Reviewer’s report

Title: Deviation of eyes and head in acute hemispheric stroke

Version: 1 Date: 9 May 2006

Reviewer: elisabetta ladavas

Reviewer’s report:

The study described in the paper was aimed at clarifying whether the extent of horizontal gaze, eye-in-head-on-trunk deviation is a specific symptom associated with spatial neglect in patients with very acute left or right hemisphere first-ever stroke. The average deviation of spontaneous horizontal gaze position in the neglect group was enormous with 46° towards the right. Such marked deviation of the eyes and the head was neither observed in the left or right hemisphere stroke patients without spatial neglect, nor in healthy subjects.

The experiment is clearly described as is the rationale for the study. The manuscript is well written, and the statistical analyses are appropriate. I only have some methodological problems related to the description of the experimental setting. The authors should provide more details about:

1. the environmental setting during the registration of eye movements in order to be sure that left and right spaces contain equal visual information,

2. the instructions given to the patient before the recording phase, in order to measure the patient’s spontaneous orientation of gaze,

3. how they integrated EOG and graphometer data

4. how they tested the presence of visual field defects

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests