Reviewer's report

Title: Abdominal Wall Activity Is Necessary for Normal Female Rat Voiding

Version: 3 Date: 7 December 2006

Reviewer: Margot Damaser

Reviewer's report:

General

This is a greatly improved version of the manuscript. Although the scope has decreased, the description of methodology and presentation of results are greatly improved.

All of the original Major Compulsory Revisions have been addressed. However, a few items still need to be addressed.

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

1. A figure demonstrating the positive abdominal pressure deflection observed to accompany voiding and one demonstrating the missing pressure deflection after BTX (referred to in lines 188 – 190) would be very helpful to readers of the paper. It would be great to also see an example figure of the positive pressure deflection in response to squeeze (referred to in line 190).

2. It is stated in the discussion section (lines 256-259) that figure 1 demonstrates that at a critical bladder pressure, the abdominal wall is activated and the IPHFO/flow phase begins. It is also stated that figure 1 demonstrates that mean bladder pressure drops during voiding. However, no bladder pressure trace is presented as part of Figure 1. This figure would be greatly improved with the inclusion of pressure data. The addition of pressure data to Figure 2 would improve the figure and the paper as well.

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

1. Item 4 from previous review still needs to be addressed: “How is data presented? Mean +/- ?”

A sentence needs to be added to the last paragraph of methods section stating that data is presented in the text as Mean +/- ???

2. Item 7 from previous review still needs to be addressed: “A table of values (Table 1) is not needed if the values are in the text of the results section. However, the number of significant digits and values ought to be in complete agreement between the two methods of presentation. In addition, the units need to be identical as well.” The values presented in the text still do not exactly match the values presented in the table. In addition, the units of ICI are different between the text (minutes) and table (sec). I recommend you only present the data in the table and do not present data in the text. This would resolve item 1 above since it is clearly stated in the table that data is presented as mean +/- sem.

3. The waveform of the perineal EMG signal is described in the results section (referred to in lines 184 & 5) but not presented as a figure. Adding a figure to the manuscript to show this waveform shape would be very helpful to readers of the paper.

4. The sentence that begins on line 289 needs to be corrected.
Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

**What next?:** Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No

**Declaration of competing interests:**

i declare that I have no competing interests