Reviewer's report

Title: Percutaneous radiofrequency lesions adjacent to the dorsal root ganglion alleviates spasticity and pain in children with cerebral palsy: pilot study in 17 patients

Version: 2 Date: 5 April 2010

Reviewer: Koji Ohata

Reviewer's report:

This study was to test the hypothesis that RF-DRG may be a serious treatment option for severe spasticity in children with CP. As the result, MAS and GMFM scales was not improved in 6 patients. However, VAS for spasticity, pain, and ease of care was improved. This seem to be important issue for children with severe CP. However, there are some questions in the methods and results.

Major Compulsory Revisions
1. Please add an explanation of the reliability and validity of MAS including the problem of this evaluation method written in previous article.

2. First six children (group A) were evaluated at baseline, 1 month and 6 months after treatment. However, the result of 3 time systematically evaluation was not shown in table 1.

3. Table 1 and 2 showed "improvement spas, pain, care". However, representation by using "+" is not clear. Please add the explanation of "+".

4. Please add the detail of caregiver questionnaire and show a validity of the questionnaire.

5. In group A, one patiant showed increased pain at 4 weeks. Is this an adverse event? Please add the rationale of this.

6.(p4 l18) "Modified Ashworth Scale" is 6 point scale, i.e. 0, 1, 1+, 2, 3, and 4. "MAS" which was used in this study is perhaps "Ashworth Scale".

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests