Reviewer's report

Title: Traumatic-event headaches

Version: 1 Date: 12 May 2004

Reviewer: Keith Nicholson

Reviewer's report:

General

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
none

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
-juxtaposition mis-spelled on p 10.

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

-the problems associated with mind-body dualism should be avoided and, in this regard, it would help to qualify further what is meant by altered mental states, the role of psychosocial factors in the etiology/maintenance, etc in headache in general (with further relevant references provided), what might be the meaning of psychogenic with some reference to and possible underlying psychophysiological mechanisms of effect.

-perhaps briefly identify IHS criteria for tension and migraine headaches

-how was ptsd assessed? I presume this was a qualitative observation and suspect that more structured or systematic study would have identified a high incidence of at least subclinical levels

-briefly mention the limitations of the study in the discussion, e.g., a case series, no measures of mental state or psychosocial factors, etc

-how are these headaches different, if at all, from what may be expected if "naturally occurring"

What next?: Accept after discretionary revisions

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No
Declaration of competing interests:

none