Reviewer’s report

Title: Norepinephrine-evoked pain in Fibromyalgia. A Randomized Study.

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Reviewer: Dr Andrew R. Willan

Level of interest: A paper whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Advice on publication: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the compulsory revisions

METHODS

Outcome measures:

1. (compulsory) The authors must state in the text the length of the VAS scale used.
2. (compulsory) The authors must state that the outcome measure is the difference between the VAS score in the active arm minus the VAS score in the placebo arm.

Randomization, sequence generation:

3. (compulsory) The authors must elaborate on the method of randomizing the arms. The description should be detailed enough so as to be replicated.

Statistical analysis

4. (compulsory) The analysis of the primary outcome is inadequate. The use of non-parametric tests (Kruskal-Wallis) has limited application when there are so many zeros. Also, it is unlikely that the skewness, if present at all, cannot be removed using an appropriate transformation. The authors should use an ANOVA to compare all three groups. If that comparison reaches statistical significance, then paired comparison, using some technique to control type 1 error, can be used to compare FM with RA, FM with controls, and FM with RA and controls combined. Mean and standard deviation should be given in a table rather than medians and ranges.

Competing interests:

None declared.