Reviewer's report

Title: Acute treatment of migraine. Breaking the paradigm of monotherapy

Version: Date: 20 December 2003

Reviewer: James Adelman

Reviewer's report:

General - The author is a thought leader & researcher in the area of combining triptans & NSAIDS. His research & publications have lead to improved outcomes world-wide. It is appropriate for him to tackle this subject.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)
The author correctly states that many patient treated with monotherapy (triptans) get inadequate response or recurrence leading to discontinuation of therapy. He also correctly states that the failed responses may relate to different pathophysiology of migraine with such mechanisms as “low” serotonin, neurogenic inflammation, dopaminergic hypersensitivity, transient disturbances in cortical sensory functions, release of potassium and hydrogen ions, activation Cfiber meningeal nociceptors, sensitization of dorsal horn neurons and secretion of calcitonin-gene-related-peptide, histamine, serotonin, bradykinin, and prostaglandins, etc.

While he mentions use of metoclopramide & prochlorperazine in combination with other medications, his emphasis is clearly only therapy of triptans & NSAIDS. I had hoped, by the title of the paper, that the author would take us beyond this point. It would be instructive & stimulating to take the proposed headache mechanisms and suggest combinations or available medications which could be used providing opportunity for improved outcomes, further thought & investigation.

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
The author might mention indications for going beyond monotherapy. Should this be the standard or just for certain patients? Which patients? Which combinations?

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
none, this paper is a valuable contribution....but could be more valuable!

What next?: Accept after minor essential 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