Reviewer's report

Title: Myofascial trigger points in cluster headache patients: a case series.

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Reviewer: Thierry Ettlin

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Review:
Myofascial trigger points in cluster headache patients: a case series

The aim of the present study was to examine whether trigger points can be found in patients with cluster headache, and whether anaesthetic injections are effective in relieving the pain.

The authors examined twelve consecutive patients with cluster headache for myofascial trigger points which elicited the typical headache. They injected the trigger points with mepivacaine either during the cluster attack or in between attacks.

In all twelve patients, the authors found positive trigger points which during palpation elicited pain that reproduced the location, characteristics and time sequence of the patient’s typical cluster attack. In the majority of patients, the injections either stopped or prevented cluster headache attacks.

The authors discuss their findings in the context of a hypothesis of peripheral hypersensitization as part of cluster headache pathophysiology.

The research project described in this paper examines an important and clinically relevant question. To my knowledge, it is the first publication on this topic. It is therefore appropriate to publish it even if it is an uncontrolled study. It will hopefully stimulate further research in this area, which may lead to an additional treatment option for patients suffering from cluster headache.

I recommend to publish this paper as a short communication or a pilot study. In my opinion, revisions are not necessary.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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