



### REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-56771

**Title:** When All Tests Are Normal: Steroid Responsiveness as a Key Diagnostic Argument for Multiple Sclerosis in Pediatric Optic Neuritis

**Recommendation:**

Accept after major revision .....

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

Reviewer's ID: JPR-198

### *Detailed Reviewer's Report*

The manuscript titled *“When All Tests Are Normal: Steroid Responsiveness as a Key Diagnostic Argument for Multiple Sclerosis in Pediatric Optic Neuritis”* presents a case of pediatric optic neuritis with inconclusive investigations, where diagnosis is suggested based on clinical features and response to corticosteroids. The topic is clinically relevant, particularly in pediatric neurology and ophthalmology, where diagnostic ambiguity is common.

However, the manuscript has several conceptual, methodological, and interpretational limitations that need to be addressed before it can be considered for publication.

#### Major Comments

1. Overstatement of Conclusion

- The manuscript concludes that steroid responsiveness is a key diagnostic argument for multiple sclerosis.
- This claim is not sufficiently supported by the presented data.
- The case shows improvement after steroids, but this is not specific to MS.

The conclusion should be toned down and presented more cautiously.

2. Lack of Follow-Up

- The manuscript suggests a diagnosis “suggestive of MS,” but:
  - No long-term follow-up is provided
  - No repeat imaging or clinical progression data

Without follow-up, this interpretation remains uncertain.

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### 3. Differential Diagnosis Not Adequately Discussed

- Alternative diagnoses are listed, but:
  - The reasoning for exclusion is not clearly explained
- Important conditions like:
  - Idiopathic optic neuritis
  - Other inflammatory causes are not discussed in detail.

The differential diagnosis section needs clear justification.

### 4. Missing Ethical Statement

- There is no mention of:
  - Patient consent
  - Ethical approval

This is mandatory for case reports.

## Minor Comments

### 5. Figures Need Proper Presentation

- Images (OCT, visual field, MRI) are included, but:
  - No figure numbers
  - No captions
  - Limited explanation in text

Add proper figure labeling and brief interpretation.

### 6. Language and Formatting

- Minor issues:
  - Missing spaces (e.g., "Medicalhistory")
  - Inconsistent formatting

Requires basic language and formatting correction.