

ESPS Peer-review Report

Name of Journal: World Journal of Clinical Cases

ESPS Manuscript NO: 6136

Title: UNILATERAL PERIPHERAL NEUROPATHIC PAIN: THE ROLE OF NEURODIAGNOSTIC SKIN BIOPSY

Reviewer code: 00742049

Science editor: Qi, Yuan

Date sent for review: 2013-10-05 13:23

Date reviewed: 2013-10-07 14:35

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	RECOMMENDATION	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A (Excellent)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority Publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B (Very good)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C (Good)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: a great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> No records	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade D (Fair)		BPG Search:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E (Poor)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> No records	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This is a short review on the use of Neurodiagnostic Skin Biopsy (NSB) in the diagnosis of neuropathic pain. The article was fairly well written, yet it appeared to me more like a 'brief communication' type of article. It was too short to qualify as a literature review type of manuscript. There were 25 references quoted yet only about 10 of them were direct reports on the use of NSB. Most importantly, although this type of traditional literature review articles performed by experts in the field contain valuable information, they carry a significant risk of providing biased opinion as the experts' personal experience is often included in such articles. For this reason, a systemic review is considered better at giving objective overviews and I'd not recommend publication of this article in WJCC in its present format.

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Name of Journal: World Journal of Clinical Cases

ESPS Manuscript NO: 6136

Title: UNILATERAL PERIPHERAL NEUROPATHIC PAIN: THE ROLE OF NEURODIAGNOSTIC SKIN BIOPSY

Reviewer code: 00722438

Science editor: Qi, Yuan

Date sent for review: 2013-10-05 13:23

Date reviewed: 2013-10-21 04:59

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	RECOMMENDATION	CONCLUSION
[] Grade A (Excellent)	[] Grade A: Priority Publishing	Google Search:	[] Accept
[] Grade B (Very good)	[Y] Grade B: minor language polishing	[] Existed	[] High priority for publication
[Y] Grade C (Good)	[] Grade C: a great deal of language polishing	[] No records	[] Rejection
[] Grade D (Fair)	[] Grade D: rejected	[] Existed	[] Minor revision
[] Grade E (Poor)		[] No records	[Y] Major revision

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This is a well written article dealing with the diagnostic value of NSB in case of unilateral neuropathic pain. It cites some important literature guidelines and reviews that have dealt with neuropathic pain, but it is not a thorough review of the published literature on this subject. My opinion it is suitable as Letter to the Editor, but it does not meet the expectation of a research paper or a review article.

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Name of Journal: World Journal of Clinical Cases

ESPS Manuscript NO: 6136

Title: UNILATERAL PERIPHERAL NEUROPATHIC PAIN: THE ROLE OF NEURODIAGNOSTIC SKIN BIOPSY

Reviewer code: 00875981

Science editor: Qi, Yuan

Date sent for review: 2013-10-05 13:23

Date reviewed: 2013-11-14 15:51

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	RECOMMENDATION	CONCLUSION
[] Grade A (Excellent)	[] Grade A: Priority Publishing	Google Search:	[] Accept
[Y] Grade B (Very good)	[Y] Grade B: minor language polishing	[] Existed	[] High priority for publication
[] Grade C (Good)	[] Grade C: a great deal of	[] No records	[] Rejection
[] Grade D (Fair)	language polishing	BPG Search:	[] Minor revision
[] Grade E (Poor)	[] Grade D: rejected	[] Existed	[Y] Major revision
		[] No records	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

At first, I believed that this brief review was outside of the scope of the journal. After re-reading the journal's aims I no longer believe that is true. Minor comments: 1. Figure 3 refers to Epidermal Nerve Fibre Density as ESIR. Shouldn't it be ENFD? 2. Figure 1 would be more interesting if it also showed the results from an abnormal subject. Major comments: 1. A table or algorithm that guides the clinician through the sequence of testing for neuropathic pain would be useful. If possible, it would be useful to identify which test(s) is/are best based on suspected diagnostic entities. 2. It would be very interesting to discuss the role of skin biopsy in small-fiber polyneuropathy and fibromyalgia. 3. Some institutions suggest that the results of neurodiagnostic skin biopsy might take as long as a month to process. If so, isn't this a limitation of the procedure?