Reviewer's report

Title: Variation in the circle of Willis in a Sri Lankan Population

Version: 2 Date: 16 March 2009

Reviewer: Ljiljana Vasovic

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Major Compulsory Revisions

The authors call attention to (ab)normal variations of the cerebral arterial circle (CAC) on 225 human adult cadaver brains in Sri Lanka, taking into consideration that similar anatomical study, as authors mention, has not been published, yet. Personally, I encourage beginning of this research and any similarity in future, together with specification of types of the same and/or different age in a sample, with the same and/or different pathological processes.

My remarks and suggestions are as follows:

1. I propose a new title: "Types of the cerebral arterial circle (circle of Willis) in a Sri Lankan Population"

2. The citation of authors should be corrected in all parts of the article and in Table 1. All references must be numbered consecutively, in square brackets (they should not be in superscript).

3. In the section Methods: please give a more precise definition of the term "typical CAC" (count its vascular components). The authors should include scheme with 28 types; include figure of CAC (Type 1), where the way of measuring of caliber will be evaluated.

4. In the section Results: please revise Type 24. It should involve a figure with 16 inserts, i.e. types (except the first one). It should involve Table 1 in the section Results (move the sentence from Paragraph 1, line 4 in the section Discussion).

5. The Table 1 should be completely revised (consult a statistician) including coordinate numeric data types, as well as the country of corresponding author - see Efekhtar et al. (2006), and El Khamlichi et al. (1985).

6. Please also take into consideration to revise References: 4-6, 10, 12, 13, 14, 16, 19, 21, 23-26, 28, 31, 33, 34, 36, 37).

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

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' below.