Dear Editor,

We read with great interest the article published by Joseph Bruno Bidin Brooks and Yara Dadalti Fragoso (Arq Neuropsiquiatr 2013;71,11:862-865) about blink reflex test in patients with chronic migraine. In this article, the authors concluded that although it is possible that some patients indeed have alterations in their blink reflex wave patterns, in a large cohort of subjects, those few cases of alteration may be diluted in the pool of normal responses. We think that although the conclusion may be correct, the study should have considered what kind of preventive medication for migraine patients received at the time of blink reflex test. This is important because, it was described that anticonvulsant drugs can alter this test and this type of medication is often used in migraine. Previous studies on subjects, with conflicting results, have not examined the relationship between parameters of the blink reflex test and type of prophylactic medication for migraine. We hypothesize that this is the explanation for those disappointing findings and believe this factor should be analyzed in future studies to draw definitive conclusions about the usefulness of this diagnostic test.

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References

1. Brooks JBB, Fragoso YD. The blink reflex test does not show abnormalities in a large group of patients with chronic migraine. Arq Neuropsychiatr 2013;71:862-865.