Reviewer's report

**Title:** Ice-Pick headache syndrome, an 'indomethacin-responsive' headache syndrome which responded to a less toxic NSAID, implications for clinical practice: A case report.

**Version:** 2 **Date:** 3 July 2007

**Reviewer:** Julio Pascual

I am familiar with the literature and believe that this case meets one of the 7 criteria for evaluation in the journal: An unexpected event in the course of observing or treating a patient

**Has the case been reported coherently?:** No

**Is the case report authentic?:** Yes

**Is this case worth reporting?:** No

**Is the case report persuasive?:** No

**Does the case report have explanatory value?:** No

**Does the case report have diagnostic value?:** No

**Will the case report make a difference to clinical practice?:** No

**Comments to authors:**

**General**

The authors report a case of "ice-pick headache" which responded to "a less toxic NSAID". I have several significant concerns. First, they should use the current IHS name for this headache "primary stabbing headache". Second, I am sure a lot of headache experts would agree that this diagnosis is too risky at the age of 88, in a patient with Alzheimer's disease and without neuroimaging. I miss a description of the her headache. Third, regarding her treatment I have several relevant comments: 1) the drug was retired and headache did not come back, so the possibility of spontaneous remissions still is possible; 2) Are they sure that coxibs are less toxic than indomethacin? I would like to see some data on this, I would not prescribe a coxib to a 81 year old patient on a daily basis; 3) their observation is not new: see for instance Piovesan et al. Cephalalgia 2002; 22: 197-200. Finally, together with the already commented on lack of clinical data I miss an explanation for this (possible) effect in this entity.

Revisions necessary for publication
What next?: Reject

Quality of written English: Acceptable