Author's response to reviews

Title: Long-term effects of stimulants on neurocognitive performance in Taiwanese children with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder

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Author's response to reviews: see over
A cover letter

Dear Referee Margaret H Sibley

Thanks for your kindly recommendation. About the major compulsory revisions, we revised as follows ~

(1) The MPH and nonMPH groups were not randomized and they were significantly different in ADHD severity and impairment. Even though the authors made a compelling case for why ADHD symptom severity doesn't impact IQ score, I think the paper would be much stronger if the authors would include baseline ADHD severity and CGI as covariates in the IQ prediction models. Reply: According to your professional suggestion, we further compared the Pearson's correlation coefficient between the changes of WISC-III and the baseline ADHD severity and CGI scores in the MPH group. Similarly, there were no significant associations either. We also describe the result into the revised manuscript, seen in section of correlation between the changes in neurocognitive profiles and baseline severity of ADHD symptoms and table 6.

(2) The language used by the authors in the conclusion needs to be much more tentative. The study is not controlled and so the authors should say that the findings "suggest" that there "may" be improvements to IQ following administration of MPH. However, these results cannot be fully interpreted until the study is replicated using a controlled sample. Reply: Thanks for reviewer remind. We will be more careful to write the conclusion in the revised manuscript.

Thanks again for your professional and important suggestion. We learned a great deal from it.

Best Regards,
Ching-Shu Tsai
Dear Referee Augusto Pasini

We are so grateful to thank you for being satisfied with our revised manuscript. And thanks again for your kind suggestion before. This is of great benefit to us.

Best Regards,
Ching-Shu Tsai