Reviewer's report

Title: Abnormal susceptibility to distracters hinders perception in early Parkinsons disease: a controlled study

Version: 1 Date: 22 August 2006

Reviewer: Sowon Hahn

Reviewer's report:

General

In this study, authors tested Parkinson’s disease patients’ ability to inhibit reflexive saccade without registering eye movements. In the visual search task, also known as oculomotor capture task, subjects made a voluntary, goal-directed saccade to discriminate a target letter appearing within a colored circle. In half the trials, simultaneous with presentation of the colored circle, task-irrelevant, onset stimulus appeared in the display. Authors expected that PD patients will exhibit even longer reaction time under the condition of the appearance of the task-irrelevant new object, suggesting a reduced capacity for inhibition of saccade to irrelevant objects. The results clearly indicated the interaction between group and onset condition supporting authors’ hypothesis on PD patients’ susceptibility to distracters. This study was simple and clear, and the results strongly supported the authors’ hypothesis. The study well designed and will contribute to understanding perceptual impairments in PD.

What next?: Accept without revision

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes