Author's response to reviews

Title: Efficacy and adverse effects of intravenous lignocaine therapy in fibromyalgia syndrome

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PDF covering letter
Thank you for the helpful comments from the reviewer which should enhance the manuscript. I have made all the revisions although described as discretionary. I have detailed how I have responded to each point in turn using the heading of the reviewer.

Major comments

1. Methods

Title of this section has been changed to methods and patients.

A section titled “patients” has been included in the methods section and the samples described here together with explanation of degree of overlap between the two study groups.

Demographic and clinical information on the subgroups has been presented in a table (table 1).

2. Results

Percentages in section and table on side effects is included.

Number of patients who had infusion arrested is included in section on side effects.

3. Results

Section reconstructed as suggested emphasising pain relief.

4. Discussion

Para 7 has been expanded to clarify the numbers who had had Iv lignocaine treatment previously and reiterated that analysis showed the two populations to be similar; however, I have also added as suggested a comment in the final paragraph of discussion suggesting that a larger study of an unselected patient group to be a future study objective.

Minor comments

5, 6 and 7. The reviewer suggests three more recent references which I have accordingly added to the manuscript in Background, para 2, 3rd line and 6th line and para 3, 4th line.

8. Background, para 4, 3rd/4th line.
I have added a few words on the mechanisms of action of lignocaine.

9. Results, Benefits, para 3.
I have corrected the error from 36 to 32 being the two-thirds of patients who responded that the therapy was very worthwhile. I have explained that the valid 48 to this question is less than the 50 overall responders as this question was not answered by 2 patients.

Results, 2nd and 3rd last paras.
I have considerably reduced the second and third last paragraphs in the results section being reproduced in the table 2 and figure 1.

10. Discussion para 1.
I have left out definition of fibromyalgia here.