Author’s response to reviews

Title: Prospective Study on the mismatch concept in acute stroke patients within the first 24h after symptom onset - 1000Plus study

Authors:

Benjamin Hotter (benjamin.hotter@charite.de)
Sandra Pittl (sandra.pittl@charite.de)
Martin Ebinger (martin.ebinger@charite.de)
Gabriele Oepen (gabriele.oepen@charite.de)
Kati Jegzentis (kati.jegzentis@charite.de)
Kohsuke Kudo (kokudo@iwate-med.ac.jp)
Michal Rozanski (michal.rozanski@charite.de)
Wolf U Schmidt (wolf.schmidt@charite.de)
Peter Brunecker (peter.brunecker@charite.de)
Chao Xu (chao.xu@charite.de)
Peter Martus (peter.martus@charite.de)
Matthias Endres (matthias.endres@charite.de)
Gerhard J Junghulsing (jan.junghulsing@charite.de)
Arno Villringer (arno.villringer@charite.de)
Jochen B Fiebach (jochen.fiebach@charite.de)

Version: 2 Date: 27 October 2009

Author’s response to reviews: see over
Dear Editorial Board, Dear Dr. Bogousslavsky,

We are pleased by your kind review and agree on Dr. Bogousslavsky’s constructive input. Furthermore we do agree, that previous attempts to prove the mismatch concept have met some methodological difficulties that restrained it from being a feasible, clinical tool for acute stroke diagnostics other than in academic centers. We absolutely agree on Dr. Bogousslavskys concerns about stroke (sub-) types and etiology. Even though previously not explicitly mentioned in the protocol, we do assess both parameters for every patient prospectively, since these are requirements of the German Stroke database registry – however, changes in the manuscript have been made for clarification and more transparency. These changes have been made in the chapter „Methods B. Scales“: Demographic data and course of symptoms are documented according to the German Stroke database registry guidelines as well as stroke subtype and etiology. [...] and to Analysis – CT Control Group (CT control group : In order to evaluate whether there is selection bias in the study cohort, we will compare demographic values such as age and baseline stroke severity etiology and subtype with all patients admitted to the hospital over the same time period that were not allocated to the study. Stroke subtype and etiology: Multivariate analyses will be used to look for changes in positive predictive values and accuracy of the model in different etiologies and subtypes.)

We hope to have met your demands for the manuscript – if not, please don’t hesitate for any further enquiries or comments.

Kind Regards,

Dr. Benjamin Hotter
CSB, Resident