Reviewer's report

Title: Simplified form of tinnitus retraining therapy in adults: a retrospective study

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Reviewer: Pawel Jastreboff

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Again further improvement. There are just minor points to be clarified.

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"However, a similar ANOVA on the VAS scores, with VAS sub-scale as a within-subjects factor, revealed that the use of SGs did not have a significant effect at the 0.05 level: F(1,40) = 3.25, p = 0.079. Given the difference between the results for the THI and the VAS concerning the benefit of SGs, it is not possible to conclude whether or not the usage of SGs is an essential element in simplified TRT. There is a need for further research to assess the efficacy of SGs in tinnitus treatment using homogeneous groups of people (with similar sleeping and hearing difficulties)."

I cannot agree with this conclusion regarding SGs as VAS results are weaker measure as compared with THI and results of THI are superior. It is common observation as well that subjective loudness is changing the least as results of the treatment (clearly seen in the Table 2 as well). According to data I presented at International Tinnitus Seminar, Geoteborg 2008, subjective loudness evaluated by VAS is not contributing to tinnitus severity and should be treated separately. Furthermore, even for VAS the significance is not far from 0.05 (i.e., it is 0.079). I would suggest deleting the text starting from "Giving the difference..." until the end of paragraph.

Fig 1 "Decline of THI score"

It is not clear whether it represents % decline of initial score or absolute value. If later was the case since mean initial score was 60 and there is a number of cases with improvement above 60 (even close to 100) this would indicate large number of cases with final score close to zero. While it is possible I would like to be sure that indeed this is the case.