Reviewer's report

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

Version: 2 Date: 28 March 2009

Reviewer: Marc Dewey

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

The authors should add a limitations section, which could include among other items the fact that established questionnaires about perception of MR imaging, especially including claustrophobia such as the CLQ, were not used.

There is clearly an influence of age on the rate of claustrophobic reactions as shown in the thus far largest study including over 55,000 patients (see Figure 2 of Dewey et al. JMRI 2007 and the accompanying logistic regression analysis with an OR of 2.1 (CI: 1.8-2.4) for middle-aged persons) and by Sarji et al. Australas Radiol 1998 in 3324 patients. Please revise your discussion accordingly. In the same context, you should consider discussing and comparing your gender results with those in our multivariate analysis in over 55,000 patients (results: OR of 1.7 (CI: 1.5-1.9)) with women having a greater likelihood of developing claustrophobia. Thank you.

There is no comparison with other psychology studies performed. Thus, it might be not on solid grounds to draw comparisons here in the final paragraph. Still, a strong and well-founded closing sentence would be good.

A comparison of the results shown in Figure 2 is still missing in the figure legend. Also this figure is not referenced in the manuscript making it hard to relate it to the main text.

Minor Essential Revisions

Please explain abbreviations at first use (TR, TE, MPRAGE, FOV).

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
unchanged since initial review.