Author's response to reviews

Title: Exploring impaired walking dynamics as a new clinical feature in multiple sclerosis

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Version: 3 Date: 11 December 2012

Author's response to reviews: see over
Author's response to editor

Title: An exploration of impaired walking dynamics and fatigue in Multiple Sclerosis

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Version: 3 Date: 7. December 2012

Dear Dr. Benedict,

thank you very much for your response on our manuscript. With this letter, we provide a new version in which we made an effort to address your remaining comments. As you requested, we addressed these points in the discussion section.

In particular, we extended the discussion section and included a new section (limitations and future directions). In this section we explicitly note that the method which was used to quantify walking behavior in the current study, i.e. visual inspection through a trained examiner, may be regarded as a methodological limitation. We also note that the use of a precise measurement wheel represents a technically advantageous alternative and that the interpretation of results is limited by this fact.

We further note that the nomenclature used in the current study does not match the common nomenclature used in this line of research; a fact which we suggest needs to be considered when interpreting the results. As indicated, the parameters used in the current work deviate somewhat from those commonly examined. Since they refer to behavior which changes throughout the test, the use of the term “walking speed” seemed more suitable than “distance covered”. However, we made this issue explicit for the reader.

We are glad that we could address the other concerns of the reviewers satisfactorily and hope that the indicated changes sufficiently address the remaining concerns.

Sincerely,

Janina Burschka on behalf of the authors