Author's response to reviews

Title: Safety and efficacy of duloxetine treatment in older and younger patients with osteoarthritis knee pain: a post hoc, subgroup analysis of two randomized, placebo-controlled trials

Authors:

Joseph L Micca (jlmicca@aol.com)
Dustin Ruff (ruff_dustin@lilly.com)
Jonna Ahl (ahl_jonna@lilly.com)
Madelaine M Wohlreich (mwmd@lilly.com)

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Author's covering letter for initial submission

Title: Safety and efficacy of duloxetine treatment in older and younger patients with osteoarthritis knee pain: a post hoc, subgroup analysis of two randomized, placebo-controlled trials

Authors:

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Comments:

BMC Geriatrics

Dear Editor,

We are submitting our manuscript "Safety and efficacy of duloxetine treatment in older and younger patients with osteoarthritis knee pain: a post hoc, subgroup analysis of two randomized, placebo-controlled trials" to be considered for publication in BMC Geriatrics. All authors have read and approved the manuscript for submission.

Osteoarthritis (OA) of the knee is the most common form of arthritis in the elderly and a leading cause of disability. Prescription pain management options for OA knee pain include opioids and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), which are associated with potential use-limiting side effects. Recently duloxetine hydrochloride was approved by the FDA for management of chronic musculoskeletal pain based on results from trials in patients with OA knee pain and chronic low back pain.

We conducted a post hoc analysis of the two trials in patients with OA knee pain, stratifying the data by age, to examine the efficacy and safety of duloxetine versus placebo in the management of OA knee pain in older (>65) patients relative to a younger (<65) population. The outcome of this analysis suggests that duloxetine is efficacious and well tolerated in the older patients similar to what was observed in younger patients.

We feel that this information would be of interest to clinicians who treat older patients with osteoarthritis knee pain.

We look forward to receiving reviewer comments and suggestions, and acceptance of this manuscript for publication.

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Sincerely,

Madelaine Wohlreich, MD
Medical Fellow
Lilly USA, LLC, Drop Code 4133
Indianapolis, IN 46285
Phone: 317-276-2077; Fax: 317-276-7100
email: mwmd@lilly.com