Reviewer’s report

Title: Pregabalin, the lidocaine plaster and duloxetine in patients with refractory neuropathic pain: A systematic review

Version: 3 Date: 18 August 2010

Reviewer: Maija Haanpaa

Reviewer’s report:

The authors have revised their first version and addressed most – but not all issues raised by the reviewers.

If the low-level papers (i.e., case series with less than 10 patients, retrospective studies and studies reported only as congress abstracts are included, I regard this as a low-level review with little self-criticism by the authors and don’t regard it worth publishing. Some sort of excuse is that the table includes (A) referring to abstract only publications, but the retrospective / prospective setting is not clearly indicated.

The concept refractory neuropathic pain still remains vague, artificial and obscure in this work, which includes only few publications deserving to be included in a systematic review. To be honest, what does this paper add to the current knowledge???