



Capital Health



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Dear Editor in Chief

We have recently forwarded you our revised manuscript. We apologize as we did not send a letter outlining how we addressed the reviewers' comments. The reviewers' comments are appended below and our response to each suggestion.

Reviewer #1 (*Reviewed by 00504777*)

The authors summarized the treatment algorithm for different types of neuropathic pain. The provided information will be useful to guide primary physicians in pain management for patients with Vestibular Schwannomas. Regarding mechanisms of action for gabapentin, the calcium channel regulation is only one of the mechanisms underlying its effect. There are also several other mechanisms involved (such as, synaptic GABA modulation and synaptogenesis).

We thank the reviewer for their comments and we have made the addition to the mechanism of action of gabapentin.

Reviewer #2 (*Reviewed by 00506214*)

The ms is generally well written and informative. However, it seems to vary as to its specificity with regard to treatment of acoustic neuromas or head and neck pain more generally. Apart from mentioning surgical options for treatment of these tumors, virtually nothing else is mentioned

regarding surgery. In fact, in the surgical literature, the chronic pain following surgery is one of the most significant this is extensively detailed in the literature. Perhaps an additional case could be included that exemplified surgery. This should be addressed in the ms. The title is somewhat misleading, as it implies the quantitative review of the clinic's experience. In fact, no real data is present. It would be better if the title included wording that suggested this was a review.

We appreciate the comments. The manuscript falls under the mini-review section so we felt that including this in the title would be redundant. We have not included a surgical case of NP pain as we do not see many patients that complain of NP pain following surgery. In our clinic it is more common following SRT however we will write up a case history as this is an excellent idea. We will have to search our database as again this is not a common symptom we see following surgery, but more so prior to surgery.

Reviewer #3 (*Reviewed by 02487948*)

Important clinical guideline for the pharmacological management of neuropathic pain in patients with vestibular schwannomas based on the experience of a Canadian clinic. Some minor concerns: - avoid "marketing" sentences like "The Atlantic Lateral Skull Base Clinic is internationally recognized ..." (page 4) or "The clinic provides an ideal environment..." (page 4) A scientific report speaks for itself and needs no advertising slogans. - some remarks are too "Canadian-centered" and thus not "helpful" for the international reader (i.e., page 8: Is it really interesting for the international reader that the "5% lidocaine patch is currently unavailable in Canada" ?!) - the authors mention some specifics in treating the elderly - what's about (even in rare cases) children? - one cannot generalize that "Gabapentin [...] is without clinically relevant drug interactions" - please consider the literature and provide references - Table 1: please explain abbreviation "q4h" (page 20) - check interpunction, i.e. page 9 line 3

We have made all the changes as the reviewer has suggested above.

We hope you find our changes satisfactory and look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Kind Regards,



Andrea L.O. Hebb, PhD, RN