Reviewer’s report

Title: Opiophobia: the situation among the general population and health care professionals in North-Eastern Portugal

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Reviewer: Carla Ripamonti

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I read with high interest the paper Opiophobia: the situation among the general population and health care professionals in North-Eastern Portugal by Henk et al.

The Authors carried out an interesting study with the aim to try to describe the representations and attitudes among general population and health care professionals about the use of morphine.

I join the Authors in memory of the teacher and friend Professor Charles-Henri Rapin

I believe the paper is suitable for publication with minor revisions, even if the data reported are dated at 2005

1. the most important: the title has to be changed. The topic is non Opiophobia but morphinephobia. The questionnaire regards morphine and not “the opioids”. The Authors must stress this concept. The term opiophobia is not correct!!!!!!

2. the English has to be reviewed completely

The physicians have no problem in prescribing codeine, tramadol, fentanyl, buprenorphine, oxycodone or hydromorphone; the physicians do not prescribe morphine.

The same is for the patients; they have problems in taking morphine but they have no cultural problems with other opioids.

General population knows what is morphine but it does not know the role and the potency of the other opioids.

The Authors quoted reference 13 but I add other references

Ripamonti C, Fagnoni E, Campa T, Brunelli C, De Conno F. Is the use of transdermal fentanyl inappropriate according to the W.H.O. guidelines and the EAPC recommendations? A study of cancer patients in Italy. Supportive Care in Cancer 2006; 14/5: 400-7
