Reviewer's report

Title: Exploring the predictive value of the EP score in Multiple Sclerosis within an appropriate dataset: a hint for an early identification of benign MS?

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Reviewer: Raúl Pelayo

Reviewer's report:

I congratulate the authors for the orientation of the work to improve the prognosis in early MS, placing the EP in the correct point for this indication. Logically, as other studies based in the clinical practice, the study have limitations, most of them explained in the paper and compensated with a complex statistical approach.

- Minor Essential Revisions:
  * In the manuscript that I received the results and discussion are in previous pages that methods. I don’t know if a authors mistake or a problem of the report submission.
  * Considering the variability in the low EDSS, no only between different examiners, also with the same neurologist, in the methods would be indicated if only EDSS performed during stability periods or confirmed in a subsequent visit were considered.

- Discretionary Revisions
As you comment in the background, with neuroimaging the role of EP in diagnosis has been diminished. But not only diagnosis: clinicians use more times only the MRI to complement the clinical findings to perform a "clinical prediction" of the disease in each patient, probably in a wrong way. With limitations, some authors have tried to know if both techniques could give us more information when are combined. Although I recognize to include more variables could be difficult in the our complex statistical analysis, I would like to know if you have MRI information and if you have thought in this approach.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

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