

## In Response

### To the Editor:

In the article titled "Low-Dose Naltrexone Use for Patients With Chronic Regional Pain Syndrome," we conducted a systematic literature review to determine the effects of low-dose naltrexone (LDN) in the treatment of chronic pain disorders, with an emphasis on complex regional pain syndrome (CRPS). This objective was clearly stated in the introduction and methods sections (1).

We believe that this report meets the criteria of a systematic review given our transparent and explicitly reported methods to identify, select, and evaluate the studies and include that information in a cohesive document (2). Through the process of this systematic review, we found a substantial dearth of information regarding the use of LDN in CRPS and other chronic pain syndromes, with only 3 case reports on CRPS specifically. We know of no systematic review criteria precluding the inclusion of case studies, and indeed, in some cases, observational studies provide the only available evidence for novel research topics (3). Moreover, the limitations of the systematic review have been clearly disclosed to indicate that few studies were conducted in CRPS, and the majority of the evidence for the use of LDN in chronic pain syndromes comes from other conditions.

Furthermore, prior to developing a hypothesis and conducting a systematic literature review, "the nature and scope of a literature is not always apparent in the absence of a review, and conducting a literature review can thus serve as an extremely useful exploratory exercise" (2). As a result of our literature review, we have found limited evidence for the use of LDN in chronic pain syndromes. We believe the lack of studies in this space, as reported in our review, serves as an important call for additional research into the safety and efficacy of LDN for CRPS.

### REFERENCES

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3. Fitzpatrick-Lewis D, Ciliska D, Thomas H. The methods for the synthesis of studies without control groups. [www.nccmt.ca/uploads/media/media/0001/01/7907cc9635f07eff73608fe4ae3d6725135ca\\_doe.pdf](http://www.nccmt.ca/uploads/media/media/0001/01/7907cc9635f07eff73608fe4ae3d6725135ca_doe.pdf). Published June 2009. Accessed October 20, 2021.

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