

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-56696

Title: A diagnostic puzzle over time, post-traumatic ankle pain

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

Detailed Reviewer's Report

Strengths of the Study

- The manuscript addresses a clinically relevant issue chronic ankle pain following trauma highlighting its importance for orthopedic diagnosis and management.
- It includes multiple case studies spanning different age groups and injury histories, providing a broad perspective on post-traumatic ankle osteoarthritis.
- The use of both clinical examination and imaging (X-ray, MRI) supports comprehensive diagnostic evaluation.
- The discussion emphasizes the pathophysiology of osteophyte formation and its role in chronic ankle pain.
- The paper advocates for timely intervention, which aligns with current clinical practices aiming to prevent long-term disability.

Weaknesses of the Study

- The sample size is limited to four cases, which restricts the generalizability of conclusions.
- The methodology lacks detailed description, especially concerning the inclusion/exclusion criteria, the imaging protocols, and the surgical techniques applied.
- No statistical analysis or outcome measures are presented; hence, the efficacy of intervention cannot be conclusively evaluated.
- Ethical considerations such as institutional review board (IRB) approval and patient consent are not mentioned.
- The presentation contains typographical errors and inconsistent formatting, reducing readability (e.g., random line numbers and spacing issues).
- Figures and images are referred to but not included in the manuscript; adequate image quality and proper captioning are necessary.
- References are limited and not up-to-date; important recent studies on ankle osteoarthritis are missing.

Detailed Reviewer Comments

- **Title and Abstract Clarity:** The title is concise but could specify that the focus is on post-traumatic osteoarthritis or osteophyte-related pathology. An abstract summary is absent; including a clear abstract summarizing objectives, methods, results, and conclusions would significantly enhance clarity.

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- **Introduction and Objectives:** The introduction discusses ankle pain broadly but lacks a clearly defined research question or study objectives. Clarifying aims such as evaluating the clinical and radiological features of post-traumatic osteoarthritis would strengthen the manuscript.
- **Methodology and Statistical Analysis:** The methodology is described in a narrative manner without standardized protocols or measurement tools. No statistical methods or outcome assessments are presented. Future revisions should include detailed methods and consider including quantitative data for robust analysis.
- **Results and Discussion:** The case descriptions are detailed but descriptive data is lacking. Incorporation of pre- and post-operative outcome scores and follow-up data would be beneficial. The discussion appropriately references osteophyte formation but should place findings within the context of current literature, comparing different management strategies.
- **Conclusion and Implications:** The conclusion rightly emphasizes early detection and intervention but should be supported by explicit clinical outcome data. Recommendations for future research could strengthen this section.
- **Ethical Clearance:** Ethical approval and patient consent procedures are not mentioned. Including this information is essential to adhere to research standards.
- **Language, Grammar, and Typographical Errors:** The manuscript contains grammatical errors, inconsistent punctuation, and typographical issues (e.g., random numbering, spacing). A thorough proofreading is necessary.
- **Figures, Tables, Formatting, and References:** Figures related to X-ray and MRI images are referenced but not provided. Their inclusion with appropriate labels is essential. References are few and outdated; expanding and updating references is recommended.