Author's response to reviews

Title: Vestibular evoked myogenic potentials in 5 patients with superficial siderosis

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Version: 2 Date: 6 December 2012

Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Dr. Christopher Foote,

I submit here a manuscript titled “Vestibular evoked myogenic potentials in 5 patients with superficial siderosis”, to *BMC Ear, Nose and Throat Disorders*.

Superficial siderosis (SS) is caused by repeated or continuous bleeding into the subarachnoid space that results in iron from hemoglobin (hemosiderin) being deposited on the surface of the brain. Clinically, the condition is characterized by sensorineural deafness, dysequilibrium, and pyramidal signs. Lesions responsible for sensorineural deafness and impaired balance are primarily on the 8th nerve. However the mechanism of peripheral vestibular disturbance was not revealed.

Vestibular evoked myogenic potential (VEMP), which examines saccule-inferior vestibular function, has not been reported in SS patients because of the disease rarity. We performed VEMP testing in 5 patients with SS, the responses were present in patients who had SS for a short period but tended to be diminished or absent in patients who had the condition for a longer period. This finding suggests the saccule-inferior vestibular function had been maintained before the condition progressed, and lead to clarify the mechanism of SS.

We believe this finding will be of interest to the readers of your journal.

We declare that this manuscript is original, has not been published before and is not currently being considered for publication elsewhere.

We hope you find our manuscript suitable for publication and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Toru Miwa