Reviewer's report

Title: Cerebral neurocysticercosis mimicking or comorbid with episodic migraine?

Version: 2
Date: 26 May 2014
Reviewer: Christoph Schankin

Reviewer's report:

- Major Compulsory Revisions

History p4: The authors state that the patient ‘had no previous history or family history of headaches or migraine’. This is crucial and should be described in more detail in a revision: Who took the history? A neurologist? A neurologist with experience in headache? How detailed was the history? What about headache with fever, after alcohol, with dehydration? This is one of the crucial statements guiding into the direction - migraine caused or migraine aggravated by neurocysticercosis (NCC). Further, treatment of NCC resulted a reduction of headache frequency over the two months period – and not a complete cessation suggesting that the patient continued to have migraine attacks despite successful treatment of the NCC. This is further supported by the patient’s age (24 years) meaning that it is also likely that he might have experienced migraine without aura in the future anyway.

The authors already state that the patient possibly had migraine aggravated by NCC. I think this is the more likely eventuality. In my opinion, the authors should state their conclusion – that NCC caused migraine in an individual without any migraine biology – with less conviction, unless there is truly no history of headache in the past taken by a neurologist with experience in headache.

- Minor Essential Revisions

p7 last paragraph: Here it should be discussed that secondary headaches typically mimick primary headaches. It has often been suggested in the past that some secondary headaches might be more likely triggered primary headaches, as for instance shown for brain tumor-headache, post-ictal headache, GTN-induced headache and others. Again, this makes it more likely that the headache in this patient is a secondary headache in a patient with predisposition to migrainous headaches.

I fully agree with the last sentence of the conclusion.

- Discretionary Revisions

None.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
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.