Reviewer's report

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

Version: 8 Date: 3 April 2010

Reviewer: Hisashi Tanaka

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Major Compulsory Revisions

1. I have concern about statistical analysis. I compared the results of the present study and those of Eftekhar et al. [19] by Pearson's chi-square test. During the comparison, configuration numbers 2-3, 8-14, and 15-others are united as three groups because if the number of expectation is too few, erroneous results may occur. Result of my comparison was that the difference of these two studies did not reach statistical significance. Different results are expected by different grouping of the configurations. Authors should describe the details of statistical analysis method, especially focusing on grouping of the configuration.

2. The titles of the horizontal and vertical axes should be shown in Figure 3. In addition to it, I would like to ask the authors to provide concise description about “Correspondence analysis plot” because some of the readers including the reviewer are not familiar with the plot.

Minor Essential Revisions

1. Same figure (figure3) is shown in the manuscript two times. One of them should be removed.

Discretionary Revisions

1. Page 11, last paragraph. Quotation is somewhat unusual. I would like to suggest “....those who have died of causes unrelated to the brain [16, 19, present study], died of disease of the brain [2], and .......

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

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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.