Reviewer's report

Title: Incidental findings on MRI scans of patients presenting with audiovestibular symptoms

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Reviewer: Jing Zou

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The manuscript reported incidental findings on MRI scans of patients presenting with audiovestibular symptoms, which is relevant to otologist. However, the following questions were raised:

1. In abstract, full spelling for WML should be provided. “Conclusions” was a duplicate of “Results”.
2. “Key words” might be replaced by “brain lesion, brain tumor, hearing loss, MRI, vertigo”.
3. In “Patients and methods”, were auditory brainstem response and electrocochleography performed? What were the vestibular tests? Which MR scanner was engaged in the study? What were the parameters of MRI? How many patients were given Gadolinium? What was the MRI sequence for Gadolinium enhancement?
4. In “Results”, what was “other pathology” (line 11, page 7)? What were “clinically serious incidental findings” (line 14, page 7)? One page 8, in line 10, what was the “findings from …sinuses”? In line 12, what were “findings from middle ear or mastoid”? In lines 13 and 14, what were “middle ear/mastoid findings, sinus findings”? Please provide the image of “vestibular schwannoma” as authors mentioned on page 7.
5. In “Discussion”, in line 11 on page 9, FLAIR sequence was reported to be sensitive to detect inflammation in the inner ear (Sone et al., Acta Otolaryngol. 2009; 129: 239-43). Please cite and discuss on the reference. On page 10, lines 9-17 were irrelevant. In line 19, it was incorrect to say “As these lesions were small, they were considered as benign findings”. On page 11, lines 5-6 belong to “Results”. On page 12, lines 11-17 belong to “Results”. Since detailed electrophysiological examinations were missing, MRI strategy was not proper. This issue should be discussed to make the report relevant.
6. “Conclusion” (not “conclusion”) was not properly written.

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Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.