Reviewer's report

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

Version: 2 Date: 24 August 2009

Reviewer: Raneem Albazaz

Reviewer's report:

This is a systematic review regarding the evidence base of different available treatments for CRPS-1 in which the authors have attempted to produce a set of multidisciplinary guidelines to aid clinicians treating patients with this condition. Suitable studies for inclusion were identified from 1980 to June 2005. A comprehensive set of guidelines has been proposed that includes non-invasive as well as invasive treatment modalities and possible preventative measures. The paper is generally well-written and very comprehensive in its content.

The authors should consider the following points:

Major compulsory revisions:

• The authors must at least attempt an up to date search for any further relevant new studies that have been published since June 2005. Comments about any major studies must be included. If there are no new studies then this should also be made clear.

Minor essential revisions:

• Please complete the sentence in the methods section “A search string based on the PICO method...”
• Results section – 96 studies identified but adding up the break down provided gives a total of only 94.
• Local anaesthetic section – which local anaesthetic was used and how long was follow up for references 16 and 17?
• What is the subanaesthetic dose of ketamine in the quoted study?
• Calcium channel blockers – specify which have been investigated.
• Spinal cord stimulation – reduction of pain intensity by 2.4 cm... please clarify what this means exactly.
• Guanethidine – was the difference between groups in reference 96 not found significant?
• Several spelling mistakes need correcting as well as some missing inverted commas etc... Please re-check all spelling and grammar.

Discretionary revisions:

• Consider removing the sentence in the introduction beginning with “much remains to be learned about this condition, which is characterised....”
• Consider presenting the guidelines in the form of tables rather than bulleted text
at the end of the paper.

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

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

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