



**Letter to Editor**

**Danger is Going on!**

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**Tehlike Devam Ediyor!**

Dear Editor;

We read the study of Hakan Ak et al named “Lumbar Suturing with Pack Needle in the Management of Low Back Pain: A False Non-Medical Manipulation” carefully.<sup>(1)</sup> Back pain is a very common healthcare problem almost in all populations as the authors also mentioned. Two thirds of adults suffers from back pain in a certain period of lifetime and back pain is the second most common reason in terms of hospital administration.<sup>(2,6)</sup> While 90% of the patients recover with conservative treatment methods within a few weeks; treatment of remaining patients and chronic back pain patients still have difficulties despite the achievements in medical and surgical treatment methods.<sup>(6)</sup> This situation leads patients to non-medical treatment methods (bandages and massages with various herbal mixtures and pastes, plasters) with the effects of socio-economic and cultural factors.<sup>(3)</sup> None of these methods, also mentioned in study of Ak et al<sup>(1)</sup>, is invasive, possible morbid or mortal as much as “rope wrapping to the back” method performed by local healers so called “Ocakçı” in the eastern of Turkey. This method was explained comprehensively in our study named “A Mortal Folk Remedy: Rope Wrapping to the Back” published in 2009 in The Journal of Emergency Medicine. The study was consisting 14 patients and mortal effects of this method was emphasized based on two cases resulted with mortality due to

sepsis.<sup>(5)</sup> This folk remedy, unique to our region, is strongly associated with social, climatological, economic and cultural circumstances and had been performing since the old times as we also stated in our aforementioned study. This method is still being performed frequently and its frequency should not be underestimated since a case series about this method was published in 2013. Desired public consciousness still cannot be achieved despite this subject took place in national press<sup>(4)</sup> at the same time that our study was published. We assert that increasing accessibility to healthcare services, patient-physician relationship and informing the public efficiently about the risks of non-medical remedies, including mortality, may help to solution of this problem in our country.

Sincerely...

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