Reviewer’s report

Title: Real World Experience of Patients with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) in the Treatment of Spasticity using Tetrahydrocannabinol:Cannabidiol (THC:CBD)

Version: 0 Date: 22 May 2019

Reviewer: Reviewer 2

Reviewer's report:

PEER REVIEWER ASSESSMENTS:

OBJECTIVE - Full research articles: is there a clear objective that addresses a testable research question(s) (brief or other article types: is there a clear objective)?

Yes - there is a clear objective

DESIGN - Is the current approach (including controls and analysis protocols) appropriate for the objective?

No - there are minor issues

EXECUTION - Are the experiments and analyses performed with technical rigor to allow confidence in the results?

No - there are major issues

STATISTICS - Is the use of statistics in the manuscript appropriate?

No - there are issues with the statistics in the study

INTERPRETATION - Is the current interpretation/discussion of the results reasonable and not overstated?

No - there are minor issues
OVERALL MANUSCRIPT POTENTIAL - Is the current version of this work technically sound? If not, can revisions be made to make the work technically sound?

Maybe - with major revisions

PEER REVIEWER COMMENTS:

GENERAL COMMENTS: -Overall impression of the study was good. The authors evaluate some specific scales about patient satisfaction in a cohort of 44 patients with ALS that underwent treatment with THC:CBD.

-Positive aspects: 1) The authors followed the STROBE recommendations. 2) A real-world cohort of patients with ALS.

-Negative aspects: 1) Only variables about patient's perception was included. 2) Description of the sample is poor (specific scales about ALS like ALSFRS were not provided; years since the diagnosis or symptom onset; type of ALS, etc.); were all patients interviewed? All patients were able to respond and the answer was reliable? Or were caregivers interviewed? 3) Statistical analysis is poor (only descriptive results).

REQUESTED REVISIONS:

- More data about the patients should be added (time since diagnosis, ALSFRS, type of ALS, presence of cognitive impairment, etc.).

- I am not sure about the retrospective nature of the study.

- It is surprising that none patient discontinued the treatment. This could be a selection bias.

- Please specify if information was obtained from patients in all cases or from caregivers. Information only from patients could be also a bias because of cognitive impairment in a percentage of patients with ALS.

- Statistics is only descriptive.

- A limitations section should be added in the study.

Note: This reviewer report can be downloaded - see attached pdf file.
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.

No

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 am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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