179. The following appeared in a health newsletter.

"Nosinia is an herb that many users report to be as effective as prescription medications at fighting allergy symptoms. Researchers recently compared Nosinia to a placebo in 95 men and women with seasonal allergies to ragweed pollen. Participants in the study reported that neither Nosinia nor the placebo offered significant relief. However, for the most severe allergy symptoms, the researchers reported that Nosinia was more effective than the placebo in providing relief. Furthermore, at the end of the study, participants given Nosinia were more likely than participants given a placebo to report feeling healthier. We therefore recommend using Nosinia to help with your severe allergy symptoms.

Write a response in which you discuss what questions would need to be answered in order to decide whether the recommendation and the argument on which it is based are reasonable. Be sure to explain how the answers to these questions would help to evaluate the recommendation.

In this argument, the author recommends using Nosinia to help with severe allergy symptoms. To support this recommendation, the author points out that Nosinia was reported as effective at fighting allergy symptoms by many users. In addition, he indicates that in against seasonal allergies ragweed pollen, Nosinia was more effective than placebo for the most sever allergy symptoms. Furthermore, the arguer adds that compared to participants given a placebo, participants given Nosinia were more likely to report feeling healthier. However, these all do not constitute a logical argument, in favor of the recommendation, and fail to provide convincing support making this recommendation sound and invulnerable. From logical perspective, the author’s argument at least suffers from three logical flaws.

As for the research that the article cites, the author claims that Nosinia is more helpful to fight against severe allergy symptoms than placebo. However, the chosen sample in the research remain unrepresentative. This is because the sample size of the research is quite small, as there are only 95 men and women who participate the research. There might be more than 10000 people who suffer from seasonal allergies ragweed pollen. A research of only sample size of 95 men and women obviously could not justify the claim. Without better evidence that the research is statistically reliable, the author could not rely on it to draw any firm conclusions.

Additionally, the research only does experiment on seasonal allergies ragweed pollen. For other allergies, the research does not provide enough information that Nosinia helps providing relief. However, the author’s conclusion is that Nosinia could help with any severe allergy symptoms. Due to lack of information related to the effects to other allergy symptoms, the author’s belief still remains debatable.

What’s more, study implies that those given Nosinia were more likely to report feeling healthier. However, people’s feeling could differ from one another. The definition of feeling healthier could be totally different. One might say he feels healthier because he does not get pain from his head, while the other might argue that he does not feel healthier because his finger still hurts. Therefore, it’s really hard to come up with a common standard to classify people’s feeling, or to indicate that Nosinia is more likely to help people get healthier. Therefore, the statement is wholly concerned with subjective feeling, and could not pave the way for the newspaper’s recommendation.

To sum up, the arguer fails to substantiate his recommendation that people should use Nosinia to help with their severe allergy symptoms because the evidences cited do not lend strong support to what the arguer maintains. To make the recommendation more convincing, the author would have to provide more information with regard to the research’s sample and results.

The recommendation