

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Clinical Cases*

Manuscript NO: 71550

Title: Trigeminal extracranial thermocoagulation along with patient-controlled analgesia with esketamine for refractory postherpetic neuralgia after herpes zoster ophthalmicus: A case report

Provenance and peer review: Unsolicited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 02488945

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: MD

Professional title: Doctor, Lecturer

Reviewer's Country/Territory: India

Author's Country/Territory: China

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Reviewer chosen by: Qi-Gu Yao (Online Science Editor)

Reviewer accepted review: 2022-01-04 11:52

Reviewer performed review: 2022-01-05 05:47

Review time: 17 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection

Re-review	[<input type="checkbox"/>] Yes [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] No
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] Anonymous [<input type="checkbox"/>] Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: [<input type="checkbox"/>] Yes [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The case report “Trigeminal extracranial radiofrequency combined with esketamine for patient-controlled intravenous analgesia in the treatment of refractory herpes zoster ophthalmicus: A case report” is well written though I have the following concerns:

- The title can be “Trigeminal extracranial thermocoagulation along with patient-controlled analgesia with esketamine for refractory post herpetic neuralgia after herpes zoster ophthalmicus: A case report” According to the article, radiofrequency did not relieve the pain and thermocoagulation was done.
- In the case report, the authors mention that the patient was hospitalized for 20 days but had pain for only 3 days? This should be clear...why the patient was hospitalized and when the pain started.
- What antiviral drug and how much was given to the patient.
- Was the antiviral treatment started within 72 hours of the onset of disease?
- Why no steroids were given to the patient, was it due to diabetes?
- Were tricyclic antidepressants tried? Was gabapentin or pregabalin given at the beginning of the disease.
- In history of past illness, the first sentence should be as follows: “The patient had a history of diabetes for more than 10 years and was being treated with Metformin.” Partial gastrectomy was done for what reason should be mentioned.
- There is no need for titles for examination and history, instead one can just write: There was no significant family history and physical examination was normal. All laboratory investigations and imaging investigations were normal including the liver function. (typo error of “He” instead of “She”)
- The final diagnosis was Herpes zoster ophthalmicus or post herpetic neuralgia after HZO? The pain had started 17 days after HZO and full treatment with antivirals so post herpetic

neuralgia should be considered. • Gabapentin, paracetamol and oxycodone were started after 17 days of HZO or at day 1 of HZO? This is not very clear • CT guided radiofrequency of trigeminal nerve is a “procedure” and not a “surgery”; so kindly remove the word “surgery” and “operation” and replace it with “procedure” • Was fentanyl patch tried in this patient? • The total dose of esketamine 192 mg to 240 mg/24-hour period is very high while the midazolam is very low (5 mg). The patient’s weight should be mentioned at the beginning of the case description. • In the discussion section, do mention that 7% of patients suffer from post herpetic neuralgia after HZO which may last from 30 days to 6 months. • Also, pain relief for HZO will not reduce the complications like keratitis and visual impairment. Antiviral treatment, steroids and anti-inflammatory drugs will prevent the complications. • For PCA, the parameter settings were 8mg/hour basal rate...the bolus dose was 10 mg or 10mg/hour? Also, in the discussion, do mention that the peak effect of ketamine is after 15 to 20 minutes and hence the lockout time was 30 minutes. • This is just a case report, so avoid using sentences like “in this study...”...this is not a study. So just write, “in this case...” or “in this patient...”