Reviewer's report

Title: The Acute Effects of Alcohol on Auditory Thresholds

Version: 2 Date: 11 July 2007

Reviewer: Tien-Chen Liu

Reviewer's report:

General

In general, the revised version did answer most of my critics. But I still have a problem with the Figure 1, the only figure in the article. I think I will comment in the next session.

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

Figure 1 is really confusing and the answer is just "cultural different". The audiology today is not a culture but a science. At least in the US and in our country, very similar audiogram was used clinically. The clinically used audiogram marks the hearing threshold of a particular frequency using a unit of dB HL, which was transformed initially from dB SPL. The reasons and rationale of transforming can be found in any audiological textbook. In clinical audiogram, the Y axis, namely the threshold should be larger when it gets down, but not more negative. In other words, the lower the threshold point, the poorer the hearing. On your Figure 1, when you said, for example, subjects six (f) has a transient hearing loss after alcohol intake and his averaged threshold changed from -10 dB to -25 dB. It is totally wrong. Threshold from -10 dB to -25 dB is actually an improvement in hearing. And look at the Y-axis, a human's hearing can reach -45 dB HL? Also what I requested last time the error bar was also not provided. I think the author better consult an audiologist for this Figure. It will definitely confuse the clinical audiologists and the readers.

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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).

Figure 1, y axis: dB HL

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

no
What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests