Author's response to reviews

Title: Selected acute phase CSF factors in ischemic stroke: findings and prognostic value

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor,
Dear Editorial Board,
Dear Editorial Production Team,

Thank you for revising and accepting the manuscript MS ID: 5837172444441617

Title: Selected acute phase CSF factors in ischemic stroke: findings and prognostic value
Authors: Maia Beridze, Tamar Sanikidze, Roman R Shakarishvili, Nino Intskirveli and Natan M Bornstein.

According to the suggestion of Editorial Production Team the point-by-point description of the changes made are given beneath.

**Major Revisions:**

We extracted the figure numbers, legend and title from the image files. The figure number, legends and titles are given with Arabic numerals on a separate page after the reference list as indicated. The figure titles now consist with 15 words and legends are less than 300 words. To pursue the journal guidelines we make the few changes in the titles and legends of the figures.

We have erased the word „radical” before NO and LOO- in titles of figure 1 and 2. Instead of Gr.1 and Gr.2 we used the Group 1 and Group 2 in the legends of the same figures. Now they absolutely match with journal guidelines (15 words in title and <300 words in legend).

**Figure 1.**
Comparison of EPR signal intensity of CSF free NO between the study groups and control.

Box plots represent mean values (SD). $P<0.05$ between the Group1, Group 2 and the control.

**Figure 2.**
Comparison of EPR signal intensity of CSF free LOO- between the study groups and control.

Box plots represent mean values (SD). $P<0.05$ between the study groups and control.

$P<0.50$ between the Group 1 and Group 2.

As the title of Figure 3 comprised 21 words, we shortened the title and extended the legend.

**Figure 3**
Relation of initial CSF IL-6 content with ischemic lesion size 24 hours from stroke onset.

After all acute phase factors and risk factors entered into the stepwise model of multivariate logistic regression only initial CSF IL-6 gained significance and positively correlated with mean predicted probability of brain ischemic lesion size ($r=+0.34; P<0.05$).
The figures are prepared in Word version 5 and cropped closely to minimize the white space around the image. The letter font inside the figures has been changed to Arial using 12pt characters for text within figures. Image resolution is approximately 300 dpi.

**Minor Revisions:**

All highlighting and tracking is taken from the manuscript. In Table 3 we changed the word „Infarct volume (cm$^3$)” with word „Ischemic lesion volume(cm$^3$)” as we noticed that in article text we always use „ischemic lesion volume“.

In paper text we changed the Roman numerals for groups I and II with Arabic numerals 1 and 2 to have the similar symbols in text, tables and figure legends.

There are no more typographical errors in the paper.

Thank you once more to the Editor and Editorial Board,

Sincerely,

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