Reviewer's report

Title: Usefulness of Multimodal MR Imaging in the Differential Diagnosis of HaNDL and Acute Ischemic Stroke

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Reviewer: Marcel Aries

Reviewer's report:

1. I think the report is still lengthy for the message it contains.
2. Otherwise it underlines the difficulties the on call neurologist may experience with such patients. The general message: stay alert, know the stroke mimics and get more experienced with new technologies (like multimodal MRI).
3. I would prefer to move the main message (with adding diffusion) of this manuscript to the conclusion: 'The existence of a complete hemispheric perfusion/diffusion mismatch with normal diffusion imaging, together with the clinical picture including the presence of headache, led to a presumed diagnosis of HaNDL.

4. Perhaps the authors may think about including the reference of Neurology 2010;74:1340-5 about little harm of IV thrombolysis to stroke mimics (perhaps because healthy young persons are thrombolysed). My opinion would be to include because situations exist that the clinical picture is less clear and newer techniques are not available. I such cases thrombolysis should be seriously considered.

5. Abstract: 'A neurologist-on-duty faced with a HaNDL patient in the first hours could erroneously decide to use thrombolytic drugs, a non-innocuous treatment which has no therapeutic effect on stroke. I think the authors mean: ...which has no therapeutic effect on HaNDL.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests