

Letters to the Editor



Comments on “Low-Dose Naltrexone Use for Patients with Chronic Regional Pain Syndrome: A Systematic Literature Review”

TO THE EDITOR:

We read the article titled ‘Low-Dose Naltrexone Use for Patients with Chronic Regional Pain Syndrome: A Systematic Literature Review’ with great interest which was informative and discusses a novel idea for the management of complex regional pain syndrome (CRPS) in patients (1).

A systematic review is defined as “a review of a clearly formulated question that uses systematic and explicit methods to identify, select, and critically appraise relevant research, and to collect and analyze data from the studies that are included in the review” (2). A systematic review is only as good as the data on which it is based, that is, the primary studies with minimal bias in their study designs, which allows us to concentrate on the quality of the underlying research, not just the reporting of that research (3). Systematic reviews address the need for health decision makers to be able to access high quality, comprehensive information and replicate the results (4).

The first step in writing a systematic review is to formulate a review question and a concise title which should be descriptive of the review question in focus (5). But the title of the present systematic review is misleading as its methodology is based on the use of low dose naltrexone for varied chronic pain syndromes, not CRPS as authors have claimed. The authors have mentioned only 3 case studies pertaining to use of naltrexone for treatment of CRPS, which do not satisfy

the criteria of a systematic review. Hence the authors should use chronic pain syndrome in the title instead of chronic regional pain syndrome.

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