Author's response to reviews

Title: Diagnostic indices for vertiginous diseases

Authors:

Otmar Bayer (Otmar.Bayer@lrz.uni-muenchen.de)
Jan-Christian Warninghoff (jan.warninghoff@iak-kmo.de)
Andreas Straube (Andreas.Straube@med.uni-muenchen.de)

Version: 3 Date: 25 September 2010

Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Professor Bereczki,

thank you for giving us a second opportunity to revise our manuscript “Diagnostic indices for vertiginous diseases”. We also appreciate the reviewers' time and effort. Please find enclosed the revised version, and a point to point answer to the reviewers and editorial comments. All changes in the manuscript are printed in red.

Sincerely,

Otmar Bayer

Referee 1

The revised paper addressed most of the reviewers' comments. Due to the limitation of their study, the results should be considered as preliminary findings. We emphasized this limitation by adding “..., and the findings should therefore be considered preliminary.” to the discussion.
Referee 2

The authors generally well responded to the issues raised by the reviewer. Belows are the further concerns after reviewing the revised manuscript.

1. The descriptions on the diagnostic criteria of each disorder should be better placed in the Methods rather than in the Discussion.

Although the Methods section is quite long, we moved the paragraph from Discussion to Methods as suggested.

2. Still, numerous gramma

1) [4][5][6] on page 5 -> [4-6]

Changed throughout the manuscript

2) "phobic postural vertigo" on Page 6 -> "PPV"

Changed

3) "give raise to" on Page 9 -> "give rise to"

Corrected

4) "Diagnostic criteria applied in the clinic were: for PPV [18]." on Page 9 -> incomplete sentence. Please correct.

Completed to “for PPV as described by Brandt [4]. Please note that the paragraph has been moved to the Methods section.

5) "[19][20]" -> [19,20]

Changed

6) question -> questions on Page 12

We intentionally (and consistently) used the singular in the table heading.

Editorial comments

We adressed the comment by amending the Methods section: “In order to get detailed and structured information about the history of the patients and the signs of the actual clinical symptoms we asked the patients to fill in the questionnaire. Since this data collection was introduced as a pilot the
questionnaire was handed out on predefined dates (usually once a week) to all patients presenting for the first time in the dizziness clinic on that day to obtain an unbiased sample. All patients gave their written informed consent to this procedure. Since the study was not experimental, and the data were gained in clinical routine, the approval of an ethics committee was not necessary. All data were anonymised. All patients were seen by two experienced neurologists who were blinded to the answers given in the questionnaire and received a complete medical work up..."

We would like to let you know that the link in your email is outdated. The Declaration of Helsinki can be found at http://www.wma.net/en/30publications/10policies/b3/index.html.