Author's response to reviews

Title: Different patterns of cortical excitability in major depression and vascular depression: a transcranial magnetic stimulation study

Authors:

Carmen Concerto (carmenconcerto@hotmail.it)
Giuseppe Lanza (giuseppelanza2003@yahoo.it)
Mariagiovanna Cantone (mariagiovanna21@inwind.it)
Manuela Pennisi (manuelapennisi@libero.it)
Daniela Giordano (dgiordan@dieei.unict.it)
Concetto Spampinato (cspampin@dieei.unict.it)
Riccardo Ricceri (riccardoricceri@gmail.com)
Giovanni Pennisi (pennigi@unict.it)
Eugenio Aguglia (eugenio.aguglia@unict.it)
Rita Bella (rbella@unict.it)

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Author's response to reviews: see over
We thank the reviewer once again for the comments:

1) as noted, we did not use high dosage of the antidepressant drugs in MD patients. According to the NICE Guidelines on the Treatment and Management of Depression in Adults, there is some evidence that the combination of antidepressants is associated with higher rate of side effects than a single antidepressant administration at either standard or high dosage. Therefore, we preferred to use standard doses of antidepressant at this stage in order to avoid the risk of potential adverse effects, even considering the age of the patients.

2) according to the referee’s observation, we have provided the requested data:

S1mV VD:  48.27 ± 10.45 (left)    46.09 ± 7.69 (right);
S1mV MD:  50.73 ± 9.80 (left)    47.27 ± 9.26 (right);
S1mVCtrls:  47.45 ± 6.53 (left)    47.27 ± 6.12 (right).

As corrected noted and generally observed, the rMT values obtained with the BiStim module are higher than using one magnetic stimulator alone due to the well known technical and procedural reasons. The average increase of the rMT values obtained with paired-pulse TMS was not more than 2.5% of the maximum output stimulator compared to those obtained with single-pulse TMS, and this percentage increment was observed for all the participants.

Editors request.

We have included an acknowledgements section at the end of the manuscript containing the requested disclosures and acknowledgements.