Author's response to reviews

Title: Assessment of the Feasibility of High-Concentration Capsaicin Patches in the Pain Unit of a Tertiary Hospital for a Population of Mixed Refractory Peripheral Neuropathic Pain Syndromes in Non-Diabetic Patients

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Version: 5 Date: 18 October 2013

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With regard to the requirement for patient consent to publish to be included in your manuscript, this is a matter of journal editorial policy. We will therefore be unable to proceed with your manuscript unless consent to publish is obtained and an appropriate statement included in your manuscript, the data in your table is collated in a manner that renders it completely anonymous, or the table is removed altogether.

A: Patient consent. The following sentence has been modified in the new version of the manuscript for giving clarity to this issue.

“All patients gave their written informed consent (including the publication of the results) for their medical information to be used for purposes of scientific research in accordance with the ethical committee of the participating site.

The Ethical Committee approved the informed consent in September 2010.”

“All patients gave their written informed consent, which was approved for the ethical committee of the participating site in September 2010. In accordance with the signed informed consent, the patients accepted that their medical information were used for purposes of scientific research”.

A: Tables: Both tables, table 1 and 2, have been modified for rendering it completely anonymous. The columns with the Information of gender and age have been removed.
Concerning the reasons that capsaicin patches were applied to the participants in your study, could we ask you to clarify which of the following options describes your study? 1) Patients would have been administered the patches regardless of whether your study was taking place, and you simply took the opportunity to study their effects. 2) Patients were administered the patches for the purposes of your study, as you were interested in studying their effects, and would not have received the patches if your study were not taking place.

A: Our study was performed according with the option 1. The following sentence has been included in the methods section (study design) of the manuscript:

“This study was based on the clinical practice without any modification. That is, the patients were administered the patches regardless of whether your study was taking place. Therefore, this study simply took the opportunity to study their effects.”