Reviewer's report

Title: Tolerability of NGX-4010, a capsaicin 8% dermal patch, following pretreatment with lidocaine 2.5%/prilocaine 2.5% cream in patients with post-herpetic neuralgia

Version: 1 Date: 5 January 2011

Reviewer: Vera Bril

Reviewer's report:

The authors present an open study on the effects of lidocaine 2.5%/prilocaine 2.5% cream in reducing pain related to application of capsaicin 8% for PHN. The study is well presented, but an open-label trial. Still, the results are of interest. My main comment is about the lack of any discussion about why this preparation would be used instead of lidocaine 4%. Both have similar benefits, but I did not observe any reason to choose the combination cream. Is the expense of both comparable? Is one option less costly to use? I think that the paper could be improved by some discussion of which option to choose.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.