Author's response to reviews

Title: Cluster analysis of behavioural and event-related potentials during a contingent negative variation paradigm in remitting-relapsing and benign forms of Multiple Sclerosis

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Author's response to reviews: see over
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Sabina Alam, PhD
Senior Executive Editor
BMC series journals

Dear Sabina,

Following the referee’s suggestion, please find enclosed the corrected manuscript with the required changes. We thank the reviewer for carefully reading our manuscript and for giving valuable comments.

In the referee's files, we address all of the reviewer’s comments (reviewer’s comments are bigger font size).

On the other hand, we have rewritten or moved different parts of manuscript as referees requested. Therefore, several changes have been carried out throughout the manuscript (please, note that more important changes have been highlighted with yellow coloured text).

The main corrections in the manuscript are detailed below:

Abstract:
− This part has been completely rewritten according different suggestions.

Introduction:
− Clinical background of MS has been changed and shortened;
− The hypothesis and aims have been rewritten and clarified;

Methods
− “Participants” section has been rewritten and different MS subtypes have been redefined according to second referee’s suggestions.
− “Stimuli and procedure” and “ERP measures” sections have been moved to the footnotes or referred to previous manuscripts;
− In “Statistical analysis”, a section with new correlation analysis has been also included.

Results
− A new section with correlation results has been included.
Discussion
- Important changes and reductions of text were also carried out in this part of manuscript in order to avoid repetitions of the conclusions of results in the “Conclusion” section, for instance:
- The “Summary of the result” section was removed of manuscript;
- Some evidences about neural generators of CNV and their relation with MS and different neurological and psychiatric diseases were removed;
- Some examples of different slow waves related to post-P3 periods were removed;
- Some conclusions and details about clusters characteristics have been moved from cluster-section to the footnote of figure 4.
- The “Limitations and implications” section have been rewritten.

Conclusions
- Some final conclusions that were showed at the end of each part in “Discussion” section (amplitude, latency, clusters, etc) were shortened or removal since that a part of this information was already incorporated in the general “Conclusion” section;

References:
Please, note that as result of these changes, some references have been removed. As result, the most references have therefore changed now in the order in which they are cited in the text.

Tables:
- Table 1 has been modified, showing new variables and p values and footnote updated.
- In the Table 2 and Table 3 p values have been also showed. As result, footnotes were also rewritten.

Figures:
- Figure 1 has been completely changed.

Legends:
- Figure 1, a brief description of task have been now included.
- Figure 4, description of significance of results related to this figure have been now included.
- A Competing interests section has been also included as requested.

Thank you for your consideration.

With warm thanks,

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