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An evaluation of a throat discomfort visual analogue scale in chronic cough
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 A throat discomfort visual analogue scale in chronic cough
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To the Editor:

Chronic cough is a debilitating symptom affecting approximately one in ten of the general population and leading to impaired quality of life and social exclusion [1]. Many individuals with chronic cough localise their symptoms to the throat area and report sensations such as a “persistent tickling”, “irritation” or “blockage” in the throat [2]. They also often describe that symptoms are provoked by non-specific environmental triggers, such as exposure to scents or odours. In many patients, there is also an apparent overlap between manifestations of laryngeal dysfunction, such as discomfort on swallowing with or without changes in voice quality. Overall, these phenomena may be attributed to an underlying laryngeal hypersensitivity (LHS) [3] and recognition of this entity in chronic cough may be important to help inform and select the optimum treatment strategy; e.g. preferential specialist speech and language therapy (SLT) intervention [4].