with Noonan Syndrome" has a potential to be accepted, but some points have to be clarified or fixed before we can proceed.		
1	*Result: Please mention SD for IGf1 level, before and after treatment.*	Thank you for your comment. The SD values have now been added to the manuscript.	Please see page 5, para 3 and page 6, para 1.
2	*What was the P value for height velocity changes (before and after treatment) in second year of treatment?*	Thank you for your comment. This has now been included.	Please see page 6 para 2.
3	*Because of low number of cases (7 cases) evaluation of correlation between H.V and height with IGF1will not be valid. Please explain about this.*	Thank you for your comment. We fully agree and have therefore included IGF1 values but have not attempted any correlation	
4	*If there are genotyping results for these patients, please mention and clarify ow many of them had PTPN11 mutation.*	Thank you for the suggestion. Unfortunately we did not have the genotype data and we have included this in the study limitations.	Please see page 9, para 2.

Reviewer 2

	The manuscript entitled "The effect of Growth Hormone Therapy in patients with Noonan Syndrome" was reviewed. It is a "case series" study in 12 patients with Noonan syndrome. *Several points should be addressed before considering the manuscript for publication:*		
1	*I suggest the manuscript title be changed to "Effect of Growth Hormone Therapy in Patients with Noonan Syndrome: A Retrospective Case Series Study".*	Thank you for your recommendation, we have changed the title as suggested.	Please see title page and page 1 of manuscript.
2	*Please add the name of city and country of the study.*	Thank you for your comment, this has now been included in the manuscript.	Please see page 4, para 3.
3	*Height measurements have not been described.*	Thank you. This has now been included.	Please see page 4, para 3.
4	*Data regarding laboratory measurements such as CV of assays should be mentioned with more details.*	Thank you for the suggestion, we have now included this information	Please see page 4 para 4.
5	*Line 79: What is TW2?*	Apologies for not clarifying this abbreviation. TW2 is a type of Tanner-Whitehouse method used to determine bone age. This has now been added to the	Please see page 4, para 4.

		manuscript.	
6	*Please add a statement regarding monitoring of safety of the treatment.*	Thank you for your comment. We have mentioned that the medication was tolerated well and the patients were regularly followed up by the cardiology team. We have now amended this further.	Please see page 8, para 3.
7	*Results:* *Please summarize data presented in the text in a table named as Table 1 and merge Table 2 with this table; also add number of patients for each variable and p-values for related variables.*	Thank you for the suggestions. Due to the nature of the data, we feel it would be useful to maintain both tables so that it is easy for the readers to visualise the information.	

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Revision (1)

Here, you can see the **Reviewers**, **Associate Editors** and **EICs'** comments from the beginning to the end of the revision process.

Hedyeh Saneifard: Reviewer | **Revision** (1) — 16 Sep 2020

Dear AE,
After reviewing the revision of manuscript entitled Effect of Growth Hormone Therapy in Patients with Noonan Syndrome: A Retrospective Study , it is suitable for publication.
Thanks.

REFEREE: Reviewer | **Revision** (1) — 22 Sep 2020

Dear AE,
The revised manuscript is acceptable for publication in the IJEM.
Thanks.

REFEREE: Associate Editor | **Revision** (1) — 23 Sep 2020

Dear EIC,
The authors responded to the comments raised by the reviewers satisfactorily. Now, the manuscript is suitable for publication in the IJEM.
Thanks.

REFEREE: EIC | **Revision** (1) — 23 Sep 2020

Dear Author,
The manuscript is now acceptable for publication in the IJEM.
Thanks.