Reviewer’s report

Title: Are Migraineur Women Really More Vulnerable to Stress and Less Able to Cope?

Version: 2 Date: 20 April 2008

Reviewer: Paul R Martin

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I think the authors have improved the manuscript and am now pleased to recommend publication.

I would just like to reflect on their interpretation of their findings, which may lead to them wanting to modify their manuscript or may not. The authors conclude "It cannot be suggested that people with migraine are less effective in coping style with stress..." I don't see the findings in quite the same way. They found significant differences on three coping scales, two in the direction of the migraineurs using less adaptive coping styles. One result particularly stood out as it was significant at the .002 level - their tendency to seek social support less. This is a replication of a finding by Holm et al (1986). The authors come up with the suggestion that this may be a consequence of headaches rather than a cause, but it may play a causal role or there may be a bidirectional effect. In a recent study of ours (Martin et al, 2007, Behavior Therapy, 38, 350-363) we found that this variable was a key predictor of response to treatment - it was individuals who utilised social support before treatment who benefited most from treatment, and it was individuals who increased their use of social support across the treatment period who benefited most.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.