Reviewer's report

Title: The Tinnitus Research Initiative (TRI) database: A new approach for delineation of tinnitus subtypes and generation of predictors for treatment outcome

Version: 2 Date: 9 June 2010

Reviewer: Gerhard Andersson

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting report on the development of a database dealing with tinnitus and its management.

This statement: "There are a variety of standardized, validated tinnitus questionnaires available at present (e.g., Tinnitus Handicap Inventory [19]), but none of these questionnaires have been tested and validated with respect to their sensitivity to change of tinnitus severity." is not correct and must be changed. There are several studies in which THI scores have been found to be decreased following treatment.

Another strange omission is that the authors fail to acknowledge the role of psychological treatments which have substantial support in the literature, at least compared to other approaches (and long term outcomes).

It is of importance that a database covers all available evidence-based treatments and that it is unbiased and not only in the interest of the methods developed by the authors of the paper.

I do however, with minor additions (eg mention the psychological treatment options) think this is a very good initiative. I wonder a bit about the scientific merit of this particular paper, but then again reports on databases and how information will be collected is of scientific interest.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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