Reviewer's report

Title: The functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) procedure as experienced by healthy participants and stroke patients

Version: 2 Date: 9 April 2009

Reviewer: Iris Eshed

Reviewer's report:

The main objective of this study is to evaluate how volunteers accept and relate to the MRI procedure.

Main strength: The topic was not evaluated in this manner.

Main weakness: The manuscript is not well organized. Too long, repetitive, not concise and not dealing enough with the literature.

Major Compulsory Revisions:
1. Introduction is too long. Most of it should move to discussion
2. The description of "Studies" is too detailed and not relevant for the manuscript
3. The results section is too long and impossible to read. Authors should shorten it substantially and insert most of the data into tables.
4. There is no division between results and discussion. Most of the text in the results should be moved to the discussion.
5. The discussion is not comprehensive enough. There is no point on repeating the results rather the authors should regard the results and correlate them to the known literature

Minor Essential Revisions
1. "Sample: 70 neurologically healthy ... Although we do not have data on this, the authors.. "
   If authors have no data then they should not insert it in the manuscript and should take this sentence out.
2. "20 patients did not undergo MRI mainly due to…
   a. What was the main cohort? 20 out of how many?
   b. Diabetes in by no means contraindication for MRI
3. "resulting in durations between 24 min and 65 min" authors should add mean standard and deviation.
4. The reason for this lower response rate is not clear… of the questionnaire, or that subjects were undecided." This sentence belongs in the discussion and not the results,
5. Several relatively recent manuscripts related to claustrophobic relations in MRI
units and that are relevant to this study are not cited: for example:

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

**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