Author's response to reviews

Title: Tinnitus treatment options: Online questionnaire of general practitioners and ENT physicians within Europe and the USA

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Appendix 1: Questionnaire

Q1. How many patients with tinnitus problems in total did you see in the last three months? And how many new patients with tinnitus have come to you for treatment within the last three months?

Q2. Please classify your patients according to the following criteria: Pathogenesis (subjective vs objective), duration (acute vs chronic) and perceived severity of the disorder (compensated vs not compensated).

Q3. Please consider your patients with subjective tinnitus. How many of these patients came to your practice directly (without a referral) and how many were referred to you by other doctors/specialists?

Q4. Who were these specialists?

Q5. How many patients did you diagnose yourself, how many were already pre-diagnosed by another doctor and how many did you refer to other specialists?

Q6. Who were these specialists?

Q7. How many of your patients with subjective tinnitus did you manage yourself and how many did you refer to other specialists for further management?
Q8. Who were these specialists?

Q9. Which course of treatment do you normally use for patients with subjective tinnitus?
   Please distinguish between acute and chronic forms of tinnitus.

   Select from list
   Other (please give details)

Q10. Please consider your first line treatment choices. If you now think of your last patients with subjective tinnitus: How would you categorise them in the following courses of treatment?

   Select from list
   Other (please give details)
   Patients not treated

Q11. If you treat subjective tinnitus with medication, which would be your first line treatment?

   Select from list
   Other (please give details)
   No medication
Q12. Which medications do you use as second choice, if your first line treatment is unsuccessful?

Select from list
Other (please give details)
No medication

Q13. How satisfied are you overall with current medications for treating subjective tinnitus?

Very satisfied
Relatively satisfied
Not very satisfied
Completely dissatisfied

Q14. You have just indicated how satisfied you are with current medications for treating subjective tinnitus. Please give your reasons for choosing that answer in as much detail as possible.

Q15. If you consider all of your patients with subjective tinnitus (both acute and chronic) and regardless of whether medication is used or not: For what proportion of them do you believe that the treatment used has been successful?
Q16. Are there any problems/difficulties with treating subjective tinnitus that you are unable to solve by means of the current standards of practice? If so, what are these problems/difficulties in the management of subjective tinnitus?

Q17. “Lastly, please imagine the following scenario: A new medication approved for the symptomatic treatment of subjective tinnitus is put onto the market, which has shown in clinical studies to significantly reduce severity of tinnitus symptoms (i.e. reduced annoyance due to tinnitus), to improve ability to enjoy activities of daily living, and to improve impaired concentration and sleep. This is achieved by a unique mode of action that balances neurotransmission processes, specifically in the glutamatergic and cholinergic system. The most frequently reported side effects in clinical trials occurred at treatment initiation, were mild to moderate in severity, and diminished in the course of therapy: Dizziness/faintness (15%), headaches (15%), fatigue (5%) and nausea (5%).”

On the basis of this short description, what is your first impression regarding the criteria described below? Please rate each criterion from (1) = extremely high to (5) = extremely low.

General medical demand for this product
Probability that you will actually prescribe this product
Relevance of the product to my everyday practice
Uniqueness of the benefits
Credibility to the claims of the product