Reviewer’s report

Title: Central modulation in cluster headache patients treated with occipital nerve stimulation: an FDG-PET study

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Reviewer: Thorsten Bartsch

Reviewer’s report:

The authors present an interesting study characterising the central effects of occipital nerve stimulation using FDG-PET showing that ONS may (time-dependently) modulate central pain modulating structures over time. They show that changes were not influenced by the on/off state of the stimulation.

Although the sample size is rather small, the study shows a robust effect of ONS.

The only minor addendum I have to make is that the description of the study groups in the methods section is not clear enough for the reader.

The authors should also mention how the stimulation was tolerated and if chronic side effects such as pain might have biased the results or how stimulation-induced paraesthesia was prevalent.

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