**Reviewer's report**

**Title:** Variables Associated with Use of Symptomatic Medication during a Headache Attack in Individuals with Tension-Type Headache: A European Study

**Version:** 0  **Date:** 18 Nov 2019

**Reviewer:** Rigmor Højland Jensen

**Reviewer's report:**

The authors aim to study the associations of a variety of clinical, psychological and neurophysiological outcomes with the outcome of symptomatic medication in tension-type headache (TTH).

The authors should be praised for studying tension-type headache as it is the most frequent but at the same time also the least studied type of headache. Their study is an observational substudy of a larger study, in an open uncontrolled design, with self reported symptoms and use of medication. The results are interesting as the efficacy is better in patients with frequent episodic headache than in the chronic subtype. Please add some further comments here and relations to prior studies in the discussion part

I have some comments and suggestions rated in chronological order.

1) Please add the study design to the abstracts and the introduction

2) Tension-Type Headache should be named correctly with a - in tension-type

3) There are no controls and the data are selfreported so such significant limitations should be mentioned

4) Use of a detailed medication Diary for 6 mths is a major problem in most studies and very difficult for the patients to maintain so why were this time period chosen. In the IHCD-classification only 3 mths are needed to rule MOH out?

5) ICHD-3 beta is not the newest version of the classification so please delete this remark, but probably the newest at the time of the study?

6) There is no adjustment of the multiple comparisions in the dataset so the statistics need to be adjusted accordingly

7) Several diagnoses within the same patients, it is rare to find so many patients with TTH from a tertiary headache center without coexisting migraine. Please comment!! NSAIDs may also work in migraine as there could be some diagnostic and therapeutic overlap

8) page 4 line 105 a spelling error ketopronen= ketoprofen??
9) page 4 "NSAID consumption was higher than expected" what does that mean please explain

10) Page 6 Please explain a little more about the prior study in ref 15 so the text can be read independently

11) Was the study registered in clinical.trials.gov? please add

12) Was the applied instruments translated and validated in Spanish and Danish, it is important

13) please add some suggestions for a future clinical trial in TTH

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

Yes

**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:

Needs some language corrections before being published

**Declaration of competing interests**
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?
2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

no conflicts of interest

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal