Reviewer’s report

Title: The beneficial use of ultramiconized palmitoylethanolamide as add-on therapy to Tapentadol in the treatment of low back pain: a pilot study comparing prospective and retrospective observational arms

Version: 1 Date: 04 Aug 2017

Reviewer: Gina Votta-Velis

Reviewer’s report:

Interesting study adding to the knowledge of the use of Ultramicronized -PEA for the treatment of low back pain in patients.

There is no control group and I would recommend to the authors to do this prospective observational study with a true control group.

In the methods there should be more details in regard to the demographics and the exact diagnosis of the patients, the exact duration of their pain, whether or not they had previous surgeries and the various treatments they received before. Were the patients in any other medications? Did the dose of Ultramicronized -PEA decrease over time?

Statistical analysis using GLMM can be improved.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

No

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I recommend additional statistical review
Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:
Acceptable

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