Reviewer's report

Title: Transdermal rotigotine for the perioperative management of restless legs syndrome

Version: 1 Date: 10 April 2012

Reviewer: Santiago Perez-Lloret

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The authors comment on a post-hoc analysis about the perioperative use of Rotigotine for RLS treatment.

Major concerns:

Abstract:
1) Study's objective is "To assess rotigotine transdermal patch for the perioperative management of moderate to severe RLS". To assess what? Efficacy? Feasibility of use?
2) In the conclusions, the sentence "This suggests that rotigotine transdermal patch may be a suitable alternative in situations where administration of oral treatments is limited or contraindicated" is too speculative and is not based on study results. It should be removed.

Background:
3) Please remove the sentence “The analysis indicates that treatment with rotigotine transdermal patch can be maintained during the perioperative period in the majority of patients”. Background section is not the place to comment on study results.

Results:
4) In demographics: what about surgery-related concomitant medications?

Discussion:
5) Your results do not suggest “that rotigotine transdermal patch might be useful in the perioperative setting for the continuous alleviation of the usual RLS symptoms experienced by the patients” as you stated. Furthermore, you cannot suggest that “the continuous drug delivery might counteract involuntary movements during surgery or during recovery triggered by bed rest and immobilization”. You should remove these sentences.
6) It is important to review and discuss potential interactions with medications commonly used during surgery. If they have not been explored so far, this should be stated.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest
Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I'm a consultant for UCB France.