Reviewer's report

Title: Occipital Peripheral Nerve Stimulation in the management of chronic intractable occipital neuralgia in a patient with neurofibromatosis type-1.

Version: 3 Date: 7 March 2010

Reviewer: Pavel Michalek

Which of the following best describes what type of case report this is?: New associations or variations in disease processes

Has the case been reported coherently?: Yes

Is the case report authentic?: Yes

Is the case report ethical?: Yes

Is there any missing information that you think must be added before publication?: No

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?: Yes

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

Is the anonymity of the patient protected?: Yes

Comments to authors:

This is an excellent case report. I would like to point out two innovative aspects of this manuscript – the ultrasound guidance for an electrode placement close to the major occipital nerve and successful use of neuromodulation therapy for an occipital neuralgia associated with neurofibromatosis.

My comments are only minor:
1. More information about the patient should be provided (race, height, weight, etc.)
2. Multimodal pain medication prior to the pain intervention should be described in detail (drugs, doses, etc.)
3. Monitored anesthesia care – what is your practice? Midazolam, fentanyl,
alfentanil or other drugs?? Information about a level of sedation (Ramsay score) during the implantation procedure would be beneficial.

4. Infection – was any bacterium cultivated???

5. Was your patient on any medication after the electrodes implantation? (painkillers, others)

6. Occipital nerve is located medial to the artery on Figure 3 while on Figure 4 it is seen lateral to the artery. I know that the course of occipital nerve may be variable, in most cases is the nerve located medial to the artery but lateral position is also possible. This fact could be explained in discussion and variable course of major occipital nerve may be another argument for using an ultrasound guidance.

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.