Author’s response to reviews

Title: Evidence based guidelines for complex regional pain syndrome type 1.

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Editor-In-Chieff,

As suggested by the editorial office of BMC Medicine, my co authors I would like to offer for publication our manuscript entitled ‘Evidence based guidelines for Complex Regional Pain Syndrome type I’ to BMC Neurology.

Complex Regional Pain Syndrome type I (CRPS-I) is a condition that causes multiple problems for both patients and practitioners, due to the large variety of available treatment options. The condition often starts in an arm or leg, usually following (minor) trauma, and is characterized by a combination of autonomic, sensory and vasomotor symptoms. Pain, temperature asymmetry impaired movement, change in skin colour, hyperaesthesia, hyperalgnesia, hyperpathy, tremor, involuntary movements, muscle spasms, paresis, pseudoparalysis, skin, muscle and bone atrophy, hyperhidrosis and changes in hair and nail growth have been reported in patients with this syndrome. It usually requires long-term, intensive medical therapy whereby many CRPS-I patients are no longer able to perform their usual (social) role in everyday life. As a result, CRPS-I has a major impact on quality of life. Much remains to be learned about this condition, which is characterized by a diverse range of symptoms and just as many methods of treatment.

Various sets of diagnostic criteria are used side by side, and many different therapies have been applied to this patient group, some of which are of dubious efficacy. The complexity of this problem, the fact that various disciplines are involved in treatment, and the consequences for the patient’s psychosocial functioning mean that a clear, uniform set of guidelines is essential. In the light of the foregoing considerations, a multidisciplinary task force was instigated by the Dutch Society of Rehabilitation Specialists and the Dutch Society of Anesthesiologists in order to draw up evidence-based guidelines for CRPS-I treatment.
In this manuscript we describe a summary of the evidence based guidelines adopted by all relevant health related professional organizations in The Netherlands (see uploaded method section), with the addition of the Dutch CRPS I patient organization. Although established in the Netherlands, we feel that these guidelines are of importance to the international medical society as being the first evidence based guidelines for CRPS I in the world, drawn up by a mixed group of practicing physicians and established opinion leaders in the field of CRPS I treatment and research.

Yours Sincerely,
On behalf of all co-authors,

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