Reviewer's report

Title: Cortisol suppression and hearing thresholds in tinnitus after low-dose dexamethasone challenge

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Reviewer: Dan Hasson

Reviewer's report:

Reviewer’s comment to the author(s)

Manuscript Title: Cortisol suppression and hearing thresholds in tinnitus after low-dose dexamethasone challenge

The article is very interesting and important. The paper needs some minor revisions.

Minor revisions:

1. In the first sentence of the introduction and abstract it is mentioned that tinnitus is an incurable hearing disorder. Do we know for sure that it is incurable? If not, it might be better to label it as difficult to treat or just omit the word incurable.

2. The last sentence of the abstract, the sentence starts with “Stress…”. Should it rather be “Long-term stress exposure…”?

3. Please elaborate on the word “stress” in the introduction. It needs to be clarified if the authors refer to long-term or acute stress exposure.

4. Page 5, second paragraph, line 3, it is written “…chronic basal cortisol levels…”. What does it mean?

5. Parametric statistics are used, e.g. ANOVA, please motivate. Were the data normally distributed? Considering the few individuals it could be an idea to re-run the analyses with non-parametric tests to see if there are any differences. If there are no differences it could just be mentioned. If there are differences, the non-parametric results (or both) can be presented.

6. On page 12, last sentence of “Statistical analyses”, please add: “…and p-value was set at 0.05.” after “…two-tailed…”.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.