Reviewer's report

Title: The Impact of Extended Electrodiagnostic studies in Ulnar Neuropathy at the Elbow

Version: 2 Date: 23 July 2009

Reviewer: Eszter Hidasi

Reviewer's report:

Todnem et al report an extended electrodiagnostic procedure for the evaluation of ulnar nerve entrapment at the elbow. They included 127 UNE patients consecutively based first of all on the electrodiagnosis of the ulnar nerve compression. Before the electrophysiological examinations they checked the patients physically. They extended the standard electrophysiological method with an extra stimulation point in the mid-sulcus at the elbow. Beside the motor nerve conduction studies they evaluated the function of sensory nerves and performed EMG examinations as well.

All the reviewers had almost the same problems and questions connected with the original form of the manuscript: a. the data was a little bit confused, b. the sensory nerve stimulation technic (ortho-, or antidromic stimulation). The authors completed the manuscript and this version is more clear and correct.

I'm working in a clinical electrophysiological lab, and my opinion didn't change in that point of view, that the inching technic is a very sensitive, and not time-consuming method to diagnose precisely the ulnar nerve entrapment.

Summing up what has been said, the question posed by the authors is well defined, the method, what they used is appropriate, the data are not always sound, the manuscript adheres to the relevant standards, the limitations of the work are sufficiently stated, the authors clearly acknowledge their work upon which they are building, the title and the abstract accurately convey what has been found, in my opinion the manuscript in this revised version is acceptable for publication.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'