Reviewer's report

Title: Transdermal fentanyl for the treatment of pain caused by osteoarthritis of the knee or hip, an open, multicentre study

Version: 1 Date: 5 December 2004

Reviewer: robert theiler

Reviewer's report:

General
Interesting paper for clinicians working in the field of pain management and musculoskeletal disorders, especially now during the cox 2 controversy.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
1. give the womac dimensions each separately: pain, stiffness, function
2. please calculate absolute and relative effects of the pain treatment
3. please comment on cognitive effects (dizziness) in the elderly: was there a relation
4. give precise reason for drop outs

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
12 page2: result section please give rel effects at least for pain reduction
page 2: give comments about drop outs and possible limitation in the elderly (oa) population
page 4: cox 2: please comment more on the current dilemma (VIOXX)
page 6: patient: please give radiological stage
please give details on "intraarticular injections such as steroid and HA"
page 9: statistical analysis: please give relative effects (at least for pain and function)
page 10 comment that 59% had cardiovascular disease (cox2!!!)
drop outs: please give more details about reasons for drop outs
page 13 Qual of life: change in mental health please explain
page 14: womac change: give figure of each section (rel effects)
page 15: dizziness drop outs: where there any falls and fractures in the elderly??
page 16: NSAIDS decreased substantially: give numbers
Conclusion: comment more on side effects especially in the elderly population: dizziness, falls, obstipation and cognitive impairment...
table 3: give sections of womac each depicted separately
table 4: cognitive function and falls??

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
Quality of written English: Acceptable
Statistical review: No