Reviewer's report

Title: Glucosamine and chondroitin sulfate supplementation to treat symptomatic disc degeneration; Biochemical rationale and case report

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Version: 1 Date: 18 Apr 2003

Reviewer: Burkhard Leeb

Level of interest: A paper of considerable general medical or scientific interest

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

The paper presented constitutes an interesting case report and relates extensively to a possible mode of action of SYSADOA in degenerative disease of the spine. It seems considerable that Glucosamine and Chondroitine sulfate may exert beneficial therapeutic effects on osteoarthritis of the little joints of the spine and may be on disc degeneration. The patient described experienced therapeutical benefit from the intake of SYSADOA.

However, it seems inappropriate to draw concise conclusions from a single case, even in the light of standardization problems with MRI findings.

Thus to my opinion the paper should be divided into one part, representing the case report, and into the other which could be seen as a kind of an editorial speculating about a beneficial therapeutic effect of SYSADOA in so called degenerative spine disease. This possibility should be investigated at last in an open manner in a far higher number of patients, and by blinded radiologists, evaluating blinded MRIs.

Competing interests:

DECLARATION