Author's response to reviews

Title: Central poststroke pain: somatosensory abnormalities and the presence of associated myofascial pain syndrome.

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To the Editors of BMC Neurology

Please find enclosed to this letter our manuscript on the clinical evaluation of Central Post-Stroke Pain patients and the role of miofascial pain syndrome.

Stroke ranks among the leading causes of death in the world, and up to 40% of these patients will experience Post-Stroke Pain. Among the causes of PSP is CPSP, a neuropathic pain syndrome present in 11% of stroke patients. The definition of CPSP is currently being debated, and some proposals to change it have been made recently. However, main points remain unknown. Very little is known on the co-occurrence of CPSP and other PSP syndromes, and to which extent this association is related to more severe pain or functional impairment in these patients.

We assessed pain characteristics and somatosensory deficits with standardized tools in 40 CPSP and evaluated the presence of other PSP syndromes, in particular, myofascial pain syndrome (MPS). We found that the presence of MPS is frequent in CPSP patients, although its presence was not related to more severe pain in this population. Our results strongly suggest CPSP is more frequently associated with other PSP than and “isolated” entity, and that future diagnostic criteria should take this information into account.

We hope these findings and others enclosed in the paper might merit publication in BMC Neurology should it meet the standards of your Journal.

All authors have read the manuscript, which has never been published and is not under simultaneous evaluation by another journal.

Sincerely;

Dr. Daniel Ciampi de Andrade

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