Reviewer's report

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

Version: 2 Date: 25 January 2012

Reviewer: Cornelia Weise

Reviewer's report:

The authors carefully addressed the reviewer's comments and improved and clarified the interesting paper. There is only one minor point left regarding the already mentioned issue of "matching" that should be addressed in the paper.

Minor Essential Revisions

1) From my understanding, matching means to pair on an one-on-one basis and not only that two groups are comparable. In an RCT, for example, one would test if the groups are comparable on basic variables and if so, one would speak of comparable groups, however, not matched groups. From my perspective, 11 vs. 10 men and 10 vs. 11 women is thus not "matched" but comparable (which was shown by the statistical test). Even if this issue might only be a problem of wording, I would kindly ask the authors to clarify this point in the paper with only a very short note stating that "matched" means that groups are comparable and not an one-by-one matching.

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.