Reviewer's report

Title: Duloxetine in treatment of refractory chronic tennis elbow: two case reports

Version: 4 Date: 23 July 2008

Reviewer: Chittaranjan Andrade

I am familiar with the literature and believe that this case meets one of the 9 criteria for evaluation in the journal: Other

If other, please specify:

This is the first report on the use of duloxetine to treat tennis elbow.

Has the case been reported coherently?: Yes

Is the case report authentic?: Yes

Is this case worth reporting?: Yes

Is the case report persuasive?: Yes

Does the case report have explanatory value?: Yes

Does the case report have diagnostic value?: No

Will the case report make a difference to clinical practice?: Yes

Is the anonymity of the patient protected?: Yes

Comments to authors:

The revision is much improved. I have two minor comments:

1. The authors could note somewhere, either in the introduction or discussion, that this is the first report on the use of duloxetine to treat tennis elbow.

2. The discussion paragraph which explains how duloxetine may have worked is actually a general note on how antidepressants may work to attenuate pain perception. A sentence needs to be added towards the end of the paragraph that such mechanisms could have operated in the improvements observed in the two cases reported. Here, it should be kept in mind that duloxetine may not alter the function of ion channels.

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published
Declaration of competing interests:

Same as in my earlier declaration.